



CATHOLIC IDENTITY

1. [Is CCHD Catholic?](#)
2. [Why doesn't CCHD fund Catholic programs or initiatives exclusively?](#)
3. [Does CCHD fund exclusively Catholic initiatives?](#)
4. [Why doesn't CCHD fund exclusively Catholic programs or initiatives?](#)

1. Is CCHD Catholic?

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:

- **Respect for Human Life and Dignity:** 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. 4
- **Priority for the Poor:** CCHD practices the Church's priority for the poor, helping low-income and vulnerable people improve their lives and communities by their own actions.
- **Participation:** CCHD works from the bottom up, emphasizing self-help, participation and decision-making by poor people themselves to address their own situations.
- **Subsidiarity:** CCHD focuses on local communities seeking to give voice to those closest to problems of poverty, as these communities address economic injustice working with local, state or national institutions to address the causes of poverty.
- **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.
- **Strengthen Family and Build Community:** 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.
- **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.

2. Do CCHD's criteria exclude Catholic institutions or Ecclesiastical bodies from applying?

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.

In the past, CCHD's criteria and guidelines included confusing language about which types of groups would not qualify for CCHD funding. Also as a result of the Review and Renewal, 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. In order to be considered for CCHD funding, groups must meet all CCHD criteria.

CCHD has always been deeply integrated into the life of the Catholic community. For example, in 2008, CCHD funded initiatives involved 683 Catholic priests, 776 Catholic parishes, 18 Catholic Charities agencies and 51 religious communities. This type of Catholic involvement is reoccurring in groups funded by CCHD.

3. 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.

4. 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.