

Responses to Questions about CCHD Grantmaking

How does the Catholic Campaign for Human Development ensure that no Catholic dollars are spent to support organizations advocating abortion or same-sex marriage?

First, it is simply wrong to suggest that the Catholic Bishops are supporting grants to groups that advocate abortion or same-sex marriage. Catholics can be confident that the Catholic Campaign for Human Development does not fund such groups. In the rare case where a group subsequently violates the explicit conditions of its grant by engaging in such activity, funding is immediately terminated. Anyone with knowledge of such activity should immediately contact the Director of CCHD, Ralph McCloud, at 202-541-3367 or the local CCHD Diocesan Director and share the information so it can be investigated, and appropriate action taken.

When a possible violation of the CCHD grants agreement is reported or discovered, especially if it involves human life and dignity, marriage and family, racial or ethnic discrimination, the matter is immediately referred to the regional CCHD grant staff and the local CCHD diocesan director for review and fact finding. If a group knowingly and willingly acted in conflict with CCHD requirements on Catholic teaching, the grant is terminated, and funding is cut-off. This process involves the National CCHD Director, the local diocesan CCHD Director, the Bishop Chair of the CCHD subcommittee, and the local diocesan bishop or his designee.

Local CCHD diocesan directors have been offered training in advanced web-search techniques, and strategies for building more in-depth relationships with funded groups in their dioceses.

In short, Catholics can be assured that any group that engages in activity to promote abortion or same sex marriage is ineligible for CCHD funding because it violated the CCHD funding criteria and guidelines. Any such activity after the grant is received violates the CCHD grant agreement and leads to termination of CCHD funding. CCHD is strengthening its capacity to screen and monitor groups and welcomes useful information or concerns about its grant making processes or funded groups. Any allegation of improper activity will be immediately reviewed, investigated and acted upon.

What steps are being taken to review the ongoing work of CCHD, including its criteria, guidelines, funding and monitoring processes? How are the bishops working to improve and strengthen CCHD for the future?

What does CCHD fund?

CCHD funds initiatives that help poor and vulnerable people defend their lives and dignity make changes which solve local problems and improve their neighborhoods and communities. 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 also offers education for Catholics to learn more about poverty, Catholic social teaching and the demands of the Gospel and Catholic faith to “bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives, new sight to the blind and to set the downtrodden free.” (Luke 4:18)

What is the CCHD Review Process?

- The Pre-Application (also known as the Eligibility Quiz) is reviewed by CCHD national grants staff and by the local CCHD diocesan director.
- Together, they decide whether an applicant meets the basic requirements to be invited to submit a full proposal or be eliminated at the Pre-Application stage.
- The Full CCHD Proposal requires groups to thoroughly explain both the structure and activities of their organization, including past and future efforts.
- Applicants are required to specify that their organization is not involved in activities contrary to Catholic teaching. Specifically, the applications make clear: *“Organizations that receive CCHD funds must not participate in or promote activities that contradict the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church. Organizations that support or promote, for example, capital punishment, abortion, euthanasia, racism, war, discrimination, or same-sex marriage are not eligible for CCHD funding. Do the activities of your organization conform to the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church?”*
- The CCHD application restates the requirement that applicant organizations must be nonpartisan. More specifically, the application states: *“Please indicate if your organization is planning to engage in voter registration and/or voter education or “get out the vote” activities during the proposed grant year. If so, provide a brief description of those activities. Please note, while CCHD encourages activities that promote civic engagement, organizations that participate in partisan activities (including the endorsement of candidates) and/or take stances which promote in any way (including voter guides and other written material) legislation, propositions, or ballot initiatives that contradict the moral or social teaching of the Catholic Church are ineligible for CCHD funding.”*
- Full proposals are reviewed by both CCHD national grants staff and CCHD directors in the diocese in which the applicant proposes to operate. CCHD diocesan directors and their coworkers develop relationships with each applicant through various contacts including site visits to learn more about the applicant organization and further share with them the mission of CCHD, including criteria and guidelines for funding.
- National CCHD grants staff members, who cover multiple dioceses in specific regions of the country, also conduct some site visits throughout the year and seek to build and maintain relationships with funded groups. Site visits can play a key role in ensuring applicant organizations understand and comply with the requirements of CCHD funding.
- The CCHD diocesan director and CCHD national grants staff each prepare extensive reviews of the applicant organization, consult with one another and jointly make a recommendation to the local diocesan bishop.
- The diocesan bishop, considering the reviews of both the national grants staff and the diocesan director, decides whether to endorse an applicant for CCHD funding.
- Only if the local diocesan bishop endorses the applicant for funding is the application forwarded to the CCHD Subcommittee of bishops. The CCHD Subcommittee of bishops

