Diversity Outreach Initiative

The Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG) is an annual event in Washington, D.C. organized through the collaboration of 16 national Catholic organizations. We are rooted in the Sacraments, the Word of God and the Church’s living Catholic social tradition. The gathering builds solidarity, knowledge, and skills among social ministry leaders. When we gather as one, we animate the Church’s social mission for evangelization of the world.

The Church is strengthened and enriched by great diversity and CSMG is committed to working with collaborating organizations to identify and foster leaders of diverse cultures, backgrounds and abilities. Every year, Diversity Outreach Initiative (DOI) participants are awarded scholarships to assist them in participating in the exciting briefings, workshops and presentations of CSMG, and to raise their voices on Capitol Hill to advocate for policies that promote human life and dignity in the U.S. and internationally. CSMG collaborating organizations call upon members of their own staffs, diocesan directors, clergy and religious, and CSMG Young Leaders Initiative Campus Coordinators to encourage leaders of diverse backgrounds and experience to share their gifts with our annual Gathering.

Past CSMG Participants Comments:

- CSMG had an important impact on me, the unity of Catholics from diverse groups across the US gathering to share and teach based on one belief in social justice, is what we need to speak up about issues and take action.
- This is the most impactful gathering of Catholics I have ever encountered and I hope to continue to take part in future gatherings.
- Certainly I will spread the word about my experience and how beneficial it has been to attend CSMG. Also, I am already looking for new ways to engage more in advocating and organizing about issues of those in need.
- I have become more aware of which organizations are working on certain issues, and how their organization has open doors for many.

Diversity Strengthens our Ministry and Advocacy

CSMG DOI participants bring a richness of perspectives, skills, voices and vision to Washington D.C., enhancing the interaction of Catholic social ministry colleagues from around the country and the world. We are committed to fostering these meaningful and mutually beneficial relationships that nourish all of us in our ministry, for the good of our Church and the world.

At CSMG, participants learn about great resources and connect with colleagues who can help them meet challenges they face in their communities. We encourage Catholic leaders from cultural, ethnic, and disability communities too often overlooked to take advantage of all the ways CSMG can broaden their networks, enhance growth in their ministry or profession, and serve the common good.
Eligibility and Application

Leaders and potential leaders from under-represented ethnic, cultural and disability communities who are also active in Catholic institutions, parishes, schools, and social service agencies are encouraged to apply for scholarship assistance to attend the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering. As part of the application process, applicants will be asked to obtain a recommendation from one of the following: a CSMG committee member at a collaborating organization; a campus coordinator for our Young Leaders Initiative; or a diocesan director in a related area like social action, human life & dignity, or cultural/disability concerns.

Priority is given to new applicants who 1) demonstrate leadership; 2) currently work with a national CSMG collaborating organization or diocesan social action office; or 3) meet the diversity criteria of this initiative and live in a USCCB designated home mission diocese. So that we can make this opportunity available to as many people as possible, CSMG participants are normally limited to no more than three years of scholarship assistance through the Diversity Outreach Initiative. Returning applicants will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Scholarship assistance will be extended only for registration and/or hotel fees, and will not be provided for participant travel to and from Washington, D.C.

Application and recommendation forms can be downloaded from CSMG at: www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org, or by contacting our staff at the address below. All forms must be signed, dated, and submitted by e-mail, or post by November 8, 2019. Scholarships will be awarded, and recipients notified by December 2019.

Direct forms and questions to:

USCCB-JPHD
3211 4TH St. NE,
Washington D.C., 20017
Email: csmg@usccb.org
doiapplications@usccb.org
Phone: 202-541-3380

The Diversity Outreach Initiative is made possible by the support of the following
CSMG Collaborating Organizations:

Catholic Charities USA
Catholic Relief Services
National Assoc. of Black Catholic Administrators
National Catholic Partnership on Disability The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Black and Indian Mission

Recipients of the CSMG Diversity Scholarship come from dioceses from across the US. Here are the dioceses that the 2019 recipients represent.

Diocese of Arlington
Diocese of Austin
Diocese of Beaumont
Diocese of Belleville
Diocese of Birmingham
Diocese of Brownsville
Diocese of Charleston
Diocese of Chicago
Diocese of Denver
Diocese of Galveston-Houston
Diocese of Indianapolis
Diocese of Joilet
Diocese of Las Cruces
Diocese of Los Angeles
Diocese of Metuchen
Diocese of Miami
Diocese of New Orleans
Diocese of Oakland
Diocese of Orange
Diocese of Philadelphia
Diocese of Rapid City
Diocese of Richmond
Diocese of Rochester
Diocese of Sacramento
Diocese of Salt Lake City
Diocese of San Antonio
Diocese of Santa Fe
Diocese of Seattle
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau
Diocese of St. Peters
Diocese of Washington