



Catholic Campaign for Human Development

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

[Is CCHD Catholic?](#)

[Do CCHD's criteria exclude Catholic institutions or Ecclesiastical bodies from applying?](#)

[Why doesn't CCHD fund exclusively Catholic initiatives?](#)

[If the Catholic Campaign for Human Development does not fund direct service for the poor, why is it still considered a public charity?](#)

Is CCHD Catholic?

Deeply rooted in Jesus' mission to "... to bring good news to the poor ... release to captives ... sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free," (Luke 4:18), the Catholic Campaign for Human Development is a work of the Catholic Church in the United States. It is a way to live out love of God and neighbor in ways that express our baptismal call and our continuing transformation through the Eucharist. CCHD draws its directions, policies, and practices from Catholic social and moral teaching and prohibits funding groups that violate fundamental Catholic teaching. In all its work, CCHD seeks to carry out the following central themes of Catholic social teaching:

- **The Life and Dignity of the Human Person:** CCHD works to protect and enhance the life and dignity of all, from the first moment of conception to the moment of natural death and every moment on the spectrum of life in between, especially focusing on the lives and dignity of those who are poor, vulnerable or suffering economic or other injustice.
- **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable:** CCHD practices the Church's priority for the poor, helping low-income and vulnerable people improve their lives and communities by their own actions.
- **Call to Family, Community, & Participation:** CCHD works from the bottom up, emphasizing self-help, participation, and decision-making by poor people themselves to address their own situations by advocating for policies and initiatives that allow families and communities to be safe, healthy, and stable. CCHD works to support and strengthen the fundamental social institutions of marriage and family and other mediating structures, including parishes, neighborhoods, community organizations, economic development groups, and worker and other associations.
- **Rights and Responsibilities:** CCHD empowers people experiencing poverty to advocate for their own rights and call on civil authorities and on all of society to fulfill their duty to ensure the rights of all, such as a place to live (i.e. affordable housing), health (i.e. access to healthcare for all), employment (i.e. job creation and training), food and clothing (i.e. living wage), and many others.
- **Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers:** CCHD allows workers to organize for their own rights and work for economic justice by urging decisions and policies which place the good of persons above economic profit.
- **Solidarity:** CCHD is a sign of solidarity, standing with and for those who are poor, seeking to strengthen communities, and helping to build bridges between those who are poor and those who are not.
- **Subsidiarity:** CCHD focuses on local communities seeking to give voice to those closest to problems of poverty, as these communities address economic injustice by working with local, state, or national institutions to address the causes of poverty.
- **Care for God's Creation:** CCHD supports organizations and initiatives that are working for environmental justice that fosters better care for the creation and protection of those low-income communities that are the most likely to suffer the negative impacts of a changing climate.
- **Pursuing Justice:** 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)
- **Faithful Stewardship:** CCHD seeks to make effective and faithful use of resources—financial, institutional, and human—to advance CCHD's mission in accountable and transparent ways.

The Catholic Church Working to End Poverty and Injustice in the United States.

La Iglesia Católica está trabajando para eliminar la pobreza y la injusticia en los Estados Unidos.

Do CCHD’s criteria exclude Catholic institutions or Ecclesiastical bodies from applying?

No. CCHD will encourage the participation of Catholic parishes and parishioners, priests and deacons, religious, and diocesan leaders in the activities and groups that carry out the mission and reflect the foundations of CCHD. The direct involvement of Catholic leaders, clergy, parishes, and other Catholic institutions will be considered a significant positive factor and advantage in the review of applications for CCHD funding. Catholic organizations and organizations that include Catholic parishes, organizations, and institutions in substantial numbers will receive priority consideration as long as they effectively carry out CCHD’s mission and clearly reflect CCHD’s foundations.

CCHD has always been deeply integrated into the life of the Catholic community. Over 950 clergy and religious are currently involved in CCHD’s work & over 1200 parishes are currently engaged with the work of CCHD-funded groups.

In the past, CCHD’s criteria and guidelines included confusing language about which types of groups would not qualify for CCHD funding. The language in the criteria and guidelines has been revised to more accurately depict which groups would not be eligible to apply for CCHD funding. To be considered for CCHD funding, groups must meet all CCHD criteria.

Why doesn’t CCHD fund Catholic programs or initiatives exclusively?

Many of the programs funded by CCHD include partnerships with other communities of faith and secular groups. As long as the mission and actions of the groups requesting funding are not at odds with Catholic social teaching, the bishops believe Catholics can partner with others in the community to address the root causes of poverty and injustice, and advance the cause of human dignity and development.

Through the cultivation of relationships with national networks, local community groups, as well as partnerships that span across ecumenical and interfaith lines, CCHD has allowed the Church to stand in solidarity with communities in times of great need.

If the Catholic Campaign for Human Development does not fund direct service to the poor, why is it still considered a Catholic charity?

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is a charitable organization of the nation’s Catholic bishops. Since its inception in 1970, CCHD’s goal has been to help poor people achieve self-sufficiency. The bishops intended CCHD to complement the direct-assistance mission of Catholic Charities agencies and other emergency relief programs run by the Church.

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. CCHD invests in long-term strategies and approaches that can achieve lasting and impactful results to strengthen communities.



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