

Using your local 25% of CRS Rice Bowl Contributions

Catholic Relief Services allows (arch)dioceses in the United States who participate in CRS Rice Bowl to keep 25% of the collection in the local community to be used for local hunger and poverty alleviation projects. Below is information and guidelines about the use of this 25%.

Purpose: Catholic Relief Services believes that the 25% of CRS Rice Bowl contributions remaining in the dioceses serves to illustrate the importance of our global responsibility as Christians to assist those in need both around the corner and around the world. The 25% enables participants to understand the plight of the poor overseas through the experience of the poor in their own communities.

Procedure: The participating parishes and schools in your (arch)diocese may either send their contributions to the (arch)diocesan finance office or donate directly online at crsricebowl.org. Once your office has collected all CRS Rice Bowl contributions, the (arch)diocese should keep 25% and send the remaining 75%, clearly marked as “CRS Rice Bowl contributions,” to:

**Catholic Relief Services
CRS Rice Bowl
P.O. Box 17090
Baltimore, Maryland 21297-0303**

In October, Catholic Relief Services will return 25% of all of the current year’s CRS Rice Bowl contributions we received directly from parishes and schools in your (arch)diocese to your office.

Suggestions for use: In keeping with the purpose of the 25% allocation, Catholic Relief Services requests that the 25% be used to support hunger and poverty alleviation programs in your diocese. The following are suggestions based on how some (arch)dioceses currently use their 25%.

- Establish a small grant program - Using small grants allows a variety of different organizations to benefit from this money. It is necessary to create criteria through which the grant applicants can be judged. It may also be helpful to establish a committee to evaluate the applicants.
- Help support a diocesan soup kitchen, food pantry or homeless shelter.
- Support the work of other local organizations in your diocese (i.e. Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul, etc).
- Help with emergency food and shelter needs in the (arch)diocese.

Tips:

- Use projects supported by the 25% to promote CRS Rice Bowl in your (arch)diocese leading up to and during Lent. (e.g., articles or advertisements highlighting local projects supported by the 25%)
- Keep the CRS Rice Bowl staff updated on how your 25% is allocated.

Questions? Please feel free to contact CRS Rice Bowl staff at CRSRiceBowl@crs.org or for references of peer Diocesan Directors who are willing to share their best practices and advice.