



Catholic
Charities
USA®

Working to Reduce Poverty in America



167 Member Agencies



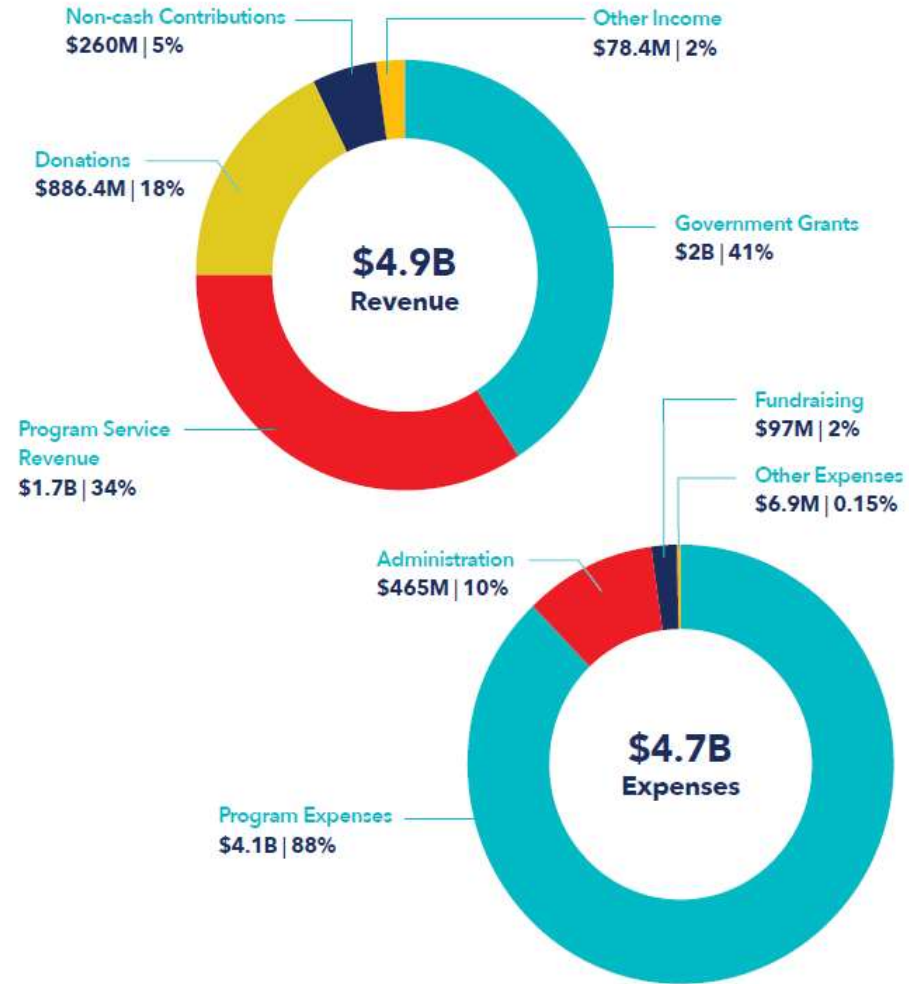
13M
people served



41K
employees



260K
volunteers



CCUSA goal for the Synod:

Encourage and resource our member agencies to participate in their local diocesan efforts.

Activities thus far:

- Introductory webinar
- Two follow-up network calls
- Established a Slack workspace
- Conducted survey: Who is doing what and how



Three Ways to Listen on the Margins



It is an exciting moment in the Church! As part of a global synodal process, Pope Francis has invited the Church to “journey together” in a two-year effort to listen and dialogue beginning in 2021 and concluding in 2023. Use this resource with your local community to explore the themes and ideas presented in the Synod.

