



ABOUT CCHD

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

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) was established in 1969 with the primary goal to carry out the Gospel of Jesus Christ *to bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives, new sight to the blind and set the downtrodden free. . . (Luke 4:18).*

CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops. CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families and communities. CCHD offers a hand up, not a hand out. CCHD has a complementary mission of educating on poverty and its causes. This dual pastoral strategy of education for justice and helping people who are poor speak and act for themselves reflects the mandate of the Scriptures and the principles of Catholic social teaching.

CCHD also provides the Catholic faithful with concrete opportunities to live out the love of God and neighbor in ways that express our baptismal call and continuing Eucharistic transformation. Pope Benedict XVI has taught that "restoration of justice, reconciliation and forgiveness" requires:

"...determination to transform unjust structures and to restore respect for the dignity of all men and women, created in God's image and likeness. Through the concrete fulfillment of this responsibility, the Eucharist becomes in life what it signifies in its celebration." (Sacramentum Caritatis, #89, 2007)

CCHD is one of the most widely supported collections and initiatives of our Bishops' Conference, raising more than ten million dollars every year. CCHD helps our Church in the United States practice what we preach about human life and dignity, social and economic justice, solidarity and the common good in local communities across our country.

2. Where do CCHD funds come from?

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is a nationwide effort, with donations from, and projects in, Catholic dioceses throughout the country. Funds are collected each year from Catholics in a CCHD second collection taken up in most dioceses in November. Twenty-five percent of the donations stay in the diocese, while 75 percent is sent to the CCHD national office for projects in dioceses across the country. This is especially helpful to dioceses with fewer resources.

3. Who benefits from CCHD?

CCHD was founded to help people who are poor help themselves escape poverty and address its causes by investing in their development as leaders. With support from CCHD, people living in poverty are able to come together to help shape decisions that affect their families and communities - on issues like quality education, affordable housing, economic development and safe streets. CCHD also helps educate people, especially Catholics, about poverty and its causes and our call to be neighbors to all.

4. What kind of initiatives does CCHD fund?

CCHD funds programs where poor and marginalized people are empowered 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 develop new businesses, create new jobs and develop assets that are owned by families and communities.

CCHD focuses on the underlying structures that trap people in a cycle of poverty, by assisting those who are living in poverty to change unjust systems, policies and situations that perpetuate poverty in neighborhoods and communities across the United States. This can mean everything from addressing wage theft to improving public transportation to assuring water in fire hydrants. For nearly 40 years, CCHD has helped make long-term changes in the economic condition of communities across the United States. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the nation's largest private funder of self-help groups for the poor. It has distributed more than \$400 million in grants to more than 9,000 community groups throughout the United States.

CCHD is committed to transparency. Anyone interested can go online and find a list of recent grantees by going to <http://www.usccb.org/cchd/grants/index.shtml>.

5. How are decisions made about what groups CCHD funds?

The CCHD national grants process is a partnership between dioceses and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It includes a pre-application, full application, site-visits and other requirements, with involvement on both the national and diocesan levels. Funds from the national office cannot be awarded without the specific endorsement of the local bishop. For a detailed account of the CCHD review process, see the document entitled *CCHD Review Process*. Additionally, some projects are funded directly by the diocese since from the 25 percent retained by the local diocese to fund smaller initiatives. While dioceses are encouraged to follow CCHD national criteria and guidelines for local use of funds, each diocese has their own process for reviewing requests for local grants.

6. What differentiates the Catholic Campaign for Human Development from other Church charities programs?

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 to "the least of these." (Matt. 25) Like many other Catholic ministries, CCHD helps people overcome poverty without regard to their race, ethnicity or religion.

As a national initiative of the Bishops' Conference, CCHD is an essential and complementary part of the Catholic social mission proclaimed by Jesus Christ and taught by His Church. CCHD does not replace, nor can it be replaced by, other expressions of the Church's essential social mission.

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)

CCHD is a complement to the direct-assistance mission of Catholic Charities agencies and other Church emergency relief programs. It helps make long-term changes in the economic condition of communities by supporting projects that address the root causes of poverty, such as racism, unemployment, and lack of education or economic opportunities.