



Featured in this newsletter:

- ◆ **Announcements**
- ◆ **Funding Opportunities for Service Providers**
- ◆ **Webinars for Guardians and Service Providers**
- ◆ **Resources for Parents and Guardians**

Announcements:

Children, Youth, and Family Section Steering Committee Member Recruitment

Catholic Charities USA is recruiting additional members to join the Children, Youth, and Family Section (CYFS) Steering Committee. The purpose, mission, and vision of the CYFS Services Professional Interest Section are to provide information, formation, and networking opportunities to staff and volunteers working with children, youth, and families. If you are interested in becoming a steering committee member for this section, please [click here](#) to request more information! Your participation on the committee will bring valuable expertise, which will continue to enrich and build upon the knowledge of our network. **The deadline for submission of applications is Monday, February 1, 2021.**

Serve Your Community with an MLK Day of Service

The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Jan. 18, 2021, is the 26th anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy. Observed each year on the third Monday in January as "a day on, not a day off," MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. AmeriCorps has been charged to lead this effort for the last quarter century. **Find inspiration and ideas on how to get involved [here](#).**

Pope Francis issues Decree launching a special year dedicated to St. Joseph

This coincides with the anniversary of St. Joseph's declaration as Patron of the Catholic Church, hailing him as a model of fatherhood and a key intercessor in modern times.

Published Dec. 8, on the 150th anniversary of Quemadmodum Deus by Pope Pius IX which declared St. Joseph patron of the Catholic Church, the decree formally instituted a year for St. Joseph, which will run until Dec. 8, 2021. **Read the document [here](#).**

COVID 19 Vaccine Approved for Emergency Use Quick Facts collected by CCUSA:

- [FDA Press Release](#)
- [Recipient and Caregiver Fact Sheet](#)
- [Healthcare Provider Fact Sheet](#)

- [FDA News and Information](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Information](#) - includes information on for parents, adults, healthcare professionals, vaccination planning, and a vaccination communication tools kit

January is Anti-Trafficking Month

Join USCCB in commemorating National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month - decreed by [presidential proclamation](#) since 2010!

Their tool kit, co-developed by the [Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking](#) has excellent ways for you to work to end human trafficking in your community and with your parish throughout the month of January and on February 8th, an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. The 8th of February is also the Feast Day for St. Josephine Bakhita: "[a shining advocate of genuine emancipation](#)."

Opportunities and Resources for Service Providers:

Open Wide Our Hearts Virtual Photo Exhibit from Catholic Charities Green Bay

Inspired by *Open Wide Our Hearts*, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2018 pastoral letter against racism, staff at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay launched the Open Wide Our Hearts photo exhibit in November 2019. This exhibit features photos of Catholics from various racial and ethnic backgrounds, alongside written narratives that document what life in the church of the Diocese of Green Bay has been like for them as a person of color. This past summer, due to limitations on in-person gatherings as well as the national response to the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, a virtual version of the exhibit was developed in order to be able to share these stories with a wider audience and continue these important conversations. **You can check out the exhibit [here](#).**

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 Sarah Hendley at SHendley@catholiccharitiesusa.org.**

2nd Edition of the Healthy Housing Initiative Newsletter

CCUSA'S Healthy Housing Initiative is a person-centered, comprehensive approach, (supported by CCUSA's unique status as the country's largest non-governmental service provider) focused on addressing chronic homelessness in America through the development of permanent supportive housing. [Click Here](#)

School Ambassador Fellowship Program

This Fellowship Program is a one-year long professional learning community that enables outstanding teachers, administrators, and other school leaders, like school counselors, psychologists, social workers, and librarians to bring their school and classroom expertise to the Department and to expand their knowledge of the national dialogue about education. **The application closes January 11, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. [Learn more and apply here](#).**

Request for Information on Expanding Work-Based Learning Opportunities for Youth

The Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education is pleased to announce the release of a [Request for Information on Expanding Work-Based Learning Opportunities](#) for Youth. Please share your thoughts and ideas on barriers that limit and successful approaches for expanding work-based learning opportunities for youth. **Submissions must be received by Jan. 13, 2021.**

[Native American Career and Technical Education Program \(NACTEP\)](#)

The Department of Education (Department) is issuing an [NIA](#) for new awards for FY 2021 for the [NACTEP](#). NACTEP provides grants to improve career and technical education (CTE) programs that benefit Native Americans and Alaska Natives. **Applications are due January 29, 2021.**

[New Research Briefs on Food Insecurity among Families with Young Children from Urban Institute](#)

The briefs examine [food insecurity and nutrition programs for school-age kids](#) and food insecurity and [other hardships experienced by parents with young kids](#). Main findings include:

- One in four families with school-age kids are food insecure. Substantial racial and ethnic disparities in food insecurity exist among these parents, with four in ten parents who are Hispanic/Latinx and parents who are Black reporting food insecurity.
- And six months into the pandemic, four in ten parents with a child younger than six reported being impacted by the economic fallout resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, including loss of employment or work-related income.

For more analysis on poverty, vulnerability, and the safety net during COVID-19, visit their website [here](#).

[CDC: COVID-19 Trends Among School-Aged Children: United States, March 1–September 19, 2020](#)

Since March, 277,285 COVID-19 cases in children have been reported. COVID-19 incidence among adolescents aged 12–17 years was approximately twice that in children aged 5–11 years. Underlying conditions were more common among school-aged children with severe outcomes related to COVID-19.

Read the full study [here](#).