[Three Ways to Listen on the Margins.pdf](#)

- **Catholic Charities** agencies operate in nearly every U.S. diocese, where they serve as the social welfare agency of the local bishop. 167 agencies comprise Catholic Charities USA, which works with its members as the domestic disaster relief agency of the U.S. Catholic Church. Collectively, over 15 million clients were served by Catholic Charities agencies in 2020 through its myriad services. [Find your local agency](#) to explore listening opportunities with those they serve.
- CCHD funded organizations
- Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
- Prison ministries
- College/university campus ministries



Catholic Charities agencies engaged in Diocesan Synodal Efforts (as of 1-22-22)

- Phoenix
- New York
- Metuchen
- San Diego
- New Mexico
- Baltimore
- Central and Northern Missouri
- Cleveland
- Dallas
- East Tennessee
- Idaho
- Kansas City – Saint Joseph
- Louisville
- Northern Nevada
- Orange County
- Santa Clara County
- Southern Minnesota
- Dubuque
- Washington (DC)
- Green Bay
- West Tennessee
- Youngstown
- Western Washington
- Lansing
- South Jersey
- Saint Cloud
- Newark
- Kansas City in Kansas
- Pittsburgh
- Shreveport
- Richmond
- San Antonio
- East Bay
- Allentown
- Saint Petersburg
- Indianapolis
- Oklahoma City

Q2: Is your Catholic Charities agency actively engaged with your diocese's efforts to promote the Synod on Synodality?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	68.42%	26
No	10.53%	4
Unsure	5.26%	2
Other (please specify)	15.79%	6
TOTAL		38

Q6: Is your Catholic Charities agency hosting a listening session or sessions for Catholic Charities staff and/or volunteers for the Synod on Synodality?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	39.47%	15
No	28.95%	11
Unsure	31.58%	12
TOTAL		38

Q8: Is your Catholic Charities agency thinking of submitting its own report for the Synod on Synodality, independent of that of the local diocese?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	2.63%	1
No	86.84%	33
Unsure	10.53%	4
TOTAL		38

Q7

Is your Catholic Charities agency collaborating with any outside organizations (Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, religious orders, ecumenical groups, etc) to solicit voices from the margins? If so, please list them below.

- Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (4)
- Habitat for Humanity ReStore
- Salvation Army
- Ecumenical Ministerial Association (2)
- Prison Ministry/County Jails
- Dorothy Day House
- Community-based Social Service Organizations (2)
- Ministries with Homeless Persons (2)
- Rural Life Initiative participants



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Q10

What questions are you asking of persons whose input your Catholic Charities agency is soliciting for the Synod on Synodality?

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Saint Cloud:

What are your experiences of faith?

What are your experiences of God?

What are your experiences of Church?

Who has been - or hasn't been - church to you?

What gives you hope when you think about Church,

What makes you shudder or wish for more when you think about Church?

Who (else) does the Church need to hear from?



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Q10

What questions are you asking of persons whose input your Catholic Charities agency is soliciting for the Synod on Synodality?

Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota

Communion: “Do I feel welcome in the Church? Do I feel like I belong in my parish community? Why or why not?”

Participation: “How do we as a Church listen well, and where do we fall short in hearing the voices of all who live in this area?”

Mission: “What areas of Christ’s mission are we neglecting?”



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Q10

What questions are you asking of persons whose input your Catholic Charities agency is soliciting for the Synod on Synodality?

Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada

1. How is this “journeying together” to announce the Gospel happening today at Catholic Charities of NN,
2. Who else do we need to reach out to, listen to and learn from, or to include in our synodal consultations and in our faith community? Whose voices are currently not being heard? Who is absent from these discussions,
3. What do you think would make our agency better?
4. What can each of us do and what can we do collectively to make it better,
5. “Synodality” asks us to be energetic and involved ambassadors of our faith through conscientious listening and sharing of insights to advance
6. What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journeying together,



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Q10

What questions are you asking of persons whose input your Catholic Charities agency is soliciting for the Synod on Synodality?

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington

1. Who in the Catholic Church has walked with you on your faith journey? How,
2. How do the Mass, Church's ministries and activities inspire you in your daily life,
3. What do you think is the role of a Catholic Church member? How does the Church support members in carrying out their role?
4. In what ways does the Catholic Church listen to its members? Are there ways for people to be included and share their voices?
5. In what ways does the Catholic Church communicate with groups within our church, other faith communities, and our neighbors,



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Q10

What questions are you asking of persons whose input your Catholic Charities agency is soliciting for the Synod on Synodality?

