



Catholic Campaign for Human Development

SAFEGUARDING/UPHOLDING CATHOLIC VALUES

[Does Catholic Campaign for Human Development \(CCHD\) fund groups acting against Catholic values?](#)
[What about participation in coalitions for a good purpose, like better wages or housing, that include groups acting against Catholic values on other issues?](#)
[Does CCHD fund organizations advocate abortion or same-sex marriage?](#)
[Does CCHD monitor the social media activity of CCHD-funded groups?](#)

As the domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is deeply rooted in Catholic teaching and guided by the USCCB's priorities. The program's mission seeks to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ to "... to bring good news to the poor ... release to captives ... sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free." (Luke 4:18). By helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families, and communities, CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty. CCHD empowers those experiencing poverty and builds solidarity between people living in poverty and their neighbors.

Does CCHD fund groups that act against Catholic values?

No. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development advances and uplifts the moral and social teaching of the Catholic Church. This includes fully upholding our Church's teaching on the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception through natural death. CCHD funds organizations that empower people living in poverty to come together and seek systemic solutions to pull themselves out of poverty. All initiatives that are supported with CCHD funding have gone through a thorough application process and are endorsed by BOTH the local bishop and national subcommittee of bishops as organizations with objectives and actions that are fully in accord with the moral teaching of the Catholic Church.

CCHD's funding policies and procedures have strong policies and clearer mechanisms to screen and monitor grants and groups to ensure that CCHD funds go to organizations that uphold the life and dignity of the human person in every way. CCHD will do all it can to ensure that groups abide by these strengthened requirements and will act immediately and decisively if it is discovered that any group is violating these essential conditions for CCHD support.

CCHD takes every allegation that a group is working against Catholic values, very seriously. Catholics can be assured that any group that engages in activity contrary to Church teaching, such as promoting abortion or same-sex marriage is ineligible for CCHD funding because this is a clear violation of the CCHD funding criteria and guidelines. Together with the local diocese, each allegation is rigorously reviewed. All organizations supported by CCHD are closely monitored throughout the length of their grant to ensure that the terms of the grant agreement, are strictly followed. Any departure from this irrevocable commitment would lead to immediate termination of funding support.

What about participation in coalitions for a good purpose, like better wages or housing, that include groups acting against Catholic values on other issues?

CCHD encourages groups to work across geographical, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological lines to overcome poverty and advance the common good. However, CCHD will not fund groups that are knowingly members of coalitions that have as part of their organizational purpose or coalition agenda, positions or actions that contradict fundamental Catholic moral and social teaching (e.g. promotion or support of abortion, same-sex marriage, euthanasia, racism, as well as the use of the death penalty punitive measures toward immigrants, etc.). Prohibited activities include participation in or endorsing actions that promote legislation, and ballot initiatives (including voter guides and other written materials) that contradict Catholic moral or social teaching.

Actions of other coalition partners on non-coalition issues or issues not agreed upon by the coalition members, call for a different moral analysis. CCHD has engaged a moral theologian for additional guidance on the ethical implications of these relationships and what is morally acceptable and what is not for CCHD-funded groups.

Does CCHD fund organizations that advocate abortion or same-sex marriage?

No. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development fully upholds our Church's teaching on the sanctity of human life from conception through natural death. The Campaign funds organizations that empower the poor and help them organize themselves to break the cycle of poverty. All grant applicants complete a thorough application process and funds are provided only to organizations with objectives and actions that are fully in accord with the moral and social teaching of the Catholic Church. The local CCHD diocesan director and national grants staff evaluate every proposal. Every organization recommended for funding requires endorsement by the local bishop and national subcommittee of bishops.

The funding criteria, including the fact that organizations must be in conformity with the moral guidelines of the Catholic Church, are specified from the earliest stages of the application process. Organizations are monitored through regular reporting and on-site visits. Funding is discontinued if organizations deviate from their initial objective into areas inconsistent with the moral teaching of the Catholic Church.

Does CCHD monitor the social media activity of CCHD-funded groups?

CCHD recognizes the role social media plays as a source to share official statements and represent formal stances and endorsements from our funded organizations. In November 2022, the CCHD Subcommittee approved the adoption of CCHD's Social Media Policy to clarify where and how our grant agreement applies to organizational activity and make it clear that social media content from employees of a funded organization is not considered an official statement of the organization (unless stated as such) and is thus not applicable under CCHD's grant agreement. Included within CCHD's grant agreement, CCHD's Social Media Policy states:

"CCHD understands any organic posts as well as "likes", "shares", or other activity by a Grantee on official social media accounts, in visual or print, as representing formal endorsement or support. Grantee agrees that it will not post, share, or like anything on the organizational social media accounts in conflict with Catholic moral or social teaching. This includes the promotion or support of abortion, same-sex marriage, euthanasia, racism, discriminatory measures toward immigrants, or use of the death penalty as well as activities that include participation in or endorsing that promote in any way legislation, propositions, or ballot initiatives (including voter guides and other written materials) that are in conflict with fundamental Catholic moral or social teaching.

CCHD does not consider social media activity from employees as representative of an official position of the grantee unless stated as such. Employees who identify their employment on their personal social media account and use that account to express personal views are requested to put a disclaimer on that account that provides that the views expressed are their own and not necessarily the views of the Grantee. Grantee staff should be mindful of how a social media post could reflect upon the Grantee and impact its compliance with CCHD's social media policy."



Copyright © 2022, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. All rights reserved. This work may be reproduced in whole or in part without alteration for nonprofit educational use, provided such reprints are not sold and include this notice. Rev. 05/2022