

# Criteria for the Diocesan Funding of Parishes, Ministries, & Mission Organizations



## Purpose and Background

The Diocese has established these criteria for the following reasons and purposes:

- To help ensure the Diocese's responsible stewardship of its financial resources.
- To provide a helpful guide for the evaluation and consideration, by the Bishop, Canons, and Committees, of funding opportunities and requests.
- To ensure that the Diocese's funding decisions align with its mission and key priorities.
- To communicate to those needing/requesting diocesan funding an expectation that their use of the funds be aligned with the Diocese's mission and key priorities.
- To create consistency in the Diocese's discernment and decision-making and, with it, a high level of confidence in the quality and fairness of the Diocese's decisions.

The Bishop's Office developed these criteria during the spring of 2020, with input and approval provided by the Board of Trustees, Diocesan Council, and Standing Committee. The criteria are intended for application to a variety of funding types, including, but not limited, to:

- Funding from the Diocese's operating budget, including Diocesan Mission and Faithful Remnants grants or support from the "Reopened Parish" budget category
- Outreach grants
- Repeat requests for assessment relief
- Board of Trustee grants
- Bishop's Fund grants

## The Criteria

To receive diocesan funding, the parish, ministry, or mission organization must:

1. Provide a detailed description of its planned use of the funds, making evident how its plan aligns with the mission of our diocese and that of Christ's Church: to love, to teach, and to heal.
2. Demonstrate a genuine willingness to engage in these key priorities of the Diocese:
  - Lay formation and leadership development (especially important when requesting the funding of clergy)

- New ministry development, encouraged and shaped by meaningful interaction with its neighbors in the community
  - Maintaining a viable presence in poor and underserved communities
  - Building meaningful relationships across race, class, and culture
3. Demonstrate a genuine willingness to consider new – even innovative – models of mission and ministry aimed at enhancing the organization’s impact in its community, effectiveness in sharing the gospel, and/or sustainability.
  4. Address the question of financial sustainability.
    - Is the grant intended merely as seed money, with the parish or ministry becoming self-sustaining in subsequent years? Or must the Diocese be willing to commit to a long-term investment? (It’s important that expectations be clear from the start.)
  5. Demonstrate adherence to best practices in the areas of financial management, administration, and governance, or the willingness to adhere to best practices upon being given appropriate coaching by members of diocesan staff or others assigned to do so. Specific areas of concern include, but are not limited to:
    - Budgeting
    - Purchasing
    - Payroll
    - Financial accounting
    - Letters of agreement
  6. Be willing to provide regular status updates to the Bishop (or Bishop’s designee) upon the Bishop’s request, or to appropriate diocesan committees (or committee representatives) upon the request of the committee chairperson.