



# **Pope Francis Charitable Trust Fund Frequently Asked Questions**

## **What is the Pope Francis Charitable Trust Fund (PFCTF)?**

Through the HOME Campaign, 10% of all dollars raised in parish campaigns have been set aside for the creation of the PFCTF in 2018. The PFCTF provides an opportunity to demonstrate how our charitable acts flow from our Catholic faith and from our worship. The PFCTF provides matching grants to parishes to foster or accelerate their local charitable efforts.

## **Who can apply for a PFCTF matching grant?**

As the funds donated to create the PFCTF were contributed by the parishes during the HOME Campaign, only parishes are eligible to apply for matching grant funds. Every application must be approved by the Pastor.

## **Why offer matching grants?**

The matching grant process provides a unique way for the parish and the Diocese through the Pope Francis Fund to work together, as equal partners, in the funding and support of a parish-based charitable ministry.

## **What is meant by direct charitable work?**

All applications should describe a charitable parish-based ministry that provides direct service to those in need. Examples of direct charitable service may include assistance with a family's rent or motel stay, groceries / food baskets, transportation expenses such as gasoline or bus tickets, clothing, utilities (power, water, etc.), furniture or other needed household items, medical or dental expenses, etc. The request should be for the benefit and support of a group of people, rather than for the sole benefit of a named individual or family.

## **Can we apply for funds to send to another charity?**

While a parish may choose to work with other nonprofit charitable groups in order to fulfill their ministry goals, the Fund has not been structured to provide matching grants to a parish that simply plans to give those dollars to another charity or group (i.e. a simple "pass-through").

## **Does my parish have to develop a new charitable project in order to apply?**

No, while matching funds may help to establish a new parish-based charitable ministry, they may also help to expand a current ministry that offers direct charitable services to those in need. The parish does not need to create a new project in order to apply for matching funds. One example of this might be to request funding in support of an existing St. Vincent de Paul Society.

### **What types of parish ministries have been awarded matching grant funds in the past?**

Parish-based ministries received matching grants in support of the following activities in 2019:

- Parish St. Vincent de Paul societies or other parish-based committees who daily respond to the critical needs of the poor through assistance with utility bills, rent, grocery purchases, gas or bus tickets, diapers, clothing, etc.
- Support of food baskets, clothing and back-to-school items for children and their families in Appalachia
- Food and hygiene delivery bags that help to offer stability and support to the family unit
- Parish community outreach to purchase, prepare and serve meals to those in need in the local area
- Development of a community garden in a lower income, Section 8 housing area to offer fresh vegetables to those who may not have access to fresh foods
- Children's nutrition program, as a part of the parish food pantry ministry, that provides a bag of child-friendly, healthy food options that a child can prepare themselves to families with young children

### **How will matching grants be distributed?**

Parishes will receive a disbursement of the full amount of any approved matching grant funding in advance of direct charitable services provided.

- For example, if a parish is approved for a matching grant of \$5,000, then the total amount of \$5,000 will be disbursed to the parish at the beginning of the fiscal/grant year (on or about July 1) with the expectation that these funds, along with parish funds in the same amount, will be spent during the fiscal/grant year (July 1 – June 30).

### **Is there a maximum amount we can request?**

During the initial years of the fund, a maximum parish request limit of \$5,000 has been set, yet actual awarded amount will be based on availability of funds.

Note that any request/approved funds are expected to be matched by the parish.

### **Can we apply for a grant each year?**

Yes. Provided you met the requirements of the prior grant year and provide the required end of grant summary report (with list of expenses and required receipts)

### **What is the deadline to apply for a matching grant?**

Applications must be submitted on the PFCTF grant application form. Applications for 2020 funding must be received by **March 31, 2020**.