

2026 Local CCHD Grant Guidelines and Application



Thank you for your interest in applying for a Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) Local Grant. Initiated in 1970, CCHD is a domestic anti-poverty program of the Catholic Church in the USA sponsored by the U.S. Catholic Bishops. With funds raised through a national collection held in Catholic parishes in November, grants are awarded through a National CCHD grant program and a Local (diocesan-based) CCHD grant program. Local CCHD grants of up to \$5,000 are awarded to 501c3 organizations based within the boundaries of the Diocese of Charlotte for projects in the Diocese of Charlotte. The CCHD Advisory Committee reviews applications based on the following criteria:

Office of Social Concerns & Advocacy

CCHD Program
Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

- 1) extent of involvement of community in project development & organization;
- 2) extent to which root causes of poverty are addressed;
- 3) extent to which the people benefiting from the project are involved in the planning and the decision-making phases of the project;
- 4) extent to which grant funds will impact full organization annual budget;
- 5) extent to which applicants reflect geographic spread of Diocese of Charlotte;
- 6) extent to which local Catholic entity knows and supports applicant's work.

Contact:

Joseph T. Purello - Director
Office of Social Concerns & Advocacy
Diocesan CCHD Director

jtpurello@ccdoc.org

**Please direct any
questions about this
application using
email contact
information above.**

Thank you.

In keeping with its mission and place as a program of Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte (CCDOC) and the U.S. Catholic Bishops, CCDOC seeks to ensure that grant funds are not used in ways contrary to the Catholic Church Teaching and that grant-awarded entities do not operate in ways contrary to the Catholic Church. In addition to the review of applicants according to the above stated 1-6 criteria, all organizations receiving a CCHD grant must operate in conformity with Catholic Social Teaching (CST) as presented in the summary of CST on page 2 of this document. Catholic Charities views Local CCHD Grants as one program among the many programs sponsored by Catholic Charities which seek to defend and promote the life and dignity of all human persons. Please carefully review the CST summary on page 2.

Additional Grant Award Determination Guidelines:

- a) Grants from new applicants and new programs/projects will be given preference.
- b) Local CCHD grant applicants will be evaluated, in part, through a site visit.
- c) CCHD Local Grants support: 1) non-profits sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte, and 2) non-profits not sponsored by the Diocesan of Charlotte. In keeping with the goal of empowering a broad spectrum of local community efforts to address poverty in a variety of ways, entities from non-diocesan sponsored entities will receive at least 50% of total funds awarded. Non-diocesan grant recipients must have some partnering connection to diocesan entities (e.g., board of directors, volunteer support, and fundraising support). This relationship is demonstrated through a letter of endorsement from the leadership of partnering Diocese of Charlotte entity (please see Page 4, Section F, for more details) which is one of the seven pages of the submitted application.
- d) The stated distribution goals above assume sufficient applications are received from non-diocesan entities. Final funding decisions will depend on the number of grants received, types of entities applying, total funds available for distribution, and application reviews.

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we wish to highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.

LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. Human life is threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society—in economics and politics, in law and policy—directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to live and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt. 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

SOLIDARITY

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice."¹ The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

¹ Paul VI, *For the Celebration of the Day of Peace* (Rome: January 1, 1972).

2026 Local Catholic Campaign for Human Development GRANT APPLICATION (up to \$5,000)

This application is available in WORD format at www.ccdoc.org/cchdcrs.

**Information on Organization Submitting
Proposal**

CONTACT PERSON for Project

Agency Name _____

Name _____

Agency
Address _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Phone _____

Website _____

E-mail _____

Signature &
Date of Exec.
Director _____

Signature & Date
of
Contact Person _____

1. Is this organization a 501c3 subsidiary of a larger governing organization? **Yes** _____ **No** _____
If "Yes", please provide the name of the organization and describe the relationship: _____

2. Name of Project _____

3. Amount requested from CCHD for project: \$ _____ Total project budget: \$ _____

4. Did your organization receive funding from CCHD in 2023 or 2024? **Yes** _____ **No** _____

If "Yes", provide name of project, and amount received. _____ \$ _____

5. Please confirm, by circling "Yes," organizational status **Yes** as a non-profit registered in North Carolina. Employer Identification Number (Federal Tax ID #) _____

6. **PLEASE write Yes or No and initial.** Do all the activities of your organization and the proposed project comply with the principles of Catholic moral and social teachings as discussed on **pages 1 and 2?** _____

7. How did you learn about this grant? _____

Complete applications (comprised of 7 pages total) must be emailed by the end of day on Friday, Feb. 20, 2026. Applications received after Feb. 20, 2026, will not be reviewed. Please email the 7-page application, scanned as one complete PDF document, to: jtpurello@ccdoc.org.

A complete PDF application consists of completed pages 3 and 4 (with all lines filled in), a 1-page agency budget (Section D), a 1-page typed list of board members (Section E), a 1-page typed letter of endorsement from head of partnering Catholic entity (Section F), and a 2 page total typed response to the eight questions in Section G. 1-8. **Please do not send supplemental items** (e.g., brochures), which can be provided during the site visit. **Please note** - Faxed, mailed, & hand-delivered applications will not be accepted. Applications received by the deadline will receive an email acknowledgement of receipt of application by COB, Tues, Feb. 24, 2026.

Please provide budget information below in **A – C**, and typed responses to **D – G** below as directed.

I. Project Budget information for the fiscal period: _____ 2026 to _____ 2027

	Total Project Budget	How CCHD \$ will be spent
A. Salaries and benefits (indicate positions)		
1. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
2. _____	_____	_____
B. Other Project Expenses (please specify)		
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
TOTALS	\$ _____	\$ _____

C. Below please list other grant resources for this project - Received, Pending Notification, or for which your organization Plans to Apply - that would be used from 6/1/26 through 6/1/27.

Source	Status*	Amount
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
TOTAL OTHER PROJECT RESOURCES		\$ _____

*Status (please indicate): R = Received, PN = Pending Notification, or PAF = Plan to Apply For.

D. Provide a **no more than a 1 typed-page summary copy of organization's annual budget** (e.g., a one page long Annual Report financial summary will meet this requirement). Please summarize budget on 1 page only.

E. Provide a **no more than 1 typed-page list of names & affiliations** of the organization's board of directors.

F. Non-diocesan non-profits must provide a **no more than 1 typed-page letter of endorsement letter** from an authorized leader of a Diocese of Charlotte entity (e.g., parish pastor/deacon, head of religious community, school principal who is familiar with your organization's work and the proposed use of grant funds). It is strongly recommended that the request for this letter is made far enough in advance to meet the submission deadline.

G. On **no more than 2 typed-pages total**, provide the information requested in G. 1 – 8 below:

Organization Information - Provide answers for all three questions:

1. What is the mission of the organization applying for the grant?
2. What is the number of full and/or part-time personnel?
3. What is the estimated number of volunteers?

Project Information - Provide answers for all five questions:

4. On what problem(s) will the project focus and how will the project help resolve the problem(s)?
5. Who are the main organization staff members involved with the project?
6. Who is the target group (i.e. main beneficiaries of the grant who are disadvantaged in some way)?
7. What are the goals and measurable outcomes of the project?
8. How will the target group be involved in the decision-making for the project at the time of implementation and during the ongoing management of the project?