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## Announcements:

### The CCUSA Volunteer of the Year nomination period closes this Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>!

The National Volunteer of the Year Award is given to an individual who embodies the mission of CCUSA, provides critical services to those in need, advocates for justice in social structures and calls the entire Church and other people of good will to do the same. The judges use six weighted criteria to guide their evaluation of the nominations:

- Fulfills the mission of Catholic Charities (15 points)
- Demonstrates real impact (outputs and outcomes) from the activity (20 points)
- Reflects innovative or unique approaches to helping those in poverty (20 points)
- Illustrates or enhances the Catholic identity of the agency (10 points)
- Demonstrates commitment to his or her service (10 points)

Catholic Charities agencies may submit up to three separate nominations. [Submit your nomination here!](#) Finalists will be notified the week of March 15-19, 2021.

### 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.

## Resources for Service Providers:

### [Children's Bureau Training and Technical Assistance Updates](#)

The Child Welfare Express features a new communications guide that aims to help improve the way child welfare agencies and organizations disseminate information, a learning experience from the Capacity Building Center for States based on the stories of those with lived experience with the child welfare system, and a brief listing of the latest updates from the Children's Bureau's technical assistance partners. **View the NCWWI Communications Guide [here](#).**

### [Center for the Study of Social Policy Podcast: The New Neighborhood](#)

Welcome to the New Neighborhood, a limited series podcast that explores some of the dramatic changes taking place across the country as people work to reinforce a sense of community, support young children and families, and work to build equity within communities. Each episode features emerging innovations that will create a society where all children and their families can thrive. [Listen now](#).

### [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' March 2021 Word of Life Newsletter](#)

The [March 2021 issue of Word of Life](#) is available in English, and in Spanish. Previous Word of Life issues are also [available](#).

### [Supporting the First 1,000 Days of A Child's Life: An Anti-Racist Blueprint for Early Childhood Well-Being and Child Welfare Prevention from the Center for the Study of Social Policy](#)

To support the health and well-being of children and families of color, we must implement comprehensive strategies that address systemic and institutional racism. This report offers a blueprint for creating equity-centered, anti-racist policies that support the health and well-being of children and families of color. [Read the report](#) and/or [Watch the webinar](#).

### [HIV Epidemic Analysis Dashboard from HHS](#)

The HHS America's HIV Epidemic Analysis Dashboard (AHEAD) was created to track the progress towards the goals of the [Ending the HIV Epidemic](#) (EHE) initiative. The updated Dashboard includes new interactive features that allow you to filter data by demographics and compare HIV data across county-level EHE geographic areas. It also includes updated linkage to care and diagnosis data, as well as HIV indicator data for all 50 states. [Learn More](#).

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

### [Nature's Path Annual Gardens for Good contest is now open for applications!](#)

The Gardens for Good grant program supports community gardens across North America who are growing organic food and doing good in their communities. Nature's Path will award 21 garden projects with \$5,000 each this year! **Applications are open until March 24<sup>th</sup>**. Learn more and apply [here](#).

### [Call for Kindness program from Riley's Way Foundation](#)

The Riley's Way Foundation's Call for Kindness program empowers young leaders throughout the country to use kindness and empathy to create meaningful connections and positive change. The program will provide grants of up to \$3,000 to up to 30 teen-led projects in 2021. Funded projects may tackle anything from pressing equity and social justice issues to building meaningful connections in schools or communities. Five grants will be specifically dedicated to projects related to food insecurity. Teens living in the United States, ages 13-19, may enter by essay or video describing a new project, or an improvement to an existing project. Each project is required to have both a partner organization and an adult mentor. Winners will also join a cohort of fellows from across the country to participate in a dynamic leadership development experience. **The application deadline is April 7, 2021**. Visit the Foundation's website [here](#) to review the Call for Kindness program's guidelines.

### [Emerging Issues in Maternal and Child Health Grant from Health Resources and Services Administration](#)

The purpose of this program is to strengthen the capacities of state- and/or local-level organizations to respond to emerging public health issues affecting maternal and child health (MCH) populations. **Closing date is April 9, 2021.** Learn more and apply [here](#).

### [AARP Community Challenge](#)

The AARP Community Challenge grant program will support quick-action projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages. Nonprofit organizations and government agencies may apply for grants for community-based projects to improve public spaces, housing, transportation, civic engagement, coronavirus recovery, diversity and inclusion, and more. Projects that demonstrate the ability to accelerate and sustain the community's livability for all, especially those 50 plus, and/or projects that focus on diversity and inclusion are of special interest. Grants will range from several hundred dollars for smaller short-term activities to several thousand or tens of thousands of dollars for larger projects. **The application deadline is April 14, 2021.** Visit the AARP website [here](#) to find out more about the Community Challenge and to submit an online application.