Catholic Charities Diocese of Cleveland

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together.” How is this “journeying together” happening today with those we serve and those we serve with in Catholic Charities?

1. What have been your experiences “journeying with” Catholic Charities or the Catholic Church?
2. What steps might God be calling Catholic Charities or the Catholic Church to take in the future in order to grow in how we journey together?
3. As you have journeyed with people in Catholic Charities or the Catholic Church, what were your takeaways regarding:
What joys occurred along the way?
What difficulties and obstacles have you run into?
What wounds and healings have occurred along the way?
What insights have you gained from these relationships?
4. As you think about Catholic Charities or the Catholic Church, what or where do you think it is being called to go in the future?
5. Gratitude Conversation – complete one of these prompts:
I am glad I was here because... and/or One gift I received in this conversation is...



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Q10

What questions are you asking of persons whose input your Catholic Charities agency is soliciting for the Synod on Synodality?

Catholic Charities Community Services of Arizona (Phoenix)

- 1. Synod 2021 RESOURCES
- 2. Synod 2021 LOGO
- 3. Synod 2021 PRAYER
- Synod 2021 Domestic Violence Guiding Questions
- Synod 2021 Foster Care Guiding Questions
- Synod 2021 Homelessness Guiding Questions
- Synod 2021 Immigration Guiding Questions
- Synod 2021 Refugee Guiding Questions
- Synod 2021 Veteran Homelessness Guiding Questions



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Q10

What questions are you asking of persons whose input your Catholic Charities agency is soliciting for the Synod on Synodality?

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri

“Share a story of your experience of the Catholic Church”

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Lansing

“We are using the Synod resource from Leadership Roundtable”

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Baltimore

“Where do you experience community? What is community for you?”



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Q11

Please describe any successes or lessons learned by your Catholic Charities agency related to the Synod on Synodality?

- Strong need for Mental Health Awareness training in communities - providing that now. (Green Bay)
- Simply being a part of the diocesan synod process has been great for us and for the others on the committee as we are able to add knowledge and expertise about those living on the margins. We will also be bringing in other community partners that have experience working with several different under-served populations. (West Tennessee)
- I worked on the Diocese committee to develop a survey that can be used to kick off listening sessions, if that is what the parishes and groups choose to do. The survey was divided into three parts, Catholics, non Catholics and people in crisis. (East Tennessee)
- Collaboration with Parishes (Western Washington)



Q11

Please describe any successes or lessons learned by your Catholic Charities agency related to the Synod on Synodality?

We have felt it is preferable to have marginalized populations join the regular parish listening sessions, so that members of the community can see 'this type of person lives in/this set of experiences takes place in my community.' Given that some marginalized populations will simply not ever feel comfortable in that kind of a parish setting, we are hosting 'focus groups,' to try to reach them, and hear their voice. If others take a similar approach, we would encourage them to filter those marginalized voices back to the parishes/pastors, so they can gain a sense for the breadth of experiences and life stories in their community (and how the Holy Spirit speaks through that breadth of experiences). (Southern Minnesota)



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Q12

Please describe any challenges faced by your Catholic Charities agency in promoting the Synod on Synodality.

Reaching out to staff who have fallen away from the Catholic Church. We see a need for sensitive and inclusive language

Timing - entire process is very fast between seeking/ inviting input to final report

The direction the commission was given by our bishop is that we may not segregate groups for input.... they must attend one of the listening sessions in the designated parish in their area.

