



Archdiocese of Baltimore Maryland
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Local CCHD Committee Chair: Marge Trenkle
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Letter of Inquiry (LOI) “PRE-APPLICATION”

The purpose of a LOI is for an organization to provide a concise summary to introduce their project, demonstrate alignment with CCHD goals, and request permission to submit a full proposal application for 2027 funding. As well as looking for candidates for national grants, the Baltimore CCHD Committee also has funds for smaller grants, and this form will also allow the Committee to consider a group for a local grant.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore is currently identifying organizations who are interested in applying for grant funding to address the root causes of poverty in America by supporting community-controlled community organizing, community development, or economic in the development in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. **Full applications will be available at a later date but we are currently accepting PRE-APPLICATION or LOI if you wish to be considered for possible funding in 2027.**

CCHD MISSION: The *Catholic Campaign for Human Development* (CCHD) is the domestic antipoverty, social justice foundation/ program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops. Established in 1969, CCHD was formed with a dual mandate: 1) **ALLOCATION:** to address the root causes of poverty in America by supporting community-controlled, self-help organizations and 2) **EDUCATION:** to build solidarity between the poor and the non-poor through transformational education for justice. The Archdiocese of Baltimore’s CCHD committee is made up of volunteers who believe in the organization’s mission of ending poverty.

ALLOCATION EFFORTS

Every year, in November, a collection is taken in all Catholic Churches in the United States. The results of this collection make the fund that each year is allocated to projects throughout the country. Some CCHD-funded projects help to create jobs, improve neighborhoods, build affordable housing and ALL grants provide low-income people with means to change the conditions that make poverty possible. *Grants are awarded on the basis of need, not religious affiliation.* Criteria that the projects are evaluated on include: (1) Projects must effect institutional change, (2) efforts must benefit a poverty group, (3) Members of the poverty group must have the dominant voice in the organization and at least 50% of those who plan,

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implement and make policy should be persons who are poor, (4) there should be ongoing development of ongoing leadership and a financial self-sufficiency plan.

Overview of CCHD Grant Programs

CCHD is committed to supporting organizations led by low-income individuals as they work to break the cycle of poverty and improve their communities. These efforts may come in the form of: Community Development (CD) Projects, **or** Economic Development (ED) Projects.

Name of Organization			
Address of Organization			
Organization’s website			
Name of person completing LOI:			
Job title or Role at organization			
Contact information	Email:		Phone:
Type of grant sought	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Development grants support organizations that are led by people living in poverty and bring individuals together to change structures and policies that perpetuate the cycle of poverty.	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development grants support initiatives that significantly include the voice of poor and marginalized people in developing new businesses that create social benefits, offer good jobs and/or develop assets that will be owned and enjoyed by local communities.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
	<input type="checkbox"/> NATIONAL CCHD Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL CCHD Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
Type of grant sought - continued			
Amount of Grant sought			

Are you a nonprofit 501-c-3 organization?

Yes No Will be a 501c3 in the near future: _____ (date)

Write a 2 to 3 page summary which includes a description of the following four criteria:

- (1) **Projects must effect institutional change**: describe the mission and history of your organization; describe the goals of your organization; and how your efforts are addressing the root causes of poverty. Be sure to describe how your organization is engaged in efforts that result in institutional change (Community Development) **OR** how they are creating a business or real estate initiative that is structured for lasting community ownership and low-income control of valuable assets (Economic Development). *NOTE: If your organization has a primary focus on direct service – even if those services are provided largely to low income and economically disadvantaged persons and institutions then your project is likely not eligible for CCHD grant support. If your plan is to add institutional change projects in addition to your direct service activities – explain how and when those areas will be implemented.*
- (2) **Efforts must benefit a poverty group**: Describe the priorities or issues of importance to your organization and how they are priorities of low-income people in overcoming poverty.
- (3) **Members of the poverty group must have the dominant voice in the organization**: Describe the decision-making process for the organization, identify the percentage of those living in poverty who plan, implement, and make policy decisions. *Note: CCHD believes that low-income people have both the right and the responsibility to participate in planning, decision-making and implementation of the projects and programs designed to improve their communities. If your organization does not yet meet this qualification, then explain how and when you will meet this criterion.*
- (4) **Ongoing development of ongoing leadership and a financial self-sufficiency plan**: Describe the membership and leadership of your organization; Describe any leadership development strategies in your program or project; Identify training efforts that are in place to ensure that low-income people and program beneficiaries gain the skills, experience and confidence to participate effectively both within the organization and in the wider civic arena.

Submit this cover form and your 2–3-page summary to email: cchd@cchdbaltimore.org

We will notify you if you meet the criteria for consideration of CCHD funding.