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### Announcements:

#### Walking with Moms in Need- USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

The Committee on Pro-Life Activities hopes that you will share [this 30 second video](#) to introduce dioceses, parishes, and individuals to *Walking with Moms in Need*, and inspire all to participate in this groundbreaking effort to support vulnerable pregnant and parenting women. **For more information please go to [www.walkingwithmoms.com](http://www.walkingwithmoms.com).**

#### CCUSA Research and Evaluation Subgroup

CCUSA's Research and Evaluation team wants to keep the conversation around evaluation going! With that, we invite you to join the Catholic Charities Subgroup on Learning, Analysis, Measurement, and Evaluation. This cohort will be a sub-group of the Management & Administration section focused on building and enhancing the organizational infrastructure and processes to ensure data-driven decision making. We aim to provide thought leadership and technical assistance, as well as facilitate exchange across Catholic Charities agencies.

Demonstrating impact and quality of service is a priority for every agency. Whether you are an administrative or program specialist, your participation will help make the conversation richer for the network's benefit. **If interested, simply send [this email](#) with an introduction so CCUSA can add you to the roster.**

#### HealthCare.gov 2021 Open Enrollment

Open enrollment has begun at the Health Insurance Marketplace. Keep, update or find a new healthcare plan for 2021. The Marketplace website provides information on finding local help with your options and application, special enrollment periods or situations, how to use your coverage and more. **The Marketplace website is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Deadline is December 15.**

#### Prolnspire released "[Crises as a Catalyst: A Call for Race Equity & Inclusive Leadership](#)"

This is a reflective tool for individuals and organizations to advance race equity and inclusive leadership during crises. This tool is based on internal ongoing research and feedback from a wide circle of colleagues formed to create the full [Leadership Guide](#), focused on inclusive leadership practices that support race equity. The tool includes questions to support both individual reflection and team discussions, and highlights some of the additional consequential considerations that leaders of color face during times of crisis.

### [SSA continues to provide help to you and others in your community](#)

While their offices are not providing service to walk-in visitors due to COVID-19, SSA remains committed to providing ongoing benefits and vital services. SSA asked me to let you know that they remain ready and able to help you by phone with most Social Security matters. You can speak with a representative by calling your local Social Security office or their National 800 Number. They provide local office phone numbers conveniently online with their [Social Security Office Locator](#).

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

### [Grant Opportunity – CCUSA Financial Education AmeriCorps Program](#)

CCUSA is currently looking for additional grantee(s) for the Financial Education AmeriCorps program to fulfill one full time slot or one half time slot or both a full time and half time slot! The AmeriCorps members in this program will use the FDIC Money Smart curriculum to educate clients of all ages on how to enhance their financial skills and create positive banking relationships. This program will help clients improve financial literacy and navigate financial decisions more efficiently. **If your agency is interested in hosting an AmeriCorps member to serve in your community, please reach out to Teiara Turner at [tturner@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org](mailto:tturner@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org).**



### [Request for Information: HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau Strategic Plan](#)

The HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) invites comments and suggestions to inform its strategic plan. The strategic plan is intended to provide a roadmap to MCHB's future, positioning MCHB to respond effectively to the needs of maternal and child health populations, accelerate improvement in equitable MCH health and well-being, incorporate public health advancements, leverage new technologies and translate emerging evidence into practice. **Deadline is**

**December 18. [Learn more and submit comments here.](#)**

### [Rural Health Clinic Technical Assistance Program](#)

The purpose of this program is to identify key policy issues and knowledge gaps among RHCs about topics including regulatory and program compliance, billing and reimbursement, quality improvement, best practices around disease management and care coordination, and RHC policy priorities. Funding provided by the HHS Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). **Deadline is December 21. [Learn more and apply here.](#)**

### [Local Community Grants from Walmart](#)

Grants are awarded through an open application process and provide funding directly from Walmart and Sam's Club facilities to local organizations in the U.S. Local Community grants range from a minimum of **\$250** to a maximum of **\$5,000**. Eligible nonprofit organizations must operate on the local level (or be an affiliate/chapter of a larger organization that operates locally) and directly benefit the service area of the facility from which they are requesting funding. **The 2020 grant cycle begins Feb. 1, 2020 and the application deadline is Dec. 31, 2020. [Learn more and apply here.](#)**

