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Announcements:

2021 Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Award

Through the Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Award, Catholic Charities USA thanks a person in the Catholic Charities network that has distinguished him/herself for dedicated service and/or leadership in the field of children, youth, and families. In our goal to reduce poverty in America, Catholic Charities is able to serve more of our brothers and sisters due to the dedication and commitment of staff and volunteers. The winner of the [2021 Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Award](#) will be highlighted in a future issue of CCUSA's magazine, Charities USA. To submit your nominations, please access [Bishop Sullivan Award Application](#) or email [Marlesia Neloms](#) with any questions that you may have. The deadline is COB, Wednesday, June 30, 2021.

May is National Foster Care Month: National Campaign, Local Change

Tailor your campaign using [tools from HHS](#) and show what "Foster Care as a Support to Families, Not a Substitute to Parents" looks like in your community. Explore the [Spread the Word](#) section for NEW [graphics](#) to insert into your campaign and sample [social media messages](#) to help you get started. Keep the conversation going with #FosterCareMonth. Follow the hashtag on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to see what others are doing and share what you have planned!

Take These Steps to Help Your Homeless Clients Claim Their Stimulus Payment from CFPB

The federal government has been providing financial relief to Americans during the coronavirus pandemic through stimulus payments – also known as Economic Impact Payments (EIPs) – for over the last year. However, millions of people still haven't claimed payments they're eligible for, including those experiencing homelessness. If you work with or serve people who are experiencing homelessness in your community, utilize our new, printer friendly, [EIP landing page](#) that lays out the steps they need to take to receive much-needed financial relief. **Those experiencing homelessness can get EIPs and other tax benefits by filing a 2020 tax return by May 17, 2021 and claiming the Recovery Rebate Credit.**

[Department of Education Announces Expansion of COVID-19 Emergency Flexibilities to Federal Student Loans in Default](#)

The U.S. Department of Education announced an [expansion](#) of the [pause](#) on federal student loan interest and collections to all defaulted loans in the Federal Family Education Loan Program. This action will help more than 1 million additional borrowers burdened by debt during the COVID-19 emergency.

[Child Welfare Project Survey Call for Respondents](#)

Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO) at the University of Notre Dame is partnering with the American Idea Foundation, the Stand Together Foundation, and the Sorenson Impact Center on a child welfare project. The purpose of [the survey](#) is to help understand the needs of beneficiaries in the child welfare space and the factors that are most critical to social service providers when deciding what programs/services are the best fit. This survey is intended for individuals who refer services to individuals/families as a key part of their work or volunteer service. These individuals might be in roles like social services manager, case manager, social worker, services coordinator, mentor/coach/facilitator, guardian ad litem/CASA, family court judge, lawyer, etc. **Click [here](#) to complete the survey. Please complete the survey by COB, Friday, May 14.** Note: If you send the survey outside of the CCUSA network, please let us know who you distribute it to! If you have any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out to impact@standtogether.org.

[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. **For more on the estimated impact of this effort broken down by state, visit [here](#). To learn more about how the program works and the role of sponsors and meal sites, visit [here](#).**

[Resources for Service Providers:](#)

[Outreach Toolkit to Help Families Claim Expanded Child Tax Credit](#)

To help families cover their children's basic needs, Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit for 2021. The IRS will be sending out monthly checks to families with children, starting in July. Families can receive up to \$300 a month for every child ages 0-5 and \$250 a month for every child ages 6-17 living in their household. Families do not need any earnings to qualify. **Families should file taxes by May 17 so they can get the Child Tax Credit, stimulus checks, and all the money that they and their children are owed.**

Service providers and people working with families will play an important role in letting families know they are eligible and connecting them to local resources to help them file taxes. The Center for the Study of Social Policy, the Children's Defense Fund, and other members of the [Automatic Benefit for Children \(ABC\) Coalition](#) have developed an [outreach toolkit](#) with some resources that could help you bring this up with families you work with and guide them to the services they need.

