



# Catholic Campaign for Human Development

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops  
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The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the national anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, founded in 1969 and established in 1970 to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ ". . .to bring good news to the poor. . .release to captives. . .sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free" (Luke 4:18). For 50 years, funds from the annual CCHD collection have supported initiatives that help poor and vulnerable people defend their lives and dignity, make changes that solve local problems, and improve their neighborhoods and communities.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development supports low-income led community and economic development organizations. **CCHD does not fund organizations that participate in partisan activities, political campaigns, and/or take stances that promote in any way legislation, propositions, or ballot initiatives that contradict the moral or social teaching of the Catholic Church.**

All of the initiatives that are supported by CCHD funds have gone through a thorough application process, which includes approval by the local Bishop and the national subcommittee of Bishops, and are closely monitored throughout the length of their grant to ensure that the terms of the grant agreement, including [the guidelines](#) on engagement in non-partisan political activities, are strictly followed.

For much of its history, CCHD has maintained a longstanding relationship with Faith in Action at both the diocesan and national levels. This relationship is rooted in our shared mission to address poverty's root causes and empower communities to create systemic change. Faith in Action (FIA), formerly the PICO Network, was founded by two Jesuit priests in 1972 and has a proven track record of working with hundreds of Catholic parishes, dozens of dioceses, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Vatican to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life for millions of families. This includes keeping immigrant families from being broken apart by deportation, reducing the number of people behind bars, and helping workers raise their wages and win health coverage and paid sick time.

In this season of intense political and racial polarization in our nation, FIA and its local affiliates are working to build bridges that help move us toward Dr. King's vision of the Beloved Community. CCHD has been involved in this important work to address systems and structures that perpetuate the evil of racism since its founding. The suggestion that Faith in Action and its local affiliates are using CCHD funding to engage in partisan activities is false and rooted in a hostile reaction to the call for transformative justice at work in our communities.

With incendiary rhetoric, the Lepanto Institute has simplified and misconstrued the great work of CCHD, and many of its funded organizations to incite fear and uncertainty in the minds of faithful Catholics. Basing their allegations solely on internet research, they have never made contact with CCHD funded groups, local dioceses, or anyone specifically mentioned in their

*The Catholic Church Working to End Poverty and Injustice in the United States.  
La Iglesia Católica está trabajando para eliminar la pobreza y la injusticia en los Estados Unidos*

accusations. These allegations towards Faith in Action and many others do not reflect any systematic pattern of problematic behavior but rather highlight a few, regrettable instances of lines being blurred between Faith in Action's LIVE FREE initiative and the Black Church PAC, a 501(c)(4) organization with no formal ties to FIA. Faith in Action has swiftly responded and has acted to address these few instances and to prevent similar missteps in the future.

CCHD has long supported and will continue to support this important work of Faith in Action and its local affiliates to change the systems and structures that have perpetuated poverty and racism for decades.

Catholics can be confident that the Catholic Campaign for Human Development does not fund organizations that violate the moral or social teaching of the Church. CCHD requires of each grantee the highest standards of accountability and conformity with the moral and social teaching of the Catholic Church. Any departure from this irrevocable commitment would lead to immediate termination of funding support. We invite you to visit our [frequently asked questions](#) page to learn more about the grant programs and our policies and procedures.

CCHD is a manifestation of our call to a discipleship that fosters a “solidarity which ‘would allow all peoples to become the artisans of their destiny’” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 190). At a time when so many of our brothers and sisters are experiencing the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty, and racism, the important work of CCHD cannot be underestimated.

The generous support of CCHD from thousands of faithful Catholics is helping to build more merciful and just communities throughout the country. As our communities continue to face increased economic stress on low-income families, and in this period of extreme polarization, there is a dire need for this transformative work. We invite you to learn more about the work of CCHD by visiting [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd).

Thank you for your continued support and solidarity.