
National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations

BACKGROUND

Educational debt surfaced at the 2010 NRVC sponsored Moving Forward in Hope symposium, and the 2012 NRVC/CARA *Study on Educational Debt and Religious Life* confirmed educational debt as a real obstacle to vocations.

In 2014, in the Year of Consecrated Life, the NRVC established the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV) to help offset the impact of educational debt on those discerning a vocation. This Fund was instituted with a generous grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and a grant from the GHR Foundation.

The grant application window typically begins in January and closes in mid-April each year. Applications are easy to complete and can be found at NFCRV.org.

MISSION

The mission of the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations is to help fund the educational debt of viable candidates to the religious life for religious institutes with justified financial need.

Note: This is an exclusive benefit to institutes that have a current paid membership in the NRVC and maintain their membership throughout the duration of the NFCRV grant agreement.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applications will only be accepted from canonically recognized religious institutes with active membership in the National Religious Vocation Conference.
- Candidates must be conditionally accepted by religious institutes with active membership in the National Religious Vocation Conference. Novices and temporarily professed religious are ineligible.
- As per the terms of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, grants will be awarded to candidates from women's religious institutes. Men's religious institutes can apply for grants as non-restricted funds will be used as available to assist those requests. Thus, our on-going need to grow!
- Only one grant application per religious institute is accepted each year.
- If a religious institute is awarded a grant, they are ineligible to apply the following year.

PROCESS

- The NFCRV will accept applications annually between January 1 and mid- April. Receipt of applications will be acknowledged. No applications will be accepted after the grant window closes.

- The NFCRV Executive Director, along with the NFCRV Grant Review Committee, will determine which applications are eligible for consideration.
- As eligible applications are submitted, the Executive Director may contact the listed Grant Contact Person at the religious institute for clarification as needed.

The NFCRV Executive Director will present eligible applications to the full NFCRV Board of Directors for consideration at the June Board Meeting. Longevity of NRVC membership and other factors may be considered when issuing grants.

The NFCRV will inform all applicants of the status of their request after the Board meeting or by June 30.

GRANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Grant funds will be given to a religious institute to cover all or part of a candidate's ongoing student loan payments up to a maximum of \$35,000.00. The exact grant amount and duration will be determined by the NFCRV Board of Directors.
- Grant funds will be distributed quarterly and will continue until which time the candidate (1) takes final vows in the religious institute, or (2) withdraws or is dismissed from the formation program.
- The grantee religious institute must inform the NFCRV in writing immediately if the candidate withdraws or is dismissed from the formation program. Reimbursement of already distributed funds is not required but no further funds from the initial grant allocation will be distributed
- Reimbursement will be required if a candidate discontinues and the NFCRV is not notified.
- Grantee religious institutes must maintain active membership in NRVC during the entire grant term.
- An annual report including photos on status of the candidate's progress in the institute's formation program is required and will be used to help NFCRV grow the fund. The report is easy to complete and can be found at NFCRV.org.

GRANT PAYMENT

- The awarded funds will be distributed to the religious institute to assist in the payment of the educational debt of a candidate during his or her formation period. In most cases, the grant may offset the educational debt of a candidate but typically will not completely finance it. The NFCRV looks for candidates and institutes to contribute towards the total education debt repayment equation.
- The last payment of the grant could coincide with the candidate's profession of final vows in the religious institute.