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[Announcements:](#)

[National Minority Health Month 2021](#)

April is [National Minority Health Month](#) (NMHM), and the theme for this year's observance is #VaccineReady. The Office of Minority Health (OMH) will focus on the impacts COVID-19 is having on racial and ethnic minority and American Indian and Alaska Native communities and underscoring the need for these vulnerable communities to get vaccinated as more vaccines become available. For more information, tools and resources to prepare for upcoming observance activities, visit the [NMHM webpage](#), also available in [Spanish](#), and [sign up](#) for the National Minority Health Month topic on their email list for updates.

[FEMA Advisory: COVID-19 Related Funeral Assistance](#)

In early April, FEMA will begin providing financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred after Jan. 20, 2020 for deaths related to coronavirus (COVID-19) to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic. The policy was finalized and FEMA is now moving rapidly to implement this funeral assistance program nationwide. More information regarding this assistance can be found at [FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance](#).

[USDA Extends Free Meals to Children through Summer 2021 Due to Pandemic](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on March 9, announced the nationwide extension of several waivers that allow all children to continue to receive nutritious meals this summer when schools are out of session. These flexibilities are now available through Sept. 30, 2021. USDA is issuing this guidance as early as possible to empower communities to establish as many meal sites as they can effectively manage this summer. **To learn more about how the program works and the role of sponsors and meal sites, visit [here](#).**

[CCUSA 2021 Annual Gathering Call for Proposals](#)

CCUSA's Call for Proposals for the 2021 Annual Gathering is now open! Think about your agency's program successes, best practices and lessons learned from this past year and consider submitting a proposal for review. Share your expertise with colleagues across the network and gain the opportunity to learn from others. Special Note: Workshop proposals may be considered for use as webinars in general and especially if plans for the 2021 Annual Gathering are changed. **Proposals are due Monday, April 12, 2021.** [Visit the Website Here](#) to access the Guidelines and Proposal Forms.

[Catholic Charities Network Domestic Violence Services Survey](#)

During the pandemic, domestic abuse has risen. Catholic Charities USA is conducting a domestic violence survey to learn more about the level of services agencies provide in this area. The goal is to understand demographic information regarding services offered by the network and to develop resources that assist agencies conducting this work.

We ask that you help us in this effort by completing this survey by Monday, April 12th, 2021. This data may be used in collaboration with other entities to assist in building capacity and resources. Please [click here](#) to complete the survey.

[Resources for Service Providers:](#)

[Outreach and Education Materials from the Ad Council](#)

The Ad Council and the COVID Collaborative are leading a massive communications effort to educate the American public and build confidence around the COVID-19 vaccines. Toolkits include a [Public Health Toolkit](#), [Black Community Toolkit](#), [Hispanic Community Toolkit](#), [Black Faith Toolkit](#), and [Hispanic Faith Community Toolkit](#).

[WE CAN: Shareable images for Child Abuse Prevention Month from CBLCC](#)

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month! To raise awareness, the Children's Bureau Learning & Coordination Center (CBLCC) is offering over 150 inspirational social media posts for you to use and share. WE CAN (Work to End Child Abuse and Neglect) features engaging images, positive messages, and links to child maltreatment prevention resources.

WE CAN messages will be posted on social media every day throughout the month of April. Follow CBLCC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) or visit the [WE CAN page](#) on the CBLCC website [here](#). Learn how you can plant the seeds of a better tomorrow for children and families in your community [here](#).

[OMH Launches Free E-Learning Program for Maternal Healthcare Providers](#)

The HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) today launched a new, free and accredited e-learning program: [Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services \(CLAS\) in Maternal Health Care](#). The program, available via OMH's Think Cultural Health website, is designed to develop maternal health care providers' knowledge and skills related to culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS). OMH encourages all physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, certified nurse midwives, and certified midwives to take this program and earn up to two continuing education credits at no cost. Access the program [here](#) or view an introductory webinar about the program [here](#).

