

**Catholic Campaign for Human Development
And ACORN
Frequently Asked Questions**

1. What is the Catholic Campaign for Human Development?

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the anti-poverty effort of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. CCHD fully upholds the church's teaching on the sanctity of human life from conception through natural death. The Campaign funds projects that empower the poor and help them organize themselves to move out of poverty. All grant applications are carefully screened and funds are provided only to projects with objectives and actions that are fully in accord with the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. Partisan activity is strictly prohibited. The local CCHD director and field representative evaluate every proposal. Endorsement by the local bishop is required for every project recommended for funding.

2. What is the relationship between CCHD and ACORN?

CCHD has funded a wide variety of community org to overcome poverty etc, including in the past local groups who have an affiliation with ACORN. Currently, no CCHD resourcers are going to ACORN local or national structures.

3. What is community organizing?

Community organizing is the bringing together of people and often churches and other groups in a geographic area to address common concerns around housing, crime, education and other issues of justice

4. Who approves funding for these projects?

Each project is prescreened by CCHD national staff, reviewed by local diocesan CCHD directors , endorsed by local bishop and presented to the CCHD Committee, a group of Bishops selected to oversee the grants.

5. Does CCHD fund partisan efforts?

No, CCHD does not fund partisan political activities. Partisan activities are strictly prohibited. Partisan projects are not eligible for consideration and upon discovery of partisan activity, funding is revoked.

6. What are the allegations of voter fraud with ACORN?

Over the last week, several allegations of voter registration irregularities have been reported. CCHD staff and subcommittee will continue to monitor this and make recommendations to the subcommittee. CCHD has funded through the years several community organizing work aimed at lifting people out of poverty. This work includes efforts to advocate for just wages affordable housing, safe neighborhoods, health care, immigrant rights and leadership development. Each application is carefully reviewed by diocesan staff and endorsed by local bishop. Several times throughout the year, national staff is in contact with all funded groups to ensure compliance with Catholic teaching and

the mission of CCHD. Quarterly reports are submitted and reviewed by USCCB Grant Staff.

7. What is the status of ACORN's CCHD funding?

Use the Morin paragraph... "cut off..." CCHD and the USCCB have secured the services of specialists in "forensic accounting" to help determine if any CCHD money was taken or mis-used. This investigation is thorough, serious and ongoing. We have also sought additional outside expertise to help us assess organizational, accountability and other issues related to ACORN.