



Catholic Campaign for Human Development
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, PEACE, AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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MEMORANDUM TO: Catholic Campaign for Human Development Diocesan Directors
FROM: Dylan GM Corbett, Mission and Identity Outreach Manager
USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development
SUBJECT: Recent allegations concerning CCHD funded groups

As a mark good stewardship, each year CCHD publishes a list of groups which have received a CCHD grant. In recent years, grantees have been subject to exceptional scrutiny by organized pressure groups operating in exploitative ways.

The 2011-12 CCHD grantees are now subject to equally irresponsible criticism by the America Life League, which has sent a collection of claims to each diocesan bishop. CCHD staff and diocesan directors throughout the country are investigating these claims responsibly, but prudence recommends considering them with reasonable skepticism based on a consistent track record of misreporting. As we work to adjudicate these claims, it has become evident that their near totality is based on false suppositions, tenuous connections and is repetitive of similar claims in the past.

As an agency of the bishops of the Catholic Church in the United States, CCHD is accountable to the bishops and operates at the highest levels of fidelity to Church teaching, integrity and transparency in its mission to provide critical support to poor persons. CCHD monitors every award recipient through an exacting reporting process and relies on the vigilance of the local church in ensuring each group's consistency with authentically Catholic sensibilities. As you know, *only groups that have received formal approval from the local bishop may receive a CCHD grant.*

While CCHD cannot control the actions of every group that applies for and receives CCHD funds, it can require of them the highest standards of accountability as well as conformity with the moral teaching of the Catholic Church. If a group commits offenses against Catholic moral teaching or demonstrates questionable practices in any regard, a grant qualification is immediately rescinded or otherwise resolved prudently in deference to the local Ordinary.

These exceptional cases, however, cannot vitiate the excellent work done by hundreds of local community organizations across the US to support leadership development, empower immigrants, protect poor communities from the effects of environmental degradation, catalyze equitable access to healthcare and housing, generate economic development and job growth, and promote the life and dignity of all.

Please feel free to share this information with your bishop. If you have any questions regarding these latest claims, contact your local grant specialist.

As the work of the Review and Renewal of CCHD continues, so too will the generous and patient sacrifices of those involved in projects sustained by the Campaign. As we wrestle with the debilitating effects of the economic crisis, the Church's apostolate of justice will continue unabated and with increased intensity as we and CCHD grant recipients work to repair the fray in our country that is poverty and injustice. Thank you for your industrious work.