[The National Association for the Education of Young Children \(NAEYC\), Child Care Aware of America \(CCAoA\), First Five Years Fund \(FFYF\), and the Bipartisan Policy Center \(BPC\) jointly relaunch the stateofchildcare.org.](#)

It serves as an overview of what Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funding is, why states need more funding, as well as provides news and resources on how funds are currently being accessed and used. As families, providers, and advocates continue to call on Congress to prioritize, stabilize, and substantially fund the child care industry, [stateofchildcare.org](#) serves as a comprehensive resource for how states access and use CCDBG funding.

[Learn more at stateofchildcare.org share with your friends and family on social media.](#)

[Webinars for Service Providers:](#)

[Building Housing Security During COVID-19 and Beyond from Aspen Institute](#)

Date: Jan 12, 2021 at 1:00pm - 2:30pm EST

Before COVID-19, over 100 million people across the United States were struggling to afford housing. The pandemic exacerbated people's short-term housing challenges – putting almost 40 million people at risk of eviction by the end of 2020 and even more on a trajectory toward long-term financial insecurity. Housing leaders across the country have the tools and knowledge necessary to expand access to stable, safe, affordable housing in their communities. Everyone has a role to play, and the Aspen Institute Financial Security Program has compiled, for the first time, a guidebook of solutions for all housing stakeholders, from policymakers and community residents to business leaders, financial institutions, and philanthropy – prioritizing examples that have worked from communities around the country. **Register [here](#).**

[Roundtable on the 2021 Poverty/Opportunity Policy Landscape](#)

Date: Jan 14, 2021 at 11:00 AM EST.

Join Spotlight, AEI, and Brookings for a conversation about poverty and opportunity policy proposals most likely to get bipartisan traction in a new era of a Biden administration and a closely-divided Congress. The event will feature the voices of policy experts on both sides of the aisle, and key topics will include COVID-19 relief to low-income communities, SNAP increases, family and medical leave, the continuing legislative battle over the Affordable Care Act, and more. **Register [here](#).**

Miracle Projects: Students leading the Gospel Call to Love

Date: Jan. 19, 2021 at 3:00 PM EST.

This webinar will present Miracle Projects, an initiative of Catholic Charities Community Services (Phoenix) which engages local Catholic schools. Miracle Projects leverage students' strengths and creativity in an entrepreneurial endeavor to teach social responsibility, the prevalence of social injustice, the impact of community reinvestment, and the joy of faithful stewardship of God's graces. To accomplish this, 1) Catholic Charities makes classroom presentation about community justice issues; 2) Students choose one program to support the fight against injustice; 3) Students create an entrepreneurial project to raise resources; 4) Students reinvest their profits to bring about social change. This webinar will be of particular interest to those responsible for parish engagement and also social enterprise. **Register [here](#).**

Food and Job Training Readiness Workshop

Date: Feb 9, Mar 9 and April 13, 2021 (3 Sessions – Must attend all)

Join CCUSA for a virtual event presented by FareStart's Catalyst Kitchens. The entire program includes 3, 3-hour sessions.

The training, exclusively for Catholic Charities member agencies, will help you evaluate whether incorporating job training into food service programs is a useful addition to improve kitchen operations and to create new job opportunities for clients. The workshop will improve your food service even if you decide not to add a workforce training component.

There is a modest fee for the 3-session training (9 hours), and the fee is discount because of CCUSA's sponsorship. Space is limited. (Also, limit 2 persons per kitchen.)

Questions about whether this program is a fit for your kitchen? Contact Steve Bogus at sbogus@catholiccharitiesusa.org.

Public Forum: CCUSA Poverty and Racism Paper

Date: Feb 18, 2021 at 2:00 PM EST.

In a response to events in 2020, CCUSA rewrote its 2008 Poverty and Racism paper and developed a facilitation guide on racial justice and anti-racist work for Diocesan Directors of Catholic Charities. Please join us for a conversation about the best way for Catholic Charities agencies to conduct anti-racist programming in our communities. **Register [here](#).**

Strengthening 2Gen Approaches Through Listening, Engaging, and Designing with Families

Date: Feb 24, 2021 at 2:00 PM EST.

Join our experts for a webinar where participants will engage in peer learning to develop and strengthen understanding of a Whole Family Approach (WFA). Additionally, we will focus on ways to become centered in key WFA concepts like racial equity, engaging and listening to families, and attending to system and policy changes that support parents and children. We will address how engaging and listening to customers can strengthen program design and build buy-in internally and externally while exploring multiple ways to connect organizations shifting to a Whole Family Approach (WFA). **Register [here](#).**

Parents and Caregivers:

Department of Education: Federal Student Aid (FSA) has enhanced two online tools: the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Help Tool and the Loan Simulator.

The redesigned [PSLF Help Tool](#) features a modernized interface and revised format to help borrowers more easily determine their eligibility for the PSLF Program, including a new, single PSLF Form combining the employment certification form and the forgiveness application. The new [Loan Simulator](#) has a "Borrow More" feature that allows borrowers to determine how taking out additional federal student loans — for continuing in their current programs of study or enrolling in a new one — will affect their monthly payment amount. Throughout 2021, more features and tools will be introduced to improve customers' understanding of and interactions with Title IV aid programs.

CDC: COVID-19 Parental Resources Kit: Ensuring Children and Young People’s Social, Emotional, and Mental Well-Being

CDC developed the **COVID-19 Parental Resource Kit: Ensuring Children and Young People’s Social, Emotional, and Mental Well-being** to help support parents, caregivers, and other adults serving children and young people in recognizing children and young people’s social, emotional, and mental health challenges and helping to ensure their well-being. **Explore the site [here](#).**

The Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology recently released a Spanish translation of its Parent and Family Digital Learning Guide

This translation provides resources, tips, and information for Spanish-speaking parents or caregivers, as they monitor their child’s progress accessing and using technology for learning. Access the guide [here](#).

[Catholic Charities USA](#)

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