



Catholic Campaign for Human Development

ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (CCHD)

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What is the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)?

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) was founded in 1969 and established in 1970 with the primary goal to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ "... to bring good news to the poor ... release to captives ... sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free." (Luke 4:18)

CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops. CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families, and communities. CCHD empowers those experiencing poverty and builds solidarity between people living in poverty and their neighbors.

CCHD has a complementary mission of educating on poverty and its causes. This dual pastoral strategy of education for justice and helping people who are experiencing poverty speak and act for themselves reflects the mandate of the Scriptures and the principles of Catholic social teaching.

CCHD also provides the Catholic faithful with concrete opportunities to live out the love of God and neighbor in ways that express our baptismal call and continuing Eucharistic transformation. Pope Benedict XVI has taught that "restoration of justice, reconciliation and forgiveness" requires: "...*determination to transform unjust structures and to restore respect for the dignity of all men and women, created in God's image and likeness. Through the concrete fulfillment of this responsibility, the Eucharist becomes in life what it signifies in its celebration.*" (*Sacramentum Caritatis*, #89, 2007)

Through grants given to local community organizations, CCHD empowers those experiencing poverty and builds solidarity between people living in poverty and their neighbors. CCHD is helping communities to build resilience and stand in solidarity with their most marginalized members.

Where do CCHD funds come from?

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is a nationwide effort, with donations from, and projects in, Catholic (arch)dioceses throughout the country. Funds are collected each year from Catholics in a CCHD second collection taken up in most (arch)dioceses on World Day of the Poor in November. Twenty-five percent of the donations stay in the (arch)diocese to fund local organizations that are in line with CCHD's mission, while seventy-five percent is sent to the CCHD national office to fund organizations in dioceses across the country. This is especially helpful to dioceses with fewer resources.

Who benefits from CCHD?

CCHD was founded to help people experiencing poverty break the cycle of poverty and address its root causes by investing in their development as leaders. With support from CCHD, people living in poverty can come together to help shape decisions that affect their families and communities on issues like quality education, affordable housing, economic development, and safe neighborhoods. CCHD also educates people, especially Catholics, about poverty and its causes and our call to be neighbors to all

CCHD is an essential part of the Church in the United States' social mission, and a unique part of the Catholic community's broad commitment to assist low-income people, families, and communities.

What kind of initiatives does CCHD fund?

CCHD funds programs where poor and marginalized people are empowered to make decisions, seek solutions to local problems and find ways to improve their lives and neighborhoods. **Community Development initiatives** empower low-income people to gain the ability to convene, identify barriers, research issues, brainstorm solutions, and take action to change problematic structures and systems in their communities. **Economic Development initiatives** help poor and low-income people develop new businesses, create new jobs and develop assets that are owned by families and communities.

CCHD focuses on the underlying structures that trap people in a cycle of poverty, by empowering those who are living in poverty to change unjust systems, policies, and situations that perpetuate poverty in neighborhoods and communities across the United States. This can mean everything from addressing wage theft to improving public transportation to assuring water in fire hydrants. For more than 50 years, CCHD has helped make long-term changes in the economic conditions of communities across the United States.

Since beginning its work in 1970, CCHD has awarded **over 440 million dollars** in grants supporting **nearly 12,000** community-based, grassroots-led organizations. CCHD is committed to transparency and continues to publish a list of recent grantees online each year.

How are decisions made about what groups CCHD funds?

The CCHD national grants process is a partnership between (arch)dioceses and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. All initiatives supported with CCHD funding complete a thorough application process that includes a pre-application, full application, site visits, and other requirements, with involvement on both the national and diocesan levels. Funds from the national office cannot be awarded without the specific endorsement of the local bishop and the national subcommittee of bishops. For a detailed account of the CCHD review process, see the section entitled *How Does the CCHD Application Review Process Work?*

Additionally, some smaller organizations are funded directly by the diocese from the twenty-five percent of the collection retained by the local diocese. While dioceses are encouraged to follow CCHD national criteria and guidelines for local use of funds, each diocese has its own process for reviewing requests for local grants.

What differentiates the Catholic Campaign for Human Development from other Church charity programs?

CCHD is a unique and essential part of the Catholic community's broad commitment to assist low-income people, families, and communities. This commitment also includes our Catholic parishes, schools, Catholic Charities, health ministries, and countless other examples of service to "the least of these." (Matt. 25) Like many other Catholic ministries, CCHD helps people overcome poverty without regard to their race, ethnicity or religion.

Distinct from the important work of direct service efforts, CCHD supports organizations and initiatives that address the root causes of injustice and poverty in America and empower those most impacted to address the systems and structures that perpetuate the cycle of poverty, such as racism, unemployment, and lack of education or economic opportunities. CCHD invests in long-term strategies and approaches that can achieve lasting and impactful results to strengthen communities.

As a national initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, CCHD is an essential and complementary part of the Catholic social mission proclaimed by Jesus Christ and taught by the Church. CCHD does not replace, nor can it be replaced by, other expressions of the Church's essential social mission. CCHD is a complement to the direct-assistance mission of Catholic Charities agencies and other Church emergency relief programs.

CCHD supports self-help efforts to bring about positive institutional changes that address root causes of poverty, carrying out Pope Benedict XVI's teaching that "justice is inseparable from charity, and intrinsic to it. Justice is the primary way of charity..." and his call to pursue the common good through "the institutional path...of charity." (*Caritas in Veritate*, 6-7)



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