



THE DIOCESE OF YAKIMA • PASTORAL OFFICE  
LA DIÓCESIS DE YAKIMA • CENTRO PASTORAL

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**BACKGROUND:**

CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program of praying, fasting, learning and giving. Just as we celebrate the Eucharist at the Lord's Table on Sundays, participating in Rice Bowl is a way to "break bread" together with family, friends, and loved ones.

In 1943, the US Catholic Bishops founded Catholic Relief Services to assist the poor and disadvantaged overseas. Rated as one of the most effective and efficient charities, CRS operates with a very low overhead. The most recent figures show that 94% of all support received by CRS goes directly to relief efforts.

The Catholic Diocese of Yakima and Catholic Charities sponsor the annual CRS Rice Bowl program. One-fourth (25%) of the monies collected are retained by the Diocese and make up the Local Rice Bowl Fund. The purpose of the local fund is to offer financial assistance to local organizations that are developing projects aimed at alleviating hunger and poverty in the Diocese of Yakima. These projects may provide direct services or may seek to promote justice through advocacy and education.

Grants of up to \$1,000 are available to support local efforts. The Local Rice Bowl Committee and the Diocesan CRS Director, who are appointed by the Bishop, manage the fund. Applications for funding are reviewed by the Local Rice Bowl Committee, which makes recommendations to the Bishop for final approval.

**GUIDELINES:**

The Local Rice Bowl Fund is used to assist organizations in alleviating the plight of the poor in the seven counties of the Diocese of Yakima regardless of the religious affiliation of the

organization. Organizations which meet the following guidelines are encouraged to submit proposals:

1. The organization must be non-profit and be located in the Diocese of Yakima.
2. The organization and project must be consistent with the moral teachings of the Catholic Church and its efforts must be conducted in an open and ethical manner.
3. Members of low-income communities must be the direct beneficiaries of the project.
4. The organization must submit a proposal and meet all requirements.
5. Recipients of local Rice Bowl funds must submit a brief follow-up report on the use of funds and progress of the project.
6. Funds not expended by the end of the funding period or funds used in a manner inconsistent with the funding proposal must be refunded to the Local Rice Bowl Fund.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

1. Organizations requesting local Rice Bowl funds must submit a proposal by Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications should be submitted to:

Leanne LaBissoniere  
Catholic Charities  
5301-C Tieton Drive  
Yakima, WA 98908

2. Parishes applying for funds must have a letter of support from the Pastor
3. Grant recipients will be announced in June.
4. Final approval for funding is made by the Bishop of Yakima.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Leanne LaBissoniere, Parish Outreach Coordinator for Catholic Charities, at (509) 367-5291 or [llabissoniere@catholiccharitiescw.org](mailto:llabissoniere@catholiccharitiescw.org).