FUNDRAISING

Because many Catholic universities do not officially recognize reproductive justice student organizations, they often cannot access university funding. This means that you may have to rely on funds you raise yourself.

We know that fundraising can sometimes feel uncomfortable or challenging. However, the opposition is well-resourced, and raising money is essential to supporting our efforts and our community.

FUNDRAISING BASICS

Have an ask. Make sure you are clear about why you are asking people to contribute and how their contributions will support the work you are doing. For example, "Help us raise funds to buy supplies for our reproductive healthcare kits."

Think broadly about your community and who can give. Students aren't the only people you can reach out to. Think about asking parents, alumni, or other community members who might support you.

Thank people. When individuals contribute and show up to support your organization, let people know you appreciate them. If you have time, consider sending individualized thank-you notes. Alternatively, include a communal thank-you on one of your communication channels or social media.



FUNDRAISING FORMATS

Before proceeding with any of the following ideas, check with your university's policies on student fundraising.

Dine and Donate
Many local restaurants will host dine-and-donate events, in which, for a certain night during a certain time frame, customers who show a promotional flyer will have a portion of the money spent donated to your organization. These fundraisers are easy to set up: Just reach out to any local restaurant and ask whether they offer this type of event. Try to pick a restaurant with a unionized workforce and sustainable practices if available.

Mini Market or Thrift Store
Hosting a mini market or thrift store generates significant interest and revenue. Popular items include clothing, baked goods or other snacks, crafts, and miscellaneous donated items like shoes and accessories. You can encourage club members and the campus community to donate.

Merchandise Sales
Does your club have a logo or design? Make swag out of it! Selling merchandise is a great way to spread awareness about your club through clothing. When creating merchandise, consider where you want your organization's money to go. Unionized print shops are plentiful, and you can always request the union bug to be included to show that the item is union made.

Product Drives
Want to support a cause without raising money? Consider hosting a product drive! Product drives collect community-sourced items like general hygiene products, period products, diapers, school supplies, clothing, and food. When gathering donations, set up signs and dropboxes around campus where students can easily leave their donations.

Contraception Goodie Bags
Handing out condoms, pregnancy tests, dental dams, and emergency contraception helps make contraception accessible on campus. Still, depending on campus policy, your freedom to distribute contraception on campus may be restricted or limited. Check your university's policies to understand the risks. Materials for contraception goodie bags can be obtained free of charge from several organizations. Some students also sell "condom grams" on campus around holidays such as Valentine's Day or St. Patrick's Day to raise money.

Ticketed Events
You can also raise money while hosting an event by charging for tickets. Host a benefit concert with campus bands and student music collectives, trivia nights, or craft nights. These events help you raise money while building community and reaching new audiences.