Catholic Foundation of Michigan

Igniting Hearts
Invest. Serve. Grow.

Grant Guidelines

As your Catholic community foundation, we strive to make the granting process as open and clear as possible. Catholic Foundation grants address community needs within the three funding focus areas: social outreach, education/formation, and parish life. If you believe your project may be a fit with one or more of these priorities, we invite you to review the guidelines and eligibility requirements below and submit an online **Letter of Intent (LOI)**.

Catholic Foundation of Michigan Funding Eligibility

Before submitting an online LOI, please review the following requirements:

- Nonprofit entities in Michigan that serve communities primarily in Michigan.
- The organization's mission, values and behaviors are in line with Catholic Teachings.
- Organization is a U.S. 501(c)(3) with audited financial statements.
- Project addresses one or more of the funding focus areas: social outreach, education/formation, and parish life.

We will not likely consider funding the following:

- Individuals
- Requests designated for endowment funds, deficit financing, capital campaigns, or loans
- Programs operated to benefit for-profit organizations
- Organizations that discriminate based on any federally protected status

Process Overview

How to Apply

After reviewing the Catholic Foundation of Michigan guidelines and eligibility requirements for each grant type, applicants can create an account on our online Grant System. The online grant system link and additional information can be accessed by visiting: CatholicFoundationMichigan.org/grants/apply. To submit an online letter of intent (LOI), applicants will need to create an account on the online grant system if one has not already been created. Once the LOI has been submitted and reviewed, applicants will be contacted and notified of eligibility via email by Foundation staff. If you do not have web access, would like to complete the process in Spanish, or need assistance with the process, **our staff is here to help** and can be reached by calling 248.204.0332 ext. 4 or emailing Christina@CatholicFoundationMichigan.org.

- ### Stage One: Letter of Intent (LOI) – Eligibility Application
  - The LOI process will open on June 1 and will be accepted online by the Catholic Foundation of Michigan on or before **June 30** . Once applicants have completed the online LOI process, you can expect to hear a decision within 30 days. Please understand that while all LOIs will be read, all may not generate an invitation to apply for funding. The Catholic Foundation of Michigan receives many compelling requests each year and regrettably, we are not able to fund each one.

- ### Stage Two: Grant Application
  - Once the LOI has been reviewed, applicants may be invited to submit a grant application online, due **August 31.** You are invited to call us to discuss your idea and to ask questions about the grant process. Please know that our staff is here to assist you with the application process, however, all funding decisions are made by the Catholic Foundation of Michigan Board of Directors at the fall quarterly meeting.

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2026 Available Opportunities

Please review the requirements and priorities outlined and consider how your project or program aligns with the Foundation's grantmaking goals. Additional details can be found on the Catholic Foundation of Michigan website.

Catholic Foundation of Michigan Impact Grants:

Through the generosity of our faithful community, Impact Grants address needs within the Catholic Foundation of Michigan's focus areas.

- **Empowering Social Outreach: $1,000.00 - $5,000.00** *Supports programs that respond to vital social services such as food, shelter, hope for those in despair and vulnerable within our community.*
- **Empowering Catholic Education & Formation: $1,000** *Support innovative formation and education programs that reach people of all ages and enhance vibrant discipleship.*

Eligibility Requirements:

- Meet the Catholic Foundation of Michigan funding eligibility stated on page 1.

Church in the City Grants:

Through the generosity of the Archdiocese of Detroit, these grants are awarded to projects in line with the 2017 pastoral letter *Unleash the Gospel* and that propagate the Catholic faith in the cities of **Detroit, Hamtramck, and Highland Park.** Grants awarded will be between $1,000.00 and $5,000.00.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Meet the Catholic Foundation of Michigan funding eligibility stated on page 1.
- A Catholic Parish, school, or organization found in the official *Catholic Directory (Kennedy).*
- Organization must be headquartered or located in Detroit, Hamtramck, or Highland Park.
- Meet one or more of the funding focus areas: evangelization, social Outreach, parish Life, Catholic education/formation.

