



# 2023 GUIDELINES

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS GRANT PROGRAM

### **Purpose/Scope**

Grant Initiatives for Today's Students (GIFTS) is a Catholic schools grant program of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee founded in 2019. Funds raised at the annual Archbishop's Catholic Schools Dinner support the GIFTS program. The Office for Schools plans to award grants at the \$5,000 and \$10,000 levels in Spring/Summer 2023 for use in the 2023-2024 school year. GIFT awards will be determined by a panel led by the Superintendent of Catholic Schools, archdiocesan representatives, and retired educators.

### **Focus Areas**

A school/system seeking a grant from the GIFTS grant program should align their project with one of the following four focus areas:

#### **CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

Grants will be awarded to support mission and faith formation and the creation of a visible Catholic identity. Examples include but are not limited to: faculty faith formation, liturgical needs, environmental enhancements/artifacts, resource materials, etc.

#### **DEVELOPMENT/MARKETING**

Grants will be awarded to support development and marketing initiatives. Examples include but are not limited to: annual fund development, software needs, website development, brand development, recruitment initiatives, etc.

#### **EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION**

Grants will be awarded to encourage and facilitate innovative and creative instructional programs and ideas in education. Examples include but are not limited to: new programs to enhance student learning, supplemental resources to advance existing programs, etc.

#### **PROJECT INITIATION: SEED MONEY**

Grants will be awarded to provide kick-start funding for new long-term projects. Examples include but are not limited to: new programs, resources, positions, etc.

In awarding grants, the committee will value:

- Alignment with the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools (NSBECS)
- Innovation
- Impact of program/project
- Application of best practices in the focus area

## Timeline

3/13/23	GIFTS grant application opens online
4/13/23	Applications due
4/13 - 5/26/23	Review of applications
6/2/23	Grant awards announced
6/30/23	Grant implementation begins, checks mailed to schools in July 2023
4/5/24	Final GIFTS grant award report due

**Apply now at [archmil.regfox.com/giftsapplication2023](https://archmil.regfox.com/giftsapplication2023).**

Applications are due April 13, 2023.

## Eligible Organizations

Eligible schools/systems must be recognized as Catholic by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and be fully accredited.

## Program Specifications

The GIFTS program will award grants for projects and programs in the focus areas identified. Each school/system may only apply for one grant per application cycle. The program does not fund multi-year grants, scholarship grants, endowment grants, and emergency funds. Grants will be provided for \$5,000 or \$10,000. Once awarded, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee will require a follow-up report to verify how the funding was used and to measure grant effectiveness.

If you have questions, contact Laura Kacala in the Office for Schools, at [kacalal@archmil.org](mailto:kacalal@archmil.org) or 414-758-2254.

