

Thank you for your interest in the Catholic Campaign for Human Development's local grant initiative!

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the official domestic anti-poverty agency of the bishops of the Catholic Church in the United States. Led by the USCCB Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, CCHD demonstrates the principles of Catholic social teaching by helping low-income people and communities to organize to improve their lives. CCHD provides grants to self-help community organizations and economic development initiatives to address the causes of poverty in low-income communities. CCHD is made possible by the generous support of Catholics in the United States, primarily through an annual parish collection. CCHD's grants to local anti-poverty efforts are screened, awarded, and monitored in close partnership with local Catholic dioceses.

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. Like many other Catholic ministries, CCHD helps people overcome poverty without regard to their race, ethnicity, or religion. As a national initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, CCHD is an essential and complementary part of the Catholic social teaching proclaimed by Jesus Christ and taught by His Church.

2026 Grant Timeline

July 22 nd	Application opens
August 29 th	Application deadline
August 30 th	Grant Application Review Begins
Mid-September	Recommendations sent to Bishop
Late-September	Grant awards announced, award letters and checks mailed

Grant Requirements

Goal	Address the root causes of poverty
Catholic Social Teaching:	Written agreement of compliance
Low-Income Benefit	Minimum of 50% or more of program beneficiaries are low-income
Partisan Political Activity:	No participation permitted

Grant Awards

Applications will be reviewed by a local committee before being submitted to the Bishop for approval. Grant awards are likely to range between \$1,500 - \$5,000.

CCHD - Catholic Mission and Identity

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. **Below**, we highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition. CCHD asks organizations requesting funding to understand and adhere to these basic principles central to the Catholic mission.

- **Respect for Human Life and Dignity:** The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

- **Call to Family, Community, and Participation:** The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society -- in economics and politics, in law and policy -- directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

- **Rights and Responsibilities:** The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities--to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

- **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable:** A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

- **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers:** The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

- **Solidarity:** We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters keepers, wherever they may be. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

- **Care for God's Creation:** We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.