### [Mary Kay Domestic Violence Shelter Grant Program](#)

Grants to support domestic violence shelters. The Foundation will award a grant to at least one domestic violence shelter in every state that applies, and many grants have gone to rural areas. **Closing date: April 30, 2021.** Learn more and apply [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](mailto:SHendley@catholiccharitiesusa.org).**

## [Webinars for Service Providers:](#)

### [Youth Thrive Alive Forum: The Struggle is Real: Finding Healing During Difficult Times from the Center for the Study of Social Policy](#)

**Date: March 4, 2021 at 1pm EST**

We are (and have been) dealing with extremely challenging times: from navigating a global pandemic to enduring persistent systemic and institutional racism to withstanding debilitating economic challenges. We recognize the toll that these things can collectively take on our mental and physical health and especially on young people; as some would say “the struggle is real.” That struggle will be the subject of our next Youth Thrive Alive Forum where we will discuss the mental health needs of young people during COVID-19 and ways to center healing and well-being in our practice. [Register here.](#)

### [WIC 101 Webinar - A Presentation for Catholic Charities Agencies](#)

**Date: March 8, 2021 at 3PM EST**

Join CCUSA for a webinar to explore the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Join our experts to learn more about one of the nation’s premier public health nutrition program providing nutrition education, breastfeeding support, referral to health and social services, and supplemental foods to the nation’s low-income women, infants, and children through age 5. Across the United States, in urban and rural areas, WIC’s time-limited services and benefits ensure that children get a strong, healthy start in life. There is clear evidence that good nutrition during pregnancy and in the first few years of life has long-term, positive impacts on health. When children have a healthy start, their prospects, and America’s prospects, are brighter. With historically strong bipartisan support and clear evidence demonstrating how WIC is both efficient and effective at improving the health of low-income women, infants, and children, WIC ensures the future health and safety of millions of Americans. [Register Here.](#)

### [National Human Services Assembly: Retaining Volunteers Amid Uncertainty](#)

**Date: March 11, 2021 at 2PM EST**

Research has shown that although volunteer rates are rising, individuals are less likely to make long term commitments, especially in a world of uncertainties. Join NHSA's valued partner, Sterling Volunteers, alongside presenter Beth Steinhorn, President of VQ Volunteer Strategies, who will be providing an informative and relevant webinar that will cover tips and best practices on volunteer retention. The changing definitions of retention will be explored, as well as a dive into feature case studies that highlight organizations who effectively inspire some first-timers to return again and again. [Register here.](#)

### [Introduction to Greystone Affordable Development](#)

**Date: March 16, 2021 at 2PM EST**

Join CCUSA for this webinar on Greystone Affordable Development, one of the largest developers of affordable rental housing in the United States. They have successfully assisted clients with constructing, rehabilitating, repositioning, and recapitalizing projects. Join us as we learn about Greystone and their work as a development partner and debt financier with non-profit and faith-based entities. Additionally, Greystone will share their insight on the affordable rental housing market, including the impact of new and discussed changes around 4% Low Income Housing Tax Credits. The presentation will conclude with a question and answer period! After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. **Register [here.](#)**

### [National Human Services Assembly Workshop: Poverty Interrupted: Behavioral Science Principles for Practitioners](#)

**Date: March 24, 2021 at 1pm EST**

This workshop will introduce key principles of behavioral science and behavioral barriers that emerge in work with children, youth, and adults living in low- income households. The discussion and break-out group exercises will highlight a variety of research-based strategies to overcome these barriers and improve program impact. Participants will: (1) Learn how having limited resources and opportunities of various kinds can affect how we process information and follow through on intentions and (2) Participate in breakout group discussions to practice applying behavioral design strategies to a problem in your work. [Register Here.](#)

### [A Model for Faith Community Nursing from CCUSA](#)

**Date: March 31, 2021 at 3pm EST**

Faith community nurses and health advocates can foster collaborations between Catholic Charities agencies, hospitals, and other community partners. Within their faith communities they can: offer education on health and wellness; coordinate multi-disciplinary health ministries; make home visits to the homebound, isolated, and lonely; foster spiritual well-being; coordinate coronavirus and flu vaccine clinics; and facilitate transitional care from hospital to home during discharge, boosting positive outcomes and reducing readmissions. Learn in this webinar of a program which originated in Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and was imported to Arkansas with financial support of Catholic Charities of Arkansas. **Register [here.](#)**

## [Parents and Caregivers:](#)

### [Coping with Trauma Resources from Sesame Street](#)

- Let's Play/Let's Help were created to assist children experiencing traumatic crises. [Let's Help](#) is a Volunteer Guide for grown-ups, and [Let's Play](#) is a children's activity book. The resources include things like movement games, drawing activities, ways to offer comfort and reassurance, and much more.
- Here For Each Other (Emergency Response) resources: [Family Guide](#) and [Community \(Provider\) Guide](#). The family guide offers tips and activities to do with your child that offer comfort and assurance, while the community guide has simple and easy resources to help you help others

recover from an emergency. The pages provide handouts to photocopy and distribute to preschoolers and families and to other first responders.

### **Mind Matters Minutes from The Dibble Institute**

The Dibble Institute has created [Mind Matters](#), a virtual tool for teachers and other facilitators to use with youth in both virtual and in-person settings. Mind Matters Minutes provide teachers and direct service providers with short video practices from the [Mind Matters](#) curriculum that can easily be shared with young people. Each practice presents a skill to reduce reactivity and build resilience. The videos are short and ready-to-go, reducing extra work. View the free lessons [here](#).

### **Ascend at the Aspen Institute Podcast: 1 in 5**

The 1 in 5 podcast features conversations with students who are parents and those who advocate for them in the fields of education, philanthropy, non-profit, and research, among others. 1 in 5 students are parents as well. Learn more about 1 in 5 [here](#). Listen to the 1 in 5 trailer [here](#). Episodes of 1 in 5 can be found at [1in5.simplecast.com](http://1in5.simplecast.com).

### **Marketplace Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (in Spanish)**

The Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for the Health Insurance Marketplace® is officially available to consumers to use the [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) platform-- through Sat., May 15, 2021-- to look for coverage or find out if they qualify for financial assistance to help pay for health insurance.

Catholic Charities USA

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