The time frame has been a challenge which has required that we get over perfectionism and have the courage to enter a process which is messy and not completely under control! There has also been a challenge of knowing where to even find some marginalized populations, so that we can invite them. This is telling of how well we are currently doing at reaching out to them

The majority of our staff is not Catholic and are not religious so engaging them on a spiritual level may be a challenge

Our plan was to take the survey out at events that outreach and get feedback. We had an arson fire so we have been limited on reaching the population in crisis because of our fire crisis

I think the biggest challenge is, first, in reaching out to all people and, second, is then in listening to all voices

lack of full guidance from archdiocese on process for listening sessions, slow roll-out

Narrowing down the many areas of broad listening including: many cultures, ecumenical, disabilities, mental health needs, prison, poor, homeless, refugees, young adult, etc

Trying to include the margins is a far-reaching prospect

Covid-19



Q13

Please add here any additional comments related to the Synod on Synodality. Resources with links may be added here.

Our Diocese is sending out a survey to gather information from parishioners and non-parishioners across our Diocese. Our next step is to hold focus groups and CC's role may be to assist in bringing together some vulnerable populations that were not able to participate in the survey. The survey asks each parish how they serve the poor and if they welcome immigrants, this was to support the mission of Catholic Charities. (Dubuque)

We were pleased that our bishop specifically asked us to be included, recognizing that our goal is to reach and touch those who are marginalized. (Covington)

We have decided to continue to integrate Synodality in all that we do, including listening one on one, small group and large group. (Green Bay)

We were very happy that our bishop asked our CC agency to have an active role on the diocese synod committee. That way, we have been able assist in all aspects of the planning and will be active in executing the process. Both Kelley and myself will also serve as facilitators. We believe it would benefit all the participating diocese to have a representative from their Catholic Charities (if they have one) as part of their synod process. (West Tennessee)



BALTIMORE They have trained facilitators and have tweaked the questions suggested in the official Vatican documents. The Catholic Charities agency is hosting 6 listening sessions with agency staff and board, and also different client groups. Listening sessions will be conducted in January.

LANSING Catholic Charities has a representative on the diocesan synodal planning team. They are identifying groups to reach out to, such as Hispanic communities and persons experiencing homelessness and addiction struggles. Susan is diocesan director of Hispanic ministries and the diocese and agency are developing plans to engage Hispanic communities.

CLEVELAND The Cleveland Synodal process has two tracks: 1) parish-level and 2) trained facilitators who will go to Catholic Charities service centers, such as homeless shelters and food distribution sites. There is concern that many communities on the margins will not be reached.



WILMINGTON – Wilmington has developed a booklet with questions, guidelines, and rules for conduct at listening sessions. The Catholic Charities staff has gone through it, and the board will do so soon. Plans are to engage a residential maternity home and a homeless shelter. Concern: how might they engage those 70,000+ clients struggling with mental health issues and food insecurity and who benefit from an annual agency energy program. Maybe the website?

SEATTLE - Agency is working with the diocesan Office for Mission Effectiveness and Planning. Five Catholic Charities staff are trained as listening session leaders. There will be listening sessions with staff and clients. They are working with deaneries to assist parishes without trained listening session leaders, and which wish specifically to engage those on the margins.



Catholic Charities Community Services of Arizona (Phoenix)

- JAN 31 week – utilize already scheduled Program Connects with designated leaders about engagement in plan(s); red indicates vulnerable groups we are focusing, as capacity permits and plans are confirmed:
 - 1/31/2022 - Program Connect Joining Hearts, **Foster Care**, & In Home Central
 - 2/1/2022 - Program Connect with **Refugee / UMP/ Familias Unidas**
 - 2/8/2022 - Program Connect with **PATH CCVS (homelessness, veteran and rural experience)**, Community Re-entry
 - 2/9/2022 - Program Connect with **MANA, VOC (Vulnerable Veteran experiences)**
 - 2/15/2022 – Share brief update during SLC
 - 2/22/2022 - Program Connect with **CARE Campus (immigrant experience)**, Dignity Diversion, **My Sisters' Place (Domestic Violence experience)**, Counseling
 - 2/24/2022 - share briefly plan/FYI during Leadership Gathering (request permission, 2-3 MIN)
 - 2/24/2022 - Program Connect **NorAZ Child Welfare (Foster Care, Therapeutic, substance, rural experiences)**
- 2/25/2022 – might hold a focus group during Food Bank with Resident Services at Ironwood Village

