

CCHD: What's New? And What's Not?

What will be new as a result of the CCHD Review and Renewal?

1. New CCHD grant agreement, application and other materials that specify more clearly what CCHD can and cannot support, linked to stronger review and monitoring.
2. New language throughout that makes clear CCHD is not a secular foundation, but a work of the Catholic Church, outlining our mission, our principles and our priorities.
3. A priority for Catholic participation in funded projects... the involvement of Catholic parishes, institutions will be a plus in considering applications. The outdated prohibition on funding ecclesiastical entities is eliminated.
4. A more comprehensive, more realistic definition of poverty including the service of priests and religious living and working in poor communities.
5. A continued requirement that poor people have a major role in decision-making. CCHD will consider other measures of the participation of those who are poor in addition to board membership.
6. Larger grant amounts (\$25,000 to \$75,000) to match the needs of groups and reduce the number of grants to be monitored.
7. A new strategic grants program which uses a portion of CCHD funds to focus on neglected issues and USCCB priorities as they relate to poverty.
8. New structures to assist CCHD in applying its prohibitions on funding groups which act in conflict with Catholic social and moral teaching ... a staff position on CCHD mission and identity, a consulting relationship with a moral theologian and a CCHD Review Board.
9. CCHD will strengthen the understanding that CCHD is important not just for what it does, but for how it demonstrates who we are and what we believe as Catholics.

What is not new?

1. CCHD's commitment to and priority for the poor.
2. CCHD's emphasis on self-help, bottom-up approaches and the principle of participation.
3. CCHD's focus on the pursuit of justice, addressing the causes of poverty, pursuing "the institutional path . . . of charity" (Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, 7).
4. CCHD's policy that no group that acts in conflict with Catholic social and moral teaching can receive CCHD funds.
5. CCHD's requirement that the local bishop must approve before any group can be funded in a diocese.
6. CCHD's efforts to help carry out the mission of Jesus Christ to "to bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives, new sight to the blind and to set the downtrodden free" (Luke 4:18).