



Catholic Community  
**FOUNDATION**  
OF MINNESOTA



# Grantseekers' Guidebook

2021

Hello there! We hope this guidebook answers your questions as you seek to secure funding for the advancement of your mission.

# CCF Grantmaking Overview

Grants distributed by the Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota (CCF) take two forms: **Donor-Directed** and **CCF-Directed**.

Recipients of Donor-Directed grants are either identified by the founding donor of an endowment and restricted to those charities in perpetuity; or are recommended in real time by the advisor of a donor advised fund.

Recipients of CCF-Directed grants, which are also referred to as ‘discretionary grants,’ are identified by CCF and recommended to the CCF Grants Committee of the Board of Directors for approval. Through CCF-Directed grantmaking, we strive to be a catalyst for strength and vitality in the Catholic community.

\*Note: CCF operates on a July 1 – June 30 fiscal year.

## CCF-Directed Grants (\$2.0M in FY20\*)

### **Tuition Assistance Grant Program** \$637,500

CCF’s Tuition Assistance program provides grants to area Catholic elementary schools sourced from many different permanent endowments, which were established to provide tuition assistance. The goal is to maximize access to a Catholic education for those who would not otherwise be able to afford it. In accordance with the Catholic Social Teaching principle of subsidiarity, school leadership allocates the assistance among enrolled or interested families as they see fit. A school is eligible if more than 5% of its enrollment is comprised of students who qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch program as reported by the school to the archdiocese. Grants are allocated based on the relative financial need of the student and the school. This is not a scholarship program; therefore, no grants are made to individuals.

**Cycle:** Funds are committed in February for payment in September. No applications are accepted.

*\* includes other unrestricted funding notably significant grant dollars from the Minnesota Catholic Relief Fund created in response to the economic challenges posed by the pandemic and recent social unrest.*

## Impact Grant Program \$246,000

The goal of Impact Grants is to support the greatest spiritual, educational or social needs in the community each year. After a year of facilitated discussions and a community needs assessment, the Board of Directors has established the following impact goals for these grants starting in FY19:

- **Spiritual Impact**

*Revitalize parishes through engagement and evangelization of youth, young adults, and especially Millennials.*

- **Educational Impact**

*Build capacity of schools; in particular to better serve low-income populations with special emphasis on the Latino/Hispanic community.*

- **Social Impact**

*Serve vulnerable populations through parish ministries, which provide volunteers opportunities for encounter and accompaniment.*

In recent years, approximately a dozen grants were made each year for projects that strengthen local elementary schools in one of four categories: fundraising enhancements; marketing and enrollment initiatives; technology improvements; and small capital projects. Some educational impact grants will remain focused on these priorities, while we also expand into Educational and Social Impact areas.

All grants are determined by an invitation-only, competitive grant proposal process. Until available funding grows, it is not feasible for CCF to provide open applications as the number of applications received would dwarf the number of grants available. In this way, we strive to honor the grantseeker's time as well as our own.

Invitations to apply, which are based on CCF research, our institutional relationships, and accumulated intelligence about various spiritual, educational and social service programs in our local community, will be sent to organizations in June. Grants usually range from \$10,000 - \$25,000.

**Cycle:** Educational Impact invitations sent in June. Proposal deadline in August, grants paid in October. No unsolicited applications are accepted. Social and Spiritual Impact grants do not yet have a recurring cycle.

