

## Catholic Relief Services

433 Jefferson Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-3592



August 6, 2020

Re: 2020 CRS Rice Bowl Grants Request for Proposals

Dear Friends,

This letter is to announce that the diocesan office of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is now accepting proposals for 2020 CRS Rice Bowl Grants. The application process is now open through **Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The CRS Rice Bowl grant program is sponsored by Catholic Relief Services in the Diocese of Oakland and administered by the diocesan CRS Rice Bowl Committee. CRS is the official international disaster relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community. Funds for the grants come from the Lenten Rice Bowl program of prayer, fasting, learning and giving which is conducted in Catholic parishes and schools throughout the diocese each year. Seventy-five percent of the money raised by this program is used by CRS for humanitarian projects in developing countries, and twenty-five percent is kept locally, most of which is distributed within the diocese in the form of grants for hunger and poverty abatement programs. (For more information about CRS and CRS Rice Bowl, please go to [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org).)

Grants will be given to parishes, organizations and projects within the Diocese of Oakland (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties) that are working to alleviate hunger and food insecurity, and/or are addressing the root causes of hunger. Grant recipients can be food pantries and soup kitchens, for example, and/or groups that do economic development or anti-hunger organizing and advocacy.

Non-Catholic as well as Catholic churches and organizations are eligible to apply. Our allocations committee will be considering proposals for up to \$1,000. Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the amount of the grant awards are expected to be considerably smaller this year. This is due to the fact that churches were closed, because of the virus, just prior to when the Rice Bowl collection was to be taken up around the diocese. Consequently, our office has received much lower amounts in donations from parishes than in previous years.

Please be sure to review the application criteria and guidelines, which are attached here, for more information about the application process. They have been changed since last year.

Please be aware that there have also been some changes made to the grant application this year. We have added a couple of questions about how the pandemic has affected those you serve and your organization. In addition, *we have introduced a separate application form for St. Vincent de Paul parish conferences that we hope will make it easier for them to apply and easier for our grant committee to review.*

If you know of any agency/organization or parish program that might be interested in applying for a Rice Bowl grant, the application packet can be obtained by contacting me via e-mail at [mmckimmey@cceb.org](mailto:mmckimmey@cceb.org), or by telephone at (510) 768-3176. Your organization may receive an application as an e-mail attachment or by U.S. Mail. Again this year, we have a fillable PDF version of the application that can be completed on your computer.

The application form and guidelines will also be available to download from the local Catholic Relief Services webpage on the Catholic Charities of the East Bay's website at [www.cceb.org/crseb/](http://www.cceb.org/crseb/). Unfortunately, because we made some changes to the grant application, it will not be up on our website until sometime the **week of August 10<sup>th</sup>**.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and/or if you would like me to meet with your agency/organization or parish staff or leaders regarding the grant process and completing the grant application.

Decisions on the 2020 Rice Bowl Grant applications will be made by the end of October and communications of the awards' determinations will be sent out to the applicants soon afterwards.

Sincerely,

Marc McKimmey  
Catholic Relief Services Coordinator  
Diocese of Oakland