[HHS Launches COVID-19 Public Education Campaign, We Can Do This](#)

We Can Do This is a national initiative to increase public confidence in and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines while reinforcing basic prevention measures such as mask wearing and social distancing. [Campaign resources and toolkits](#) are available to reach diverse communities. [NEW toolkits](#) are now available for different populations including: [American Indian/Alaskan Native and Tribal Leaders Toolkit](#), [Older Adults Toolkit](#), [Nurses & Health Care Workers Toolkit](#), and [Essential Workers in Agriculture Toolkit](#).

These [toolkits](#) include helpful resources such as fact sheets, videos, posters, print ads and social media. For more information, go to the [Campaign Resources and Toolkits page](#), and search the available resources by audience, format and language to find what you need for the people that you serve.

[National Institute for Early Education Research Social Media Toolkit](#)

To help further educate the public about the pandemic's impact on preschool, the National Institute for Early Education produced a second [social media toolkit](#). This one focuses exclusively on [Special Report: The COVID-19 Pandemic's Impact on Preschool](#), a supplement included with the 2020 Yearbook. The social media toolkit contains graphics and suggested messages for you to share on your favorite social media platforms.

[Emergency Broadband Benefit \(EBB\)](#)

The Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) is an FCC program that enables low-income households, including Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP recipients, to receive subsidized broadband service. Sano Health is an authorized EBB provider providing a 50-state wireless broadband service including a smartphone with unlimited wireless data, voice, and texting free of charge. The Sano Health solution is unique in that beyond providing the wireless broadband benefit, it further aligns and connects EBB participants with telehealth, health-related content, and other important information which contribute to social determinants of health (SDOH). Sano works with its healthcare and social service partners to customize the Sano Health devices with partner branding (if desired), streamlined access to resources for vulnerable populations, specific content (e.g., care navigation tools and/or links to SDOH resources), and the option to pre-install preferred applications on the device prior to shipping. Post-delivery, Sano can remotely manage the device and update it with new information/application installations and push messaging to the home screen of the device. Sano will provide the device, wireless connectivity, customization, device management and customer support without charge until the \$3.2 Billion allocated to the Emergency Broadband Benefit expires. At that point, EBB participants may keep their phones without payment and use them to connect to the Internet over Wifi. Please fill out this 1 minute survey if you are interested in smart devices for your clients: [Click here for survey](#) For more information please access the recording and slides of the webinar at the following links: [Recording](#) and [Slides](#)

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

[Early Bird Registration for the 2021 Labor Trafficking Conference will open on May 1, 2021.](#)

The conference will be hybrid, with 2 in-person days on Oct 13-14 at the Galt House in Louisville, KY and an online virtual conference day on Oct 15th. The registration options include: 1) Only the 2 in-person conference days, 2) Only the 1 virtual conference day, and 3) Both the in-person and virtual conference (total of 3 days). Registration is [online](#) and linked through the attached flyer. Additional information about [conference content](#) including costs and topic content and well as [sponsorship](#) opportunities is also available online. Please share with others who may be interested in attending.

[Drug-Free Communities Support Program](#)

Awards funding to coalitions working to reduce substance abuse among youth and to establish and strengthen collaboration among communities, organizations, and governmental entities. **Closing date: May 17, 2021.**

[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. **Apply on or before June 1, 2021. Learn more and apply [here](#).**

[Webinars for Service Providers:](#)

[Fratelli Tutti: Finding sisterhood and brotherhood to overcome what divides us](#)

Date: Starting Wed May 05, 2021 at 7pm EST

Catholic Charities USA is pleased to sponsor an upcoming series hosted by the Franciscan Action Network and featuring expert speakers who will unpack Pope Francis' latest social encyclical, Fratelli Tutti. Dates, topics, featured panelists, and registration links are as follows:

May 5: [Fratelli Tutti on Culture and Society](#), with Kim Daniels & Heidi Schlumpf

May 19: [Fratelli Tutti on Racism and Anti-Racism](#), with Olga Segura & Ralph McCloud

May 26: [Fratelli Tutti on Economics](#), with Tony Annett & Meg Clark

June 16: [Fratelli Tutti on Governance and Politics](#), with Amy Uelmann & David Cloutier

Each event will begin at 7 pm ET. Discussions will be moderated by Stephen Schneck, executive director of the Franciscan Action Network, and will feature Q&A with the panelists. Please note that there is a separate registration link for each event.