## **Community Priorities Grant Program \$47,500**

CCF addresses a specific set of social needs in our community through the Community Priorities Program. In 1999, an endowment was established to benefit the most vulnerable in our community focusing on three populations. The grants from this endowment, combined with current-year gifts, allow us to make annual grants which are awarded through a by-invitation-only competitive grants process. Charities are invited based on our understanding of their ability to meet the program's goals, outcomes from previous CCF grants, and our own research which includes intelligence from our community partners. About 8 grants are made annually, with grants ranging from about \$8,000 - \$12,000. CCF currently rotates the funding annually to address one the following populations each year:

- the elderly (FY19)
- young mothers in crisis (FY20)
- at-risk school-aged youth (FY21)

**Cycle:** Proposal deadline in January, grants paid in March. No unsolicited applications are accepted.

## **Field-of-Interest Endowment Grants \$182,000**

These grants are made from endowment funds which were permanently restricted by the founding donor to support initiatives of his or her choosing. CCF identifies the recipients each year that best match the donor's intention. We identify charities based on our own research and outcomes from previous CCF grants, as well as intelligence gained from our institutional relationships and philanthropic partners.

Grants of between \$2,000 and \$30,000 (depending on the size of the endowment) are made at the direction of the Grants Committee.

**Cycle:** Distributions are made in June. No unsolicited applications are accepted.

The following are descriptions of each Field-of-Interest endowment. If your organization benefits populations in the greater Twin Cities area, and it carries out the objectives of any of these funds, please contact CCF Vice President of Impact Meg Payne Nelson.

- A comprehensive, intensive, residential program to prepare troubled youth (ages 16-20) to become self-sufficient, self-supporting, productive members of society. Provides independent living skills, education, vocational skills, social skills, and productive use of free time. Ideally includes job placement and mentoring, with spiritual development regularly available.
- Faith formation and spiritual development for children, youth, and young adults; professional development for volunteer catechists; youth ministries; faith formation in rural parishes; or youth service projects.
- Quality preschool education and faith formation as well as parenting skills with topics such as faith formation of the child, discipline, Christian values, and importance of family ceremony and celebration.

- Building healthy communities in relation to mental health, health care, women and children in need, veterans and military personnel, and/or support for immigrant needs.
- Capital improvements and other bricks and mortar needs for Catholic elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis.
- Improvement and support of libraries in Catholic elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.
- Grants to public libraries in the state of Minnesota for capital improvements and other brick and mortar needs, including infrastructure needs associated with technology improvements.
- Program providing support for single parents to choose life for their unborn children including prenatal care, after-support and education groups as well as adoption services.
- A Preaching and Presiding Institute, or programs that assist current pastors in developing their homiletic, preaching, and presiding skills, helping make worship a better, more positive experience.

### **Catholic School Teacher and Lay Minister Funds \$13,880**

CCF awards grants of up to \$1,000 for the following priorities. You apply, and your parish or school acts as the fiscal agent for your costs. Deadlines are November 15, March 15, and July 15.

- Programs providing religious formation and instruction in catechesis for lay elementary and secondary Catholic school teachers.
- Training and formation at the master's level in pastoral studies or theology; or continuing ministerial education programs for lay and religious non-ordained ministers and permanent deacons; to provide them with strong theology and management skills.

For more information about CCF-Directed grantmaking, please contact:

#### **Meg Payne Nelson**

Vice President of Impact

651.389.0882 / [nelsonm@ccf-mn.org](mailto:nelsonm@ccf-mn.org)

## Donor-Directed Grants (\$16.8M in FY20)

Over \$11.4M of CCF's grants each year are made at the discretion of local Catholic philanthropists through **donor advised funds**, which they have established at the foundation. In addition, over \$3.8M in grants are made each year via annual distributions from **community endowments** which were founded throughout the history of CCF by generous individuals who wanted to support their preferred organizations in perpetuity. Finally, over \$1.5M is distributed each year to those Catholic institutions that entrust their **institutional endowments** to the stewardship of CCF in order to provide for their needs in perpetuity.

For more information about Donor-Directed Grantmaking, please contact:

**Jules Vierling**

Grants Manager

651.389.0880 / [vierlingj@ccf-mn.org](mailto:vierlingj@ccf-mn.org)

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Who is eligible to receive a Grant from CCF?**

We do not make grants to individuals. We do not award scholarships. CCF-Directed grants are currently restricted for organizations that directly benefit the 12-county metropolitan area. Grant recipients must be a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Eligible organizations include charitable, religious, and educational organizations, as well as school districts, public libraries, and other units of government. Examples of organizations *not* eligible for contributions include fraternal orders, organizations whose purpose is lobbying, cemetery associations, and funds set up to provide emergency relief to specific individuals or families.

