

**PROTOCOL FOR THE REVIEW OF GRANT APPLICANTS OF
THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND
CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

*“Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights – for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture – is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.” Pope John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici*, no. 38*

The Church has clearly and consistently taught that authentic social justice is built squarely on the foundation of God’s truth regarding the dignity and sacredness of all human life. However, the connection between justice and its foundational principal are sadly lost on many in today’s society. In *Evangelium Vitae*, His Holiness John Paul II recognized this fact when he challenged the world to open its eyes to the inherent contradiction that arises when people proclaim as inviolable each individual’s human rights while simultaneously repudiating in practice the inviolability of the most basic of human rights: the right to life. Indeed, to those who would declare the virtue of promoting human rights while at the same time supporting practices that attack the very foundation of those rights, the Holy Father had this to say: “How can we reconcile these declarations with the refusal to accept those who are weak and needy, or elderly, or those who have just been conceived? These attacks go directly against respect for life and they represent a direct threat to the entire culture of human rights.”¹

Thus it is that we the Church, as we seek to change society to more closely conform to God’s truth, must be mindful of the Holy Father’s words. As such, while it is noble and good for the Church to give support to those organizations that seek to transform society by attacking the roots of poverty and the structures that sustain it, it is imperative that the Church does all it can to ensure that it supports only those organizations that do not undermine the cause of justice by promoting or supporting programs, policies, or other organizations that fail to recognize that the right to life is the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights.

To this end, the following protocol is hereby established to ensure proper stewardship of the money entrusted to it through the generous donations of the faithful to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) and to affirm the faithful in the Church’s teaching regarding authentic social justice and its foundation in the sacredness of all human life.

PROTOCOL FOR REVIEWING GRANT APPLICANTS FOR CCHD GRANTS

I. *Review of Applicant’s Directors/Trustees and Officers.*

The CCHD Advisory Committee, or any other group or person so designated by the Diocesan Bishop, shall conduct an investigation of all trustees/directors and all officers of any organization applying for a CCHD grant from the Diocese of Cleveland shall be reviewed and researched via all reasonable means to determine if:

¹ *Evangelium Vitae*, no. 18

- a. Any such trustee, director, or officer has personally espoused or promoted publically any viewpoint that is contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- b. Any such trustee, director, or officer has any affiliation with any group or organization that directly or indirectly espouses, supports, or finances in any way any position or program that is contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- c. The investigation shall include at a minimum the following steps:
 - i. An Internet search of each individual trustee, director, and officer.
 - ii. Inclusions of interview questions regarding the existence of any affiliations referenced in section I(b), above.

II. ***Review of Applicant's Organization Affiliations.***

The CCHD Advisory Committee, or any other group or person so designated by the Diocesan Bishop, shall conduct an investigation of all applicant organizations to determine the following:

- a. If any applicant organization directly or indirectly espouses, supports, finances, or otherwise promotes in any way any position or program that is contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church, whether in practice or in philosophy; or
- b. If any applicant organization is affiliated, directly or indirectly, with any organization that espouses, supports, finances, or otherwise promotes in any way any position or program that is contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

The investigation shall include the following steps:

- c. An Internet search of the organization.
- d. A review of an applicant organization's IRS Form 990.
- e. A review of the applicant organizations funding sources.
- f. A review of the applicant's audit reports from anytime within the past 5 years, if applicant has in fact been audited.

III. ***Applicant Requirements.***

Beginning with on the effective date of these norms, all organizations that apply to receive CCHD grants shall include with their application the following things:

- a. The organization's IRS Form 990 from the past 5 years.
- b. An affidavit, signed by an officer, testifying as to how the organization's money is spent and allocated.

c. A copy of the organization's most recent audit.

IV. ***Composition of the CCHD Advisory Board.***

The members of the CCHD Advisory Board shall be composed of individuals representing as broad range of competence and viewpoints as possible. Given the current prominence of issues pertaining to the sacredness of human life, the CCHD Advisory Board shall include at least one representative from the Diocese of Cleveland Pro-Life Office and one representative from a non-diocesan pro-life organization. It shall also include a priest chosen by the Bishop or his designee.

V. ***List of Organizations.***


In order to assist the CCHD Advisory Committee and the Bishop in their consideration of any applicant, a list of organizations shall be maintained that lists the names of any organization, whether or not such organizations is or has been an applicant for any CCHD grant, that is found to espouse, support, finance, or otherwise promote in any way any position or program that is contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church, whether in practice or in philosophy. The list shall also briefly summarize the reason or reasons for each organization's inclusion in the list. Any affiliation by any applicant organization with any organization on this list shall be noted and brought to the attention of the Diocesan Bishop along with all details of such affiliation pursuant to Section VI of these norms, below.


VI. ***Consideration of Potential Issues Pertaining to Church Teachings.***

After the CCHD Advisory Committee has conducted its review of the applicants, including all of the investigative steps required by these norms, the Committee shall prepare a report to the Bishop containing the Committee's recommendations regarding the applicants. The Committee's report shall contain any and all findings of the Committee resulting from the examinations required by these norms. The Diocesan Bishop shall then determine whether any of the findings of the Committee regarding any applicant and matters of Church teaching are sufficient to disqualify the applicant organization from receiving CCHD grant money.

This Protocol shall take effect immediately.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Cleveland this 17th day of March 2009.


Sr. Therese Guerin Sullivan, SP
Chancellor


Most Rev. Richard G. Lennon
Bishop of Cleveland