[Now Available: Updated Walking with Moms in Need Resources from USCCB](#)

As the one-year anniversary of the official launch of Walking with Moms in Need passed, the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities wanted to provide you with some important updates. Get the revised Parish Action Guide, Action Guide Summary, Parish Inventory, and Sample Timeline today: [View & Download](#).

[Opportunities and Grants for Service Providers:](#)

[Advancing Health Literacy to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19](#)

As part of President Biden's National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness today, the Administration is announcing an effort to invest \$250 million to encourage COVID-19 safety and vaccination among underserved populations. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) will offer the funding as health literacy grants to localities, who will partner with community-based organizations, to reach racial and ethnic minority, rural and other vulnerable populations. **OMH will be accepting applications for this new initiative through April 20, 2021. Click here to access the [notice of funding opportunity](#). A technical assistance webinar for potential applicants will be held March 17, 2021 at 5:00 PM ET. Click here to register for the [webinar](#).**

[Can'd Aid Grant to Promote Community Recycling Efforts](#)

The Can'd Aid Crush it Crusade offers support to help get community recycling programs off the ground throughout the United States. The Crush it Crusade provides recycling bins, training and the funding needed to help get a recycling program off the ground in your community. View their FAQ [here](#) or apply [here](#). Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

[Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes](#)

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes celebrates inspiring, public-spirited young people from diverse backgrounds across the United States and Canada. Each year, the Barron Prize honors 25 outstanding young leaders who have made a significant positive difference to people and the environment. The Prize welcomes applications from young people who are between the ages of eight and 18 (not yet age 19), permanent residents of and currently residing in the U.S. or Canada, and currently working on an inspiring service project, or have done so within the past 12 months. Winners each receive \$10,000 to be applied to their higher education or to their service project, as well as recognition gifts, networking opportunities, and media coverage. The application deadline is April 15, 2021. The online application is available on [the Prize's website](#).

[Environmental Justice Small Grants Program from the EPA](#)

The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program supports and empowers communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues. The program is designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks. Environmental Justice Small Grants fund projects up to \$50,000, depending on the availability of funds in a given year. All projects are associated with at least one qualified environmental statute. Learn more and apply [here](#).

[New ORR Funding Opportunity Announcements](#)

Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) for the Office of Refugee Resettlement's **Refugee Career Pathways Program** and **Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Program** have been posted to [grants.gov](#). Information on the **Refugee Career Pathways Program** and how to apply can be found [here](#). Information on the **Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise Program** and how to apply can be found [here](#).

[CCUSA Financial Education AmeriCorps Program](#)

CCUSA is currently looking for additional grantees for the Financial Education AmeriCorps program! The AmeriCorps members in this program will primarily use the FDIC Money Smart curriculum to teach clients how to enhance their financial skills and create positive banking relationships. AmeriCorps members can also provide other asset-development activities, including tax preparation, financial counseling, IDA enrollment, and much more. This program has a goal to help clients improve their financial literacy and navigate financial decisions more efficiently. If your agency is interested in learning more about this federal grant opportunity, please reach out to [Abby Qualliotine](#).

[Webinars for Service Providers:](#)

[Spreading HOPE: The First Annual HOPE Summit from the Center for the Study of Social Policy](#)

Date: April 9, 2021, from 11am to 6pm EST

We talk a lot about long term effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), but did you know that Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) can buffer against these health outcomes? We have the opportunity to fundamentally transform how we support children and families and create a system of care based on understanding, equity, and trust. [Act now before registration closes on April 5.](#)

[Effective Strategies to Promote Domestic Abuse Awareness in Parishes](#)

Date: April 14, 2021 at 3:00pm EST

Domestic abuse has risen during the pandemic. However, Catholic Charities agencies and parishes, working together, can offer hope, help, and healing by implementing practical strategies to address domestic abuse, ranging from increased parishioner awareness to organization of an in-depth ministry. This webinar, a joint presentation between the Catholics For Family Peace Education and Research Initiative and Catholic Charities USA, will feature speakers who will present methods that have worked in over 50 parishes and will answer questions about developing a local response. A brief overview of Catholic teaching as it relates to domestic abuse will be included. Register [here](#).

