

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

THE POVERTY LINE

FAMILIES ARE STRUGGLING. FAITH IS CALLING.

The impact of the economy on everyday working Americans is inescapable. If we haven't felt the pain of a job loss, salary freeze, or health care benefit reduction ourselves, we know family members, friends, neighbors, or co-workers who have.

Where once we might have seen the poverty line as something we'd never cross in our lifetimes, we now see how easily it can loom too close for comfort.

For nearly 40 million Americans, this struggle is nothing new. Among the numbers are families who have recently found themselves one health scare or one downsizing away from the poverty line.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) carries out Jesus' mission

*to bring glad tidings to the poor...
to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free.*

(Lk 4:18)

CCHD works alongside poor and low-income people to identify their needs and create long-lasting change. Together we have lifted millions of Americans above the poverty line through our support of CCHD.

From working toward policy changes in labor or housing, to reforming education curricula, to helping support small and worker-owned businesses, CCHD funds community-based programs created and managed by low-income people.

United Workers Association is one example. Members came together to win fair wages for cleaning the local baseball stadium. An employment agency was offering residents of a local homeless shelter \$30 a game. The agency then deducted the cost of the cleaning supplies and assessed a fee for transportation, so the workers brought home about \$4.50 an hour. Supported by CCHD, United Workers was able to extend workers' earnings to the state living wage of \$11.30 an hour. Hard-working parents now have money to pay family bills.

Please visit www.usccb.org/cchd to read more details of CCHD's efforts to break the cycle of poverty in your community and across the country.





What is the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)?

CCHD was founded in 1970 by the bishops of the United States as the Catholic Church's domestic anti-poverty program. For nearly 40 years, CCHD has helped make long-term changes in the economic condition of communities across the United States. CCHD supports projects that address the root causes of poverty. It is a complement to the direct-assistance mission of Catholic Charities agencies and other emergency relief programs run by the Church.

How does CCHD make lasting change in communities?

CCHD funds organizing and economic development programs in communities across the United States. In *organizing* programs, poor and marginalized people are empowered by joining together to make decisions, seek solutions to local problems, and find ways to improve their lives and neighborhoods. *Economic development* initiatives help poor and low-income people to develop new businesses, create new jobs, and develop assets that are owned by families and communities. CCHD also provides educational opportunities for Catholics to learn about poverty, interact with those affected by it, and reflect on our faith response to it.

Who's living in poverty?

As of 2009, the U.S. government says that a family of four is poor if its income is less than \$22,570; a family of three, \$17,330; and a two-person family, \$14,417 (U.S. Census Bureau).

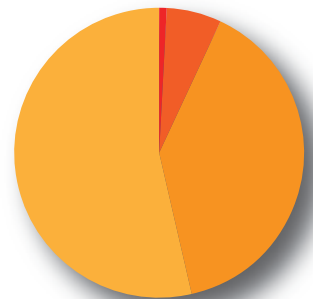
What can I do?

You can make a difference:

1. **Donate.** Your generous donations in the CCHD Collection and throughout the year are vital to CCHD's anti-poverty mission. The money requested for help is generally more than twice the available funds.
2. **Learn.** Take advantage of the awareness programs that CCHD offers to learn more about poverty, those affected by it, and our responsibilities as members of the Church.
3. **Pray** for those who receive CCHD support and for all caught in the cycle of poverty.

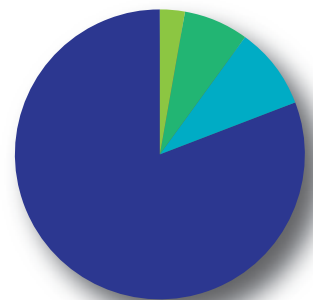
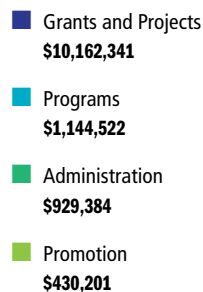
2008-2009 Grants

\$8,140,000



2007* Operations

\$12,666,448



* Most recent year for which audited financial data was available at time of production.

CCHD is committed to accountability and transparency. We allocate funds to community projects that promote the mission and vision of CCHD and the Catholic Church. Please visit www.usccb.org/cchd/grants to view funding criteria and see a detailed list of our most recent grants.

CCHD's primary source of support is a once-a-year Collection held in parishes across the United States. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds support projects in the (arch)diocese where the funds are collected.



Office of National Collections

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