[Strengthening Families Webinar: Concrete Support at the Federal Level: What You Need to Know about the American Rescue Plan's Child Tax Credit](#)

Date: Thurs, May 13, 2021 at 3pm EST

Join the Center for the Study of Social Policy for a webinar on Thursday, May 13, 2021 to learn about the benefit as well as steps we can all take to ensure that this expanded benefit reaches the children who need it most, including children in Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and immigrant communities, and is made permanent. [Learn more and register here.](#)

[Social Media 1.0-Learn How to Share your Story](#)

Date: Tues, May 18, 2021 at 2pm EST

Staff from the CCUSA Communications and Marketing team present Social Media 1.0, a webinar that will guide you through the basics of social media content development and more. You'll learn valuable tips and tricks to help you effectively communicate your news and information in the exciting and ever-changing world of social media. During this webinar you will learn how to understand social media channels, target audiences, and basic analytics, create and execute an effective social media campaign, develop content and tell your story, utilize best practices in videography and photography, and develop policies and procedures and follow privacy and permission guidelines. **Register in advance for this webinar [here.](#)**

[Ways to help people who use abuse learn to change their behavior](#)

Date: Wed, May 19, 2021 at 3pm EST

Founder of Pax in Familia, Dr. Christauria Welland, a Catholic psychologist with 25 years of experience working separately with survivors and those who use abuse will share effective strategies that have helped people learn and use peace-based behaviors. Participants will learn skills to help people who want to interact with loved ones in an abuse-free manner. A director from a non-court ordered BIP program will share insights. **Register [here.](#)**

[The Elderly – Our Future: Connecting for Greater Understanding and Action for Elders](#)

Date: Wed, May 26, 2021 at 12pm EST

You are invited to attend a free webinar series and learn about a groundbreaking release from the Vatican Pontifical Academy for Life: Old Age: Our Future – The elderly after pandemic. Co-sponsored by CHA, the Community of Sant'Egidio and Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), this series will open a conversation starting from this newest Vatican document and stretch thinking on possibilities for how partnerships and innovation must be created to meet the critical needs of the growing population of elders and the impact on them from the pandemic. This series is for all – and why it is complimentary. [Learn more and access registration.](#)

[Parents and Caregivers:](#)

[Student Internship Opportunity at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#)

U.S. Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that their [Next-Gen Scholars Internship Program](#). The program is 9-weeks long from June 7th to August 9th and the deadline to apply is May 17th . [See Full Application](#).

[“Foster Care as a Support to Families, Not a Substitute for Parents”- Foster Care Awareness Month 2021 from HHS](#)

No one knows the needs and experiences of foster care better than those who lived it. Explore the [Reflections: Stories of Foster Care](#) to see examples of collaboration—both big and small—in action, the impact of having the right supports for foster and birth families, and more.

[Summer Camps Are Open for 2021—Here Are the Safety Guidelines to Know](#)

With more and more Americans [getting vaccinated](#)—and with things moving closer to getting back to normal, slowly but surely—the guidance around what's safe and what's not is constantly evolving. In March, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) provided recommendations for what fully vaccinated individuals can start to safely enjoy after their shots. Read more [here](#).

[Free Tax File and Tax Prep Assistance](#)

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the filing deadline for federal tax returns has been extended to **May 17, 2021**. The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals. You can learn more about both programs [here](#). Also, available at IRS.gov, the Free File online tax preparation service lets you prepare your own tax return and e-file it for free. You can learn more about Free File [here](#).

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