[Evaluating Programmatic Impact with Logic Models](#)

Apr 15, 2021 at 3:00 PM EST

CCUSA's Research and Evaluation Team and Fr. Ragan Schriver, Director of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville's Master of Science in Social Work (MSSW) Program invites you to learn about the logic model - a fundamental resource in monitoring and evaluating social service programs. This presentation will provide an overview of the logic model components, key considerations and examples of logic model development, and how to implement the tool as part of an agency-wide evaluation strategy. The Webinar is recommended for those with minimal experience or proficiency with logic models, as well as those looking to review logic model basics. **NOTE: This webinar offers 1.0 Continuing Education Credit.** Register [here](#).

[Save the Date: Community Action Partnership's First Ever Equity Summit](#)

Date: April 19-21, 2021

The theme for this virtual event is "Centering in Truth, Activating Community Healing & Resiliency". The Community Action Partnership deeply believe that "othering", particularly racism, rests at the nucleus of poverty in America and that equitable opportunities can only be built and sustained by centering ourselves in this truth. To that end, the Equity Summit will showcase voices and expressions that activate healing and resiliency in local communities. They would be delighted to have you join! See the [Save the Date - April 19-21](#) announcement and the [Confirmed Speakers](#) for more information.

[Aspen Ideas: Health](#)

Date: April 27-29, 2021

As hope spreads with every COVID-19 vaccine being administered and the world begins to imagine a "new normal," the need to share bold approaches to better health has never been greater. In that pursuit, Aspen Ideas: Health is coming to you in an all-new format this year! From April 27-29, the virtual event, presented with NBCUniversal News Group, will gather today's leading experts and innovators for powerful conversations on health's biggest topics. Together, they'll explore how to prevent the next pandemic, solutions for dismantling structural racism in health care, ground-breaking discoveries in brain research, and so much more. [Register today!](#)

Parents and Caregivers:

ABC's of Racial Literacy from Sesame Workshop

The “ABC’s of Racial Literacy” is part of Coming Together, Sesame Workshop’s ongoing commitment to racial justice. Designed to provide families with the tools they need to build racial literacy and have open conversations with young children (as well as engage allies and advocates to become upstanders against racism), Coming Together includes a racial justice educational framework, ongoing research, and a rolling release of new content. You can visit [SSIC.org/Racial-Justice](https://ssic.org/Racial-Justice) for the first wave of resources, all designed to help families celebrate their own unique identities, while also providing age-appropriate language and strategies to answer sometimes-tough questions around race and racism.

44 Children’s Books About Mental Health from Child Mind Institute

From a hedgehog too anxious to go ice skating to a puppy who can’t make his letters come out right, children’s books address many emotional, behavioral and learning challenges kids face. These books help kids name and understand feelings and experiences they may be struggling with. They’ve included books for kids up to 12, from picture books to be read with preschoolers to chapter books for independent reading by older children. View the complete list [here](#).

Safe Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic from HealthyChildren.org

As more people are able to get COVID-19 vaccines, there's hope that everyday life, including school, may soon get back to normal. Vaccines will not be available for most students this school year. However, research shows that reopening schools for in-person learning does not seem to significantly increase community transmission of the virus. It depends on whether schools are able to follow COVID-19 public health guidance, though. Learn more about the guidelines and what they mean for your children [here](#) (read up on talking about face masks with children [here](#)).

But Why: A Podcast For Curious Kids from Vermont Public Radio

“But Why is a show led by you kids! You ask the questions and we find the answers. It's a big interesting world out there. On But Why, we tackle topics large and small, about nature, words, even the end of the world. Have a question? Send it to us! Adults, use your smartphone's memo function or an audio app to record your kid's question (get up nice and close so we can hear). Be sure to include: your child's first name, age and town. And then email the audio file to questions@butwhykids.org.” –(from NPR) Listen online [here](#).