## **Is CCF limited to funding Catholic organizations?**

No. Grant recipients do not have to be Catholic organizations, however CCF will not fund organizations with programs or activities that are antithetical to Catholic Social Teaching.

## **How do I apply for a CCF-Directed grant from CCF?**

Until the amount of available funding increases, it is not feasible for CCF to provide an open application process. In most program areas, the number of applications received would dwarf the number of grants available. All programs operate on a by-invitation-only basis. In this way, we strive to honor the grantseeker's time, as well as our own.

## **How do you identify the organizations to invite?**

Archdiocesan Catholic elementary schools with greater than 5% of their enrollment comprised of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch are automatically considered for **Tuition Assistance**.

Invitations to apply for **Impact Grants** are based on CCF research, our institutional relationships, philanthropic partnerships, and accumulated intelligence about various spiritual, educational, and social service organizations in our local community.

Invitations for **Community Priorities** grants are based on outcomes from previous CCF grants, as well as our own research on organizations we have not funded in the past which address each year's specific program goal.

Recipients of **Field of Interest** grant distributions are also based on our own research, outcomes from previous CCF grants, as well as intelligence gained from our community partners.

If your organization benefits populations in the Twin Cities metro, and might match a program's goals or a fund's purpose, please contact Vice President of Impact Meg Payne Nelson (651.389.0882 / [nelsonm@ccf-mn.org](mailto:nelsonm@ccf-mn.org)).

### **Can CCF fund international charities?**

Donor advisors can recommend grants from a Donor Advised Fund to a charity providing services internationally only if the charity is “domiciled” in the United States. In some cases, an intermediary may facilitate a grant to a cause overseas. CCF-Directed funds can only benefit our local area.

### **What do you expect in terms of growth?**

We expect our CCF-Directed grantmaking to increase by about 50% over five years, with the Impact Grant Program growing the fastest.

### **What do you expect the Impact Grant Program to support in the future?**

The primary source of funding for the Impact Grant Program is CCF’s Legacy Fund, which was founded by visionary individuals who understood that the needs of the community change over time and that the Foundation would best serve the community with a source of grants that is flexible, allowing CCF to be nimble in its response to community needs. They were also aware of the rapidly shifting environment in which CCF operates, including the shifting needs of the community, the changing priorities of our philanthropic partners, the evolving structure of the Archdiocesan corporation, and the ever-changing landscape of providers of services. Our current set of Impact Goals will be re-evaluated in FY21 to ensure the priorities we choose are among the greatest of community needs.

### **I’m seeking funds for a charity I’m passionate about that doesn’t fit with CCF-Directed grantmaking. How can I let your Donor Advised Fund advisors know about it?**

Our Donor Advisors are autonomous and we will never approach them to encourage their support of a specific charity. However, many of our Donor Advisors are interested in our professional, research-driven conclusions about the greatest needs in our local community, and our ability to connect them with organizations that meet those needs. Therefore, we appreciate knowing about your organization, even if a specific grant is not being considered.

FY20 will be the third year we provide *Giving Insights Forums* which are designed to be a way for local leaders to expose community needs in each of our three mission impact areas (spiritual, educational, and social). If your organization fits with the topic of a forum, we may call on you to share your expertise.

We are also developing new ways to highlight charities for interested donor advisors, such as in our newsletter or within the online platform donor advisors use to communicate their grant recommendations to us.

If your charity addresses **spiritual, educational or social needs** in our **local community**, please contact Vice President of Impact Meg Payne Nelson (651.389.0882 / [nelsonm@ccf-mn.org](mailto:nelsonm@ccf-mn.org)) and be prepared to explain how the work of your organization addresses one of these impact areas.