

**Outreach Funding Criteria**  
**Good Shepherd Parish**

Potential Outreach recipients are evaluated according to these “Funding Criteria:”

1. Projects must conform to the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church
2. Projects must benefit people outside the parish, although they may be brought to the commission’s attention by members of the congregation.
3. Projects must fit into one or more of the following classifications: Direct Service, Advocacy, Empowerment, or Justice Education. (See reverse side for an explanation of these terms.)
4. Projects must benefit the poor or marginalized. Poverty is defined as the condition of either low income or powerlessness to effect change in institutions and systems. The marginalized are those who are excluded by the mainstream and also experience powerlessness to effect change in institutions and systems.
5. Priority will be giving to those projects which are not adequately funded
6. Preference will be given to projects which seem likely to succeed at accomplishing their stated goals.
7. Research, surveys, planning and feasibility studies, etc. will generally not be considered for funding.
8. Funding amounts will be chosen according to the specific needs of the organization, availability of current funds and our goals as the funding source.
9. Outreach decisions will consider Direct Service, Advocacy, Empowerment, and Justice Education approaches, and will attempt to maintain a balance in funding among local, national, and global efforts.
10. A project will be considered for funding if. . .
  - a. Recommended by a parish member
  - b. A specific request is received
  - c. It is well known with a proven track record
  - d. It is addressing a pressing social issue
11. Requests from individual parishes, Catholic or otherwise, will be considered as long as they meet the above criteria. Different projects from the same parish may be considered.

[Updated 2009]

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Direct Service:** Charitable efforts to alleviate the symptoms of poverty, alienation, and injustice as stated in the corporal works of mercy: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the imprisoned, sheltering the homeless, and caring for the sick.

**Advocacy:** Speaking out against conditions which deprive human beings of their dignity or rights; raising our voices on behalf of the voiceless or powerless (the unborn, the poor, the oppressed, etc.).

**Empowerment:** Helping the hurting or powerless to develop their own voice and pursue their own goals. Examples would include support groups, leadership training, and service projects that include the persons being served in the planning and implementation.

**Justice Education:** Similar to advocacy, but here the goal is not so much to “lobby” on behalf of an issue, as to raise people’s consciousness of and sensitivity to the issue.