

How do I Participate in a CSMG District Visit?

To participate in a District Visit, please contact Samantha Roach of Catholic Relief Services at samantha.roach@crs.org, or 1-866-608-5978. You will also find further details on the [CSMG 2012](#) web pages.

Leadership for visits will be provided by team members who attend the Gathering in Washington, D.C., where CSMG state captains will provide additional information. You may still volunteer for a District Visit if you cannot attend CSMG 2012.

Join our Facebook event at [facebook.com/usccb](https://www.facebook.com/usccb), and follow the conversation on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/USCCBLive>.

CSMG 2012 Co-Sponsors:

Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities; Catholic Charities USA; Catholic Daughters of the Americas; Catholic Relief Services; The Conference of Major Superiors of Men; *JustFaith* Ministries; Ladies of Charity, USA; National Association of Black Catholic Administrators; National Catholic Partnership on Disability; National Catholic Rural Life Conference; National Council of Catholic Women; Roundtable Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors; The Society of St. Vincent de Paul; United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

CSMG 2012 Co-Sponsors Participating in CSMG District Visits



District Visits



*Faithful Citizenship:
Protecting Human Life & Dignity,
Promoting the Common Good*

**Bring the spirit and action of
the Gathering home.**

Catholics coming together in communities nationwide to advocate for policies that protect human life and dignity for all, including the most vulnerable and people in poverty throughout the U.S. and the world.

www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org

What is the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering?

The annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG), sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and 14 national Catholic organizations, will take place in Washington D.C. from February 12-15, 2012.

Each year, the Gathering provides a unique opportunity for Catholic leaders from around the country to pray, network, and mobilize around pressing domestic and international social issues.

Bring the spirit and action of CSMG to your home town!

Don't miss attending CSMG in Washington, DC – an unparalleled opportunity to focus your efforts with colleagues from around the country, including advocating in person with your members of Congress as part of the **CSMG Hill Visits**.

Then...

...take part in District Visits, extending the impact of our Gathering throughout the country by bringing together Catholic leaders who have attended CSMG with local Catholic leaders for meetings with federal legislators at their district offices.

Be a part of CSMG!

www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org

What are the CSMG District Visits?

CSMG District Visits provide a way for Catholic social ministry leaders returning from CSMG to connect the efforts of national colleagues with the local voice of partner organizations, parishioners, and dedicated volunteers. Follow-up visits after CSMG with U.S. Senators and Representatives, or their staffs, in their district offices will bring local experience and energy to bear on CSMG 2012's legislative priorities:

- Protecting assistance for poor and vulnerable families in the U.S.
- Protecting poverty-focused international assistance.

An ideal time to conduct these visits is when Congress is in recess and members are in their home districts, such as the week of February 20th. District Visits will be most effective if completed before the end of April 2012.

Why Should I Participate in a CSMG District Visit?

The CSMG District Visits aim to launch a vision and build a community for collaborative local action in Catholic social ministry throughout the year. They are also an exercise of religious liberty and constructive civic engagement as a faith community at a time when it is more important than ever. See [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#) for more information.

Who is Organizing a CSMG District Visit in my Area?

In consultation with the CSMG Hill Visits Committee, District Visits may be organized by CSMG state captains, diocesan staff members, or by members of CSMG partners' regional networks. A designated District Visit organizer will schedule meetings with U.S. Senators' and Representatives' district offices (a total of three meetings).

District Visits should be scheduled well in advance. Local teams should also meet at least once before their visits, so they can review the issues, and decide on each team member's role during and after the meeting.

Resources for CSMG District Visits

Consider gathering with your team to view or discuss the [CSMG Hill Visit 101](#) webinar. Though designed for CSMG's advocacy efforts in Washington D.C., this web-based seminar will provide helpful tips on legislative advocacy visits.

Copies of *Global Solidarity in Action: A Guide for International Issue Advocacy in the United States* are available at no cost from Catholic Relief Services at 1-866-608-5978.

Copies of [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#) are available through USCCB Publishing by phoning 1-800-235-8722.

Additional resources, including action alerts and talking points on the issues, can be found at the [CSMG 2012](#) web page.