

2024 Diocesan Services Appeal

Frequently Asked Questions

For Parish Use – Pastors, Parish Staff, DSA Volunteers

What is the purpose of the Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA)?

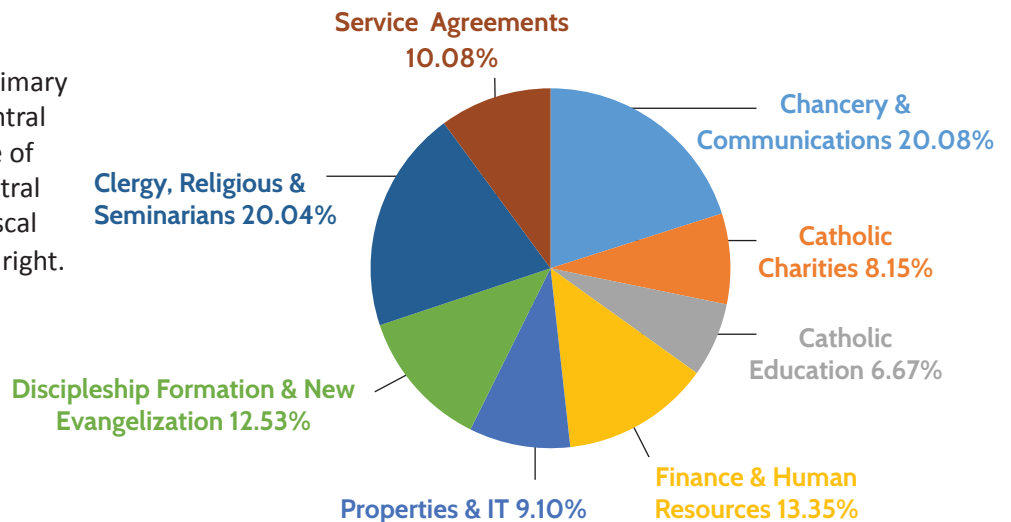
The DSA is an annual appeal, meaning gifts are used to sustain the ongoing, day-to-day work of the Church in our Diocese. Our contributions are put to work, right away, in a multitude of ministries and activities. The dollars are not invested or reserved for future use.

How are DSA contributions used?

Contributions are restricted to fund the ministries, programs, and services that offer direct assistance to individuals and families and to our parishes, schools, and affiliated Catholic organizations. These include, but are not limited to:

- Adoption and Foster Care Services
- Building and Property Management
- Campus Ministry
- Care for our Priests – Active and Retired
- Catechesis and Catechist Formation
- Catholic Charities Works of Mercy
- Catholic Schools
- Communications and Technology
- Consecrated Vocations
- Diaconate Formation and Support
- Discipleship and Lay Formation
- Evangelization Initiatives
- Faith-Based Counseling
- FAITH Magazine
- Hispanic Ministries
- Hospital Ministry
- Human Resources and Legal Services
- Marriage and Family Programs
- Marriage Tribunal Services
- Natural Family Planning and Life Ministries
- Outreach Ministries
- Parish Financial Services
- Pregnancy Counseling and Services
- Professional Services for Parishes
- Religious Education
- Restorative Justice/Prison Ministry
- Retreats and Conferences
- Sacramental Records and Archives
- Seminarian Education and Formation
- St. Francis Retreat Center
- Worship and Liturgical Resources
- Young Adult Vocational Formation
- Youth Formation

DSA contributions are the primary source of income for the Central Services Fund of the Diocese of Lansing. A report of the Central Services Fund expenses in fiscal year 2023 is provided to the right.



Is my annual DSA gift really needed?

Yes. The annual support of the faithful across the diocese is critically important to fund our active, ongoing ministries. All gifts, of any size, will provide needed support for ministries that benefit your parish and the mission of the Catholic Church throughout the diocese.

How are the overall DSA goal and individual parish goals established?

The overall DSA goal is established by the Bishop and is related directly to the annual financial needs of the diocese. This year's goal is \$5.75 million. Following the determination of the overall DSA goal, parish goals are established through the use of a longstanding formula approved by the Diocese of Lansing Presbyteral Council. The 2024 DSA parish goals were determined using the same formula that was used in 2023 and prior years. Neither prior DSA results nor parish head counts are a part of the formula. The formula is primarily driven by a comparison of Sunday and Holy Day parish offertory collections, and it assures that no parish will have a goal that increases, or decreases, more than 10% in any year.

Will DSA funds be used for costs related to the sexual abuse of minors?

No. DSA funds have not been nor will be used for costs related to abuse. Nor are DSA funds diverted to help pay abuse costs in other dioceses.

Given past instances of embezzlement of parish funds, why should I give when I am skeptical of the financial oversight of my contributions?

Diocese of Lansing financial oversight processes brought financial abuses at the parish level to light. Diocesan finances are audited annually by an independent auditor and parish finances are professionally reviewed by the diocese's department of finance.