

Day for Life Fund – Grant Applications Guidelines

The Day for Life

St John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae* (1995) called for Bishops' Conferences to organise a day to promote the gift of human life. In this Encyclical on the value and inviolability of human life, the Pope said of Day for Life:

'Its primary purpose should be to foster...a recognition of the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition.' (at 85)

In 2002, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales established a Day for Life to celebrate and promote the dignity of human life throughout the life spectrum.

A number of approaches help to communicate the theme of the day and generate publicity:

1. Resources, information about previous years' themes and information on the fund can be found at www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life/
2. Each year, parishes are invited to reflect on a specific aspect of the protection and care for life, usually via a homily based on that year's theme, bidding prayers and/or bulletin notices. Parishes receive notice on the given year's Day for Life theme and resources, via their Dioceses. Resources can also be directly downloaded from the website <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life/>
3. The Bishops' Conference Communications Directorate generates interest and publicity through its contacts with the media.
4. A papal blessing for the day is requested.

The Day for Life Annual Collection

Since 2003, a key element of Day for Life has been an annual collection. The fund is maintained by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales whose work is funded through the registered charity, the Catholic Trust for England and Wales (Charity1097482).

The bishops have agreed that the proceeds of the Day for Life collection will assist the work of life-related activities supported by the Church. This is done through a small grants (up to £10,000) programme mainly intended for organisations requesting smaller sums of money to fund or contribute to a particular project. Grants are awarded by the bishops of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales' Department for Social Justice. If appropriate, the committee reviewing the Day for Life applications reserves the right to contact the local diocesan bishops of the organisations making bids for grants about their project.

All recipients of grant aid from the fund are required to submit an annual report highlighting the impact that has been achieved, up to a year after receiving the grant. The Day for Life grants scheme must demonstrate to the bishops, the trustees and the people who contribute via their parish collections, how the funds are used. The Bishops' Conference may choose to publish information about grant-aided projects in order to highlight some of the good work which is carried out each year.

Only one grant per successful applicant will be made per funding round. All grant money must be spent within the time frame stipulated. In extenuating circumstances, an extension may be requested. Recipients can make a formal request for a grant extension. The request should include the reason for the extension and the requested period of extension, as well as justification for why the grant was not used within the original timeline. Extension requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and acceptance is at the discretion of the Day for Life committee. This does not preclude the recipient from applying for another grant in a separate funding round, but it should be noted that recipients can only hold one grant at a time. In cases in which a grant extension is given, and the recipient has been awarded a new grant, the new grant needs to start after the extension period of the previous grant has ended. The new grant is not subject to automatic extension, meaning the project for which the new grant has been awarded should end within the timeline of the appropriate funding round, unless a separate extension is granted.



Funding Strategy and Policy

The Day for Life grants scheme awards grants to organisations in England and Wales only, working on life issues from the beginning of life to its natural end.

Bishops of the Department for Social Justice aim to award grants focusing on the types of activity listed below. The allocation of funds between the types of activity will depend on the nature of the applications and the urgency of particular types of work at any given time.



Guidelines for Grant Allocation

Request for funds from Day for Life should come from groups and organisations based in England and Wales and should fall into the following categories:

Practical

These projects will be focused on giving practical help and support to those who are facing issues which present a threat to the dignity of life. Grassroot projects addressing concrete needs on a local level will be prioritised.

Policy

These will be projects or organisations, working to uphold the dignity of human life, through practical engagement within the public sphere. The work will be in line with Church teaching, and it will focus on practical and achievable change in policy, striving to effect positive change.

Prayer

This aspect of the Day for Life funding will support resource development for the day itself and help support groups which produce prayer/spiritual resources around life issues.

Communication

These projects will focus on communicating Catholic teaching about the dignity of human life in the public sphere. In conjunction with this outreach, this funding may be used to engage in research which will help the Church understand the cultural climate around life issues and the best ways in which it can teach, support, care for people and communicate Catholic teaching on life issues.

Timeline for the Grants Programme

Date	Action	Who is responsible?
1 st June	Applications open	Day for Life Administrator
15 th July	Applications close	Day for Life Administrator
Mid-July and August	Recommendations for allocations drawn up	Lead Bishop (+John Sherrington) supported by Day for Life Administrator and General Secretary/ Executive Director
October	Provisional allocation of grants signed off by the by DSJ bishops Disbursement of grants	Bishops of the Department for Social Justice Day for Life Administrator, Finance Directorate
Following September	Call for end of year reports Management Report to Trustees	Day for Life Administrator and General Secretary/Executive Director, Finance Directorate
Following October	Any unspent money to be returned by the organisations	Day for Life Administrator, Finance Directorate



Application and Reporting Requirements

Applications

You will find an application form on the page of the Day for Life Fund. In the form, you will be asked questions regarding:

- Your organisation, and the type of work you do.
- The work or project you are applying for funding for
- How your organisation is funded
- How the proposed work or project fits in with the funding objectives of the Day for Life;
- The tangible ways in which the proposed work or project will promote the mission of the Church in the area of life issues;
- The budget of the proposed work or project.

Additionally, you will be asked to provide a supporting comment and signature from a referee in the application form. The referee should be able to make a judgment on the importance of your project and why your organisation or group has the potential to complete the project with good outcome.

Reporting

If awarded a grant, you will be asked to provide a report on the work or project for which your organisation was awarded a grant, within 12 months of the receipt disbursement of the grant. There is no standard form for the report, yet the written response must not exceed 800 words and include the following:

- The description of the work or project undertaken with the Day for Life grant funds;
- The description of achievements as a result of the work or project for which the Day for Life grant was received;
- The description of foreseen achievements as a result of the work funded by the grant after the end of the grant period;
- An updated budget, including already incurred costs, against the budget submitted in the original application.

If you have any questions, please email dayforlife@cbcew.org.uk and we will get back to you as soon as possible.