St. Oscar Romero Grant for Hispanic and Latino Ministries:

Thanks to the generosity of the Holy Trinity Parish in Port Huron, this $1,000 grant seeks to invest in creative programs that strengthen the diverse Latino community of Michigan and support issues and organizations that advance the socio-economic status, spiritual growth, and leadership capacity of the entire Latino community.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Meet the Catholic Foundation of Michigan funding eligibility stated on page 1.
- A parish, school, or organization that improves the quality of life of the Latino population in the Northeast Region of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Laudato Si' Grant:

The Laudato Si' grant ($2,500 - $5,000) supports creative environmental projects that build holistic care for creation in line with the papal encyclical, Laudato Si' and help lift the Catholic voice on environmental issues as outlined by Catholic teaching. *Political projects are discouraged from applying.*

Eligibility Requirements:

- Meet the Catholic Foundation of Michigan funding eligibility stated on page 1.
- Make a connection to one (or more) of the seven goals of the Laudato Si´ Action Platform (LSAP).

Spirit of Innovation Grants:

Through "Spirit-led" grants, ministries in the **Archdiocese of Detroit** will be able to develop, launch and grow new initiatives, ministries and approaches that share the good news with all, forming joyful missionary disciples. Grants are awarded to projects that activate initiatives to serve beyond the work of individual parishes, inspire disciples to dream and innovate, attract national ministries and organizations and respond to future inspirations of the Holy Spirit. One grant award up to $7,500 will be awarded.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Meet the Catholic Foundation of Michigan funding eligibility stated on page 1.
- Catholic Parish, school, or organization in the Archdiocese of Detroit.
- A new initiative using new ideas, methods, creative approaches, or solutions to Unleash the Gospel.
- Show collaborative partners (local businesses, ministries, associations, or outreach groups)
- Identify 1 Guidepost from the 2017 pastoral letter, *Unleash the Gospel*, that your project will accomplish.

Sanctity of Life Grant:

The Sanctity of Life Endowed Grant was established in memory of Marisa Petrella, a dedicated servant leader. This grant will provide funding ($2,500 - $5,000) to support creative programs that build a holistic reverence for life, promoting life and dignity of the human person as outlined by Catholic Teaching. *Political projects are discouraged from applying.*

Eligibility Requirements:

- Meet the Catholic Foundation of Michigan funding eligibility stated on page 1.
- Project must build upon the Church's teaching on the sanctity of the human person from the moment of conception through the moment of natural death.

St. Margaret of Castello Inclusion Grant

Named after the patron saint for disabled children, the St. Margaret of Castello Fund was established with the purpose of facilitating access to Catholic education for children who have been traditionally excluded from Catholic schools due to their disabilities or special needs. This $50,000 grant supports K-12 special education in a manner that promotes the human dignity of all of God's children as outlined by Catholic teaching.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Meet the Catholic Foundation of Michigan funding eligibility stated on page 1.
- Be a K-12 Catholic school located in Michigan
- Define program that is specific to students that have been traditionally excluded from Catholic education because of their significant disability and/or special needs
- Identify a student(s) who require(s) assistance and would benefit from an inclusion program
- Dedicated director with a degree in special education or applicable experience
- Embody an "All In" culture with support and collaboration among all team members (administrators, school staff, pastor, families, and parish community) to embrace inclusion
- Have a dedicated room/space for students that utilize best practices for school inclusion programs
- Exhibit a willingness for key personnel to spend at least 30 hours of professional development learning per year and some level of initial and ongoing development for all other staff at school.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact us if you have questions or wish to discuss your idea. Our staff can be reached **by calling 248.204.0332 ext. 4 or emailing** Christina@CatholicFoundationMichigan.org.

You can learn more about the Catholic Foundation of Michigan by viewing our website at www.CatholicFoundationMichigan.org.

ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

The Catholic Foundation of Michigan is led by visionary lay Catholics who saw the need to align our charitable giving with our Catholic values. We serve the Catholic community in southeast Michigan by helping ensure that the Church's outreach will thrive long into the future. We have partnered with parishes, schools and ministries so they will have the resources to ensure their critical work will endure.

The Catholic Foundation is growing daily. See our Impact. Learn more in our recent annual report.

Stay up-to-date about how we're investing in the future of our vibrant Catholic community by subscribing to our newsletter and reading previous newsletters.