### [Apply now for the Department of Education's 2021-22 School Ambassador Fellowship Program](#)

This program enables outstanding teachers, principals, counselors, psychologists, social workers, and other school-based professionals interacting with students on a daily basis to bring their expertise to the Department and expand their knowledge of the national dialogue on education. In turn, fellows facilitate the learning and input of other educators and community members. As in previous years, applicants may choose to apply as Washington Fellows -- a full-time appointment, where fellows are based in residence at the agency's headquarters in Washington, D.C. -- or as Campus Fellows -- a part-time appointment, where fellows collaborate with the agency while maintaining their regular school responsibilities in their home communities. **The application closes January 11, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. [Learn more and apply here.](#)**

### **[Request for Information: Guidance on Current Research on the Prevention of Black Youth Suicide](#)**

NIH National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is seeking input from researchers, healthcare providers, community leaders and individuals from other relevant organizations (e.g., schools, social welfare, justice and faith communities) around the risks for and prevention of death by suicide and suicidal ideation and behaviors of Black/African American children and adolescents.

**Deadline is January 15, 2021. [Learn More.](#)**

### **[Program Supports Reading and Literary Events from National Endowment for the Arts](#)**

The Big Read, offered in partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Midwest, seeks to broaden our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. Applicant organizations are encouraged to collaborate with a broad range of partners to offer events and activities that engage the whole community. Each supported program will include a kick-off event to mark the start of the program, book discussions, events inspired by the content and themes from the book (e.g., panel discussions, lectures, or film screenings), and projects that engage the community or respond creatively to the book (e.g., art exhibitions, theatrical or musical performances, poetry slams, writing workshops and contests, or activities related to collecting and sharing oral or written stories from members of the community). **The application deadline is January 27, 2021.**

## **[COVID-19 Assistance:](#)**

### **[211 Hotline \(from United Way\)](#)**

All 211 providers across the US and Canada are operational and continue to connect people with services and resources in their local communities, including people who are in need of financial or other assistance as a result of lost wages from event cancellations, business closures, and quarantine. Find your local hotline [here](#).



### **[Community Resources \(from Just Shelter\)](#)**

Just Shelter maintains a database of community resources — including housing assistance and tenant associations. Explore the database [here](#).

### **[COVID-19 Resources for Undocumented Immigrants \(from Undocusholars.org\)](#)**

The efforts of UndocuScholars are to engage institutional agents, college and university students, scholars, and community advocacy partners to create and further build on sustainable and effective best practices for undocumented youth in higher education. This is a document that lists various aid opportunities and resources for undocumented immigrants during the COVID-19 pandemic. View the live document [here](#).

### **[Family Well-Being and Child Welfare Services Against the Backdrop of COVID-19 \(from APHSA\)](#)**

In this webinar, panelists share research findings about maltreatment reports and substantiations, describe how some systems have responded to changes brought on by the pandemic, and discuss the role of the child welfare system now and into the future. [Recording](#)

### **[Lawhelp.org](#)**

While many legal aid agencies have closed their offices temporarily, their advocates are still working to help people in need. Most legal aid agencies can help clients by phone, and every state has a statewide legal information website with resources related to unemployment, housing, public benefits and more. Find low cost legal help in your state [here](#).

### **[State and Local Rental Assistance \(from National Low Income Housing Coalition\)](#)**

In response to COVID-19 and its economic fallout, many cities and states are creating or expanding rental assistance programs to support individuals and families impacted by the pandemic, and NLIHC is tracking [in-depth information](#) on these programs. You can use the [interactive map and searchable database](#) to find state

and local emergency rental assistance programs near you. You can also see the latest news on rental assistance programs through the state-by-state news tracker.

