

Diocese of Arlington

Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Eligibility, Guidelines, and Criteria for Diocesan Grants



Catholic Campaign for
Human Development

Overview

Founded and operated by the U.S. Catholic Bishops, **Catholic Campaign for Human Development** (CCHD) works to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families, and communities.

CCHD funds both local and national grants. The information that follows pertains only to funding through the Catholic Diocese of Arlington. These local CCHD grants are funded by the CCHD Second Collection taken up annually in our diocese. For more information, contact peace@arlingtondiocese.org or 703-224-1466.

General Information

- The grant year runs from July 1 through June 30.
- The submission deadline for fiscal year 2027 grant funding is April 13, 2026.
- Grant checks are typically issued in two payments: July and February.
- Grants are made on an annual basis and do not imply funding for any subsequent year.
- Grantees will file an interim report in January of the grant year. A final accounting of expenses will be due July 15 following the close of the grant year.
- Generally, grants will be in the \$2,000 to \$5,000 range, though in exceptional cases requests of up to \$20,000 will be considered.

Eligibility

- Grantees must have either 501(c)(3) status or a sponsor to act as fiscal agent for receipt of funds. Checks cannot be made payable to an individual.
- Projects must be conducted within the boundaries of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington. See map [here](#).
- Grantees' activities must be consistent with Catholic moral and social teaching and with 501(c)(3) rules regarding partisan political activity.
- Projects sponsored by Catholic parishes, parish organizations, groups of parishes, or parish-connected schools must have the approval of all pastors involved.

Criteria

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is a way for the faithful of the diocese to be with, to listen to, and to learn from others as they journey through their lives, which may be difficult. **This approach is distinct from providing direct services.** While a parent organization may provide some direct services through other funding streams, CCHD project money is intended to creatively address poverty at its roots.

Project proposals will be evaluated by the following characteristics:

- The project in some way relies on the voice and perspective of the beneficiaries, and
- The project addresses root causes and/or increases resilience in individuals or communities (not merely providing a direct service).

As you gauge whether your project is appropriate for this grant, ask yourself questions like the following. Not every question requires an affirmative answer. This list is meant to help you identify whether your project may be a good fit.

1. Have members of the low-income community expressed their needs and desires for the project?
2. Are low-income people involved in the project's leadership (staff positions, organizational board membership, project board membership)?
3. Are members of the low-income group involved in the planning, implementing, and policymaking of this project?
4. Are there pathways for members of the low-income community to grow their leadership skills and experience?
5. Are the majority of the project's beneficiaries low-income?
6. Does the project address ongoing obstacles to participating in economic, social, and/or civic life?
7. Does the project contribute to institutional change through the modification of existing laws and/or policies?
8. Does the project contribute to institutional change through the establishment of alternative structures and/or redistribution of decision-making powers?

People rise to meet challenges with astonishing ingenuity. That might include formation of co-ops; initiatives to keep wealth in the local community; programs that promote resilience and strengthen friend, family, and neighbor supports; advocacy for policy changes; **and more.** Potential grantees are encouraged to think creatively regarding how their programming objectives improve people's participation in economic, social, political, and civic life.