

Suggestions for seeking Financial Support

From the Diocese of Madison NFP Office

1) **Diocese:** If you live outside of the Diocese of Madison or will soon be moving to another Diocese, the first place I would suggest contacting for financial support would be your local Catholic Diocese. Contact whoever is responsible for promoting Natural Family Planning in the Diocese. For most Dioceses, this is the Office of Family Life or Office of Marriage and Family or the Respect Life Office. If possible, ask to set up a meeting with this person to discuss your interest in becoming an NFP teacher and how you can serve the Diocese by doing so. Unfortunately, the Diocese of Madison will not be able to offer any direct, individual financial support as we are already taking care of many general costs in order to bring this Education Program to our area.

2) **Parish:** The next place I would suggest contacting for financial support would be your local parish/congregation. In most parishes, the best place to start will be contacting the pastor and asking if you can set up a meeting with him to discuss your interest in becoming an NFP teacher and how you might be able to serve the parish by doing so. Your pastor may be able to offer you financial support on behalf of the parish as a whole, and you could also ask him if you could contact groups within the parish that may be able to support you separately. Groups that might be interested in supporting you include the Knights of Columbus, Elizabeth Ministries, Moms'/Dads' Groups, Women's/Men's Groups, and Respect Life groups. Your pastor should be able to tell you the main contact person for such groups. In exchange for receiving financial assistance from the parish as a whole, you may want to consider offering to do a certain number of Introductory Classes, free of charge, for the parish.

3) **Catholic Medical Providers:** Your local Catholic Medical Providers may be interested in supporting you financially. They may be able to do so as a group, such as a Catholic Medical Clinic or Hospital or your local guild of the Catholic Medical Association. They may also be interested in supporting you as individuals, especially if you have a relationship with them already. For further suggestions, see Individual Benefactors.

4) **Individual Benefactors:** Think of individuals in your life that might be interested in supporting you just because they love you (i.e. Grandma!) and individuals you know, or are at least acquainted with, that support the Church's teachings on marriage and family planning and might be interested in supporting you as an NFP teacher. Ideally, you can think of a few individuals that fall into both categories! Ask if you can set-up a time to meet with these individuals to share with them your interest in becoming a Creighton Model Practitioner and your vision for how your work will be a ministry for furthering the teachings of the Church. Of course, tailor your presentation to each individual. If a personal meeting is not possible, you could also send a letter. Include in the letter that you'll be calling them in the next week in hopes of discussing this further.

5) **Grants:** There are many Catholic, pro-life organizations that may be willing to give you a grant to help you with your training expenses. Two specific examples would be the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus (Google to find their Respect Life Grant form, due May 15) and The Leaven for Humanae Vitae organization (www.tlhv.org/).

Regardless of who you are asking for financial support, be sure to:

- Share with them your reasons for wanting to becoming a Creighton Model Practitioner. Explain how the Creighton Model may be different than what they know of as "NFP" in that it is based on solid scientific research and is not only for avoiding pregnancy but also for

achieving pregnancy and monitoring fertility and gynecologic health. Help them to see your vision and goals so that they might desire to support your vision and goals.

- Meet in person when possible so that they can witness your enthusiasm and get excited about being a partner with you in your mission.
- Lay out your costs for the Education Program, including travel and housing expenses if applicable. When possible, be specific with the amount of financial support you are requesting from them. Inform them how their financial support would free you to focus on this work as a ministry and not worry about the uncertain financial reimbursement from class fees, etc. However, do be sure to mention that you will receive compensation from class fees when you start teaching. Depending on who you are asking, you may want to offer to pay them back with your class fees or by teaching classes for free for their organization (i.e. a parish, Crisis Pregnancy Center, etc.).
- Ask them, with sincerity, for their prayer support! This will be just as, if not more, important for you than their financial support!