### [Where can I find emergency financial resources to help with COVID-19 hardships?](#)

With an increase in hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Candid Learning started this list to point you to emergency financial resources. View the continuously updated list [here](#).

## [Parents and Caregivers:](#)

### [10 Ways to Feel Less Isolated as a Parent While Social Distancing from Parents.com](#)

Although social distancing is imperative for contending with this global pandemic, parents everywhere are craving connection. [Here's](#) what experts say you can do to reduce any feelings of isolation and loneliness. And [don't forget to practice parental self-care](#) during this stressful pandemic (from Parents Together).



### [Why and How to Teach Your Kids Mindfulness](#)

Practicing mindfulness can help kids learn to focus, manage stress, regulate emotions, and develop a positive outlook. [Here's how to teach them the skill](#). Want to make mindfulness a family priority? Bring focus and peace with [these 6 powerful practices](#) you can do as a family.

### [How to Decline Holiday Invitations Right Now as Painlessly as Possible](#)

Even before the [coronavirus pandemic](#), holidays were emotionally fraught for many people. Heartwarming holiday movies may make it seem like everyone is rushing to be with loved ones, but if the season often leaves you burnt out and a little lonely, you're in good company. If you've longed to say no to a [holiday dinner](#) but couldn't find the words—trust me, a lot of other people feel the same way. [Learn how to let your family and friends down gently](#).

### [You Can Bounce Back! From Sesame Street in Communities](#)

Last month Sesame Street in Communities hosted a special [launch event](#) to virtually welcome a handful of new SSIC communities. During the special, Alan and other Sesame friends sing a new song, Bounce Back, to remind children (and grown-ups!) how resilient they are. If you need a bit of encouragement, watch the linked video and sing along. Be sure to share it with families in your care.

### [Staying Connected- From Sesame Street in Communities](#)

Spending time together to celebrate holiday traditions can be a highlight for each member of the family. This year, getting together with family and friends may not be possible—at least not in the usual way. There are many ways to stay connected with loved ones near and far, and not just around the holidays! [Click here for information](#).

## [Holidays and Gift Giving Ideas:](#)

### [How To Find Free Toys this Christmas and Holiday Season](#)

With the holidays around the corner, many non-profits are gearing up to organize free toy distribution programs to ensure that the [2020 holiday season](#) stays joyful for struggling families. Here's a list of some organizations that are distributing free toys to needy kids this holiday season. Note that deadlines are fast approaching, so be sure to reach out early if you need a little help this year. See the list of toy distribution opportunities [here](#).

### [How to Help Kids Handle Holiday Disappointment During COVID-19](#)

This year has been difficult to say the least. With the holidays approaching – and the challenges and uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic still ongoing – you may be wondering how to help your child cope with the disappointment of things being different this year. Connecticut Children's pediatric psychologists give advice in

[this blog post](#). (Suggestions are grouped by age, but tips for younger children apply to older children and adults alike.)

[75 DIY Christmas/Holiday Gifts to Add Creativity and Heart to Your Holiday \(from Good Housekeeping\)](#)

Your friends and family would agree: The [best Christmas gifts](#) come straight from the heart. While it's easy to find personalized presents from major online retailers like Amazon Handmade and Etsy, nothing tops sticking a DIY Christmas gift under the tree. Browse through this list of homemade gift ideas to find something — winter candles, gift baskets, [salt dough ornaments](#), and so on — for everyone on your holiday shopping list: parents, coworkers, friends, kids, grandparents, significant others, [best friends](#), and anyone else who has a place in your heart. Check out the ideas [here](#).



[Bring On the Fun this Fall: Western Museums Association's Virtual Activity Guide](#)

Food. Games. Museums. What more do you need this holiday season? There's no doubt that this year has been one crazy rollercoaster ride. And many of us are anxious for what the next couple of months will bring. But for now, we're here to tell you that yes, it's still totally possible to have a joyous holiday season! Simply grab your laptop, iPad, cellphone, or any other technological device you use, and begin exploring the abundance of fun virtual opportunities that await. [Explore the free site with activity ideas here.](#)

[Catholic Charities USA](#)

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