

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 202-541-3210 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 it is clear that 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.

In the last year, out of 256 CCHD funded groups, a total of five have been defunded for these reasons. While this represents less than 2% of the total, one group is too many. Therefore, CCHD is thoroughly reviewing its grantmaking and monitoring processes, its applications and grant agreements, and its monitoring and evaluation tools to strengthen our work in this area. In addition, the national CCHD grant staff has received additional training in the use of online media and other monitoring tools. Local CCHD diocesan directors have also 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?

At the November 2009 meeting of the full body of bishops, the Chair of the CCHD Subcommittee, Bishop Roger Morin, thanked the bishops and the Catholic people for their

generous support of CCHD. He also pledged a serious effort to renew and review CCHD. He promised the bishops this effort would:

- **"ROOT CCHD clearly in the mission of Jesus Christ.** We are anchoring the ongoing work of CCHD in Catholic social teaching. Our guidelines and criteria will express our principles in our language: the life and dignity of every person, the option for the poor, the principle of participation, solidarity, and subsidiarity. These Catholic social principles must remain at the heart of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development's work."
- **"REVIEW CCHD and its major elements to ensure they fully reflect our Catholic principles** and our unique mission of helping poor people help themselves and empowering them to improve their own communities. We encourage and will document the close connections between CCHD-funded groups and the ministries and structures of our Church. We are using new tools to help ensure that groups keep their commitments to avoid actions which conflict with Catholic teaching and not to engage in partisan political activity. We remain committed to help low-income families and communities seek greater justice through institutional change and empowerment of the vulnerable and voiceless, reviewing our criteria, guidelines, applications, and contracts to ensure they continue to promote this unique mission."
- **"RENEW CCHD, not by abandoning or shifting its mission or principles, but by looking for new ways to carry them out** in challenging times and in a more diverse community of faith. When CCHD began, it funded mostly neighborhood-based efforts; now it funds more congregation-based organizing, involving many Catholic parishes. Much of CCHD's work now focuses on immigrants and their struggles to live in dignity. New challenges require new responses, and we are exploring how to strengthen and adapt CCHD efforts to the changing face of our communities and the diverse causes of poverty."
- **"RECOMMIT TO CCHD and its unique mission, history, and central place in the Church's broader efforts to overcome poverty.** We are confident CCHD will continue to carry out effectively and faithfully the mission entrusted to it by the bishops and rooted in the Gospel: 'to bring good news to the poor ... and to set the downtrodden free' (Luke 4)."

A Working Group is undertaking a thorough review of all CCHD criteria, guidelines, procedures and tools to strengthen its expression of Catholic social and moral teaching and to help CCHD carry out faithfully and effectively Jesus' mission 'to bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives and ... to set the downtrodden free.' (Luke 4)

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 particular 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 or not 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.”

How many groups have been “defunded” in the last year for violations of Catholic teaching? Who are they and what did they do?

Five out of 256 groups (less than 2%) have been defunded because they took actions or positions in conflict with Catholic teaching.

- The Rebecca Project for Human Rights in Washington, DC was denied re-funding as a result of national and local staff oversight which discovered organizational support of abortion.
- Chinese Progressive Association and Young Workers United, both immigration groups in the Archdiocese of San Francisco, without the knowledge of the Archdiocese or CCHD, added their name to coalition voter guides that took positions opposed to Catholic teaching.
- Washington Community Action Network (WCAN) of Seattle Washington was defunded for taking a public position on same sex marriage contrary to Church teaching in a Washington state voter referendum.
- Preble Street Homeless Voices in Portland, Maine was defunded when the group took a position contrary to Church teaching on a same-sex marriage state ballot question.
- Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN) convened a health care gathering and published a declaration that included family planning services inconsistent with Catholic teaching. This activity led directly to the end of CCHD funding.

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

When an organization is alleged to have violated CCHD conditions, as a result 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.

Is it true that over 30 CCHD funded groups are “partners” with the Center for Community Change, an organization that allegedly has adopted elements of a pro-abortion and pro-homosexual agenda?

The Center for Community Change has offered technical and other assistance to low-income, grass roots community groups for many years. Critics have charged that in recent years the Center has adopted positions on abortion and homosexuality that conflict with Catholic teaching. They have also claimed that 31 CCHD funded groups who have a relationship with the Center for Community Change are complicit in those positions. CCHD has found that the relationships between CCHD funded groups and the Center for Community Change involve participation in efforts on issues related to poverty (housing, workers rights, immigration, transportation, health care etc.) and some technical assistance. These ties do not involve or require support for specific positions the Center has allegedly taken (i.e. abortion funding in health care, homosexuality). CCHD staff have carefully researched and reviewed these groups, including their applications, interim reports and web sites. Local dioceses also carefully reviewed the work and affiliations of these groups. CCHD staff and CCHD diocesan directors have found no conflict between the work of these groups and Catholic teaching. In addition, each organization has been asked to submit in writing a reaffirmation of their compliance with the CCHD criteria on avoiding conflict with Catholic teaching. In no circumstances did CCHD staff investigations or diocesan inquiries find that any of these CCHD funded groups took any action or position contrary to Catholic teaching.

What is CCHD’s response to the charges that a key USCCB and CCHD leader led a pro-abortion, pro-homosexual group as a board member of Center for Community Change (CCC)?

The charges allege that Mr. John Carr, Executive Director of the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, which includes CCHD, led a “pro-abortion, pro-LGBT group” because of his past service as a board member and chair of the Center for Community Change. Unfortunately, those who made these charges never contacted John Carr, CCHD or the Conference of Bishops before making these accusations. If they had, they would have learned that John Carr left the board of the Center for Community Change in February of 2005 and that he has had no involvement in or knowledge of the alleged actions by the Center for Community Change. When John Carr was involved with CCC, the organization was focused on poverty,

housing, and immigration and had no involvement in issues involving abortion and homosexuality. When he served on the board, the board never discussed or acted on any position involving these matters, and if they had, he would have vigorously opposed any advocacy for access to abortion or gay marriage.

Mr. Carr has spent his personal and professional life defending human life and dignity and Catholic teaching, including current efforts to keep abortion funding out of health care reform. Richard Doerflinger, Associate Director of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, said: *"The facts behind the allegations about John Carr are simple enough: He was once on the board of an anti-poverty organization that did good work for providing food and housing and promoting rights for immigrants; long after he left the board, the group got into advocacy for abortion and gay rights agendas (which he would have strongly opposed if he had still been on the board). To turn this into a charge against John Carr is ridiculous.*

But that is to understate the matter. I have worked with John on health care and abortion issues for two decades at the Catholic Bishops' Conference. He has staunchly defended and promoted the Church's teaching on the right to life of the unborn throughout this time -- and often in secular liberal forums where it makes him many enemies and loses him many friends.

Is it true that CCHD promoted a Stations of the Cross guide with groups that allegedly were in conflict with Catholic teaching?

CCHD has regularly developed and released a Lenten resource based on the Stations of the Cross. This particular resource was placed on the CCHD website for a brief time before it had been appropriately reviewed. This review is now underway and the resource has been withdrawn from the CCHD website until the review is completed.