then reviews and approves or disapproves the specific funding recommendations of diocesan bishops and national CCHD staff.

What additional and specific safeguards are in place to ensure that CCHD does not fund groups that violate Catholic teaching?

CCHD does NOT fund organizations that act in conflict with Catholic teaching. In addition to the careful review of applicants by the local diocese and CCHD national staff, grants are only awarded with the explicit approval of the diocesan bishop and a subcommittee of bishops. All CCHD documents and require funded groups to avoid actions which conflict with Catholic teaching:

- The current CCHD pre-application, application *and* interim report all include the following mandate and question for all groups:
“Organizations that receive CCHD funds must not participate in or promote activities that contradict the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church. Organizations that support or promote for example, capital punishment, abortion, euthanasia, racism, war, discrimination or same-sex marriage are not eligible for CCHD funding. Do the activities of your organization conform to the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church?”
- The CCHD Guide for Applicants includes similar language:
“In the light of the Catholic Church’s moral and social teachings and tradition, CCHD asks organizations requesting funding to understand and adhere to some basic principles central to the Catholic mission. CCHD asks those responsible for seeking and managing funds from CCHD to carefully consider the following statements: 1) Central to all Catholic moral teaching is the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. CCHD will consider favorably only those organizations which demonstrate respect for the dignity of the human person. CCHD will not consider organizations which promote or support abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, or any other affront to human life and dignity.”
- The USCCB/CCHD Grant Agreement that is signed by the Board Chair and Executive Director of each grantee organization includes the following language regarding the organization’s required compliance with Church teaching:
“In the light of the Catholic Church’s moral and social teachings and tradition, CCHD asks organizations requesting funding to understand and adhere to some basic principles which are central to the Catholic mission. CCHD asks those responsible for seeking and managing funds from CCHD to *carefully consider the following statements:* Central to all Catholic moral teaching is the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) will consider favorably only those projects which demonstrate respect for the dignity of the human person. CCHD will not consider projects or organizations which promote or support abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, or any other affront to human life and dignity.”

What is the process when allegations are made against CCHD funded groups?

When an organization is alleged to have violated CCHD conditions, because of ongoing CCHD national and diocesan monitoring or information from others, the following steps are taken:

- CCHD national grants staff notifies the local CCHD diocesan director where the funded group is located and the CCHD diocesan director notifies the local bishop. The national grants staff notifies the CCHD national director, who notifies the chairman of the bishops' CCHD Subcommittee and the leadership of the USCCB.
- Any pending grant payment to the group in question is suspended immediately.
- The allegations are reviewed, researched and investigated by both local and national CCHD staff.
- CCHD national grants staff contacts the funded group to request specific responses on the activity in question.
- The information from the funded group is then shared with the CCHD national director, who shares it with the chairman of the CCHD Subcommittee and the CCHD diocesan director, who shares it with the local bishop.
- If the local bishop (or his designee) and CCHD determine the group knowingly and willingly acted in violation of the grant agreement and contrary to Catholic teaching, the CCHD grant is terminated.