



Working to Reduce Poverty in America

September 21, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell:

As Congress considers a continuing resolution (CR) to provide interim funding for fiscal year 2022, Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) urges Congress to address funding needs for Afghan resettlement, disaster relief and social safety net programs to protect vulnerable people. CCUSA and its 167 member agencies operate 3,000 sites across 50 states and the territories, providing disaster relief, refugee resettlement and social services to more than 15 million needy people in 2020.<sup>1</sup>

**Support for Refugee and Migrant Programs:** CCUSA’s network is a key partner of the federal government, assisting over 393,000 migrants over the past year. We urge Congress to include the language found in the administration’s CR anomalies [request](#) to 1) allow DHS programs to reimburse third-parties for the provision of COVID-19 testing and shelter for migrants; 2) provide reunification services; 3) provide family support, legal support and entitlement programs to eligible families; and 4) respond to humanitarian and migration emergencies.

**Support for Afghan Resettlement Requirements:** Catholic Charities works in partnership with USCCB and the federal government to provide food, shelter and legal services (through Catholic Legal Immigration Clinic) to help safely resettle Afghans entering the U.S. In the CR, we urge Congress to 1) authorize paroled individuals to be eligible for resettlement assistance, lawful permanent resident status and entitlement programs (e.g., SNAP, Medicaid); 2) resettle Afghans, support unaccompanied children and provide TANF benefits; and 3) implement the newly proposed Afghan parolee program and adjudicate refugee applications.

**Emergency Funding for Natural Disaster Relief:** As the official domestic relief agency of the Catholic Church in the U.S., CCUSA urges Congress to include emergency funding for natural disaster relief for Hurricane Ida and other disasters.

**Support for Social Safety Net and Family Programs:** We urge Congress to include language to ensure continuity of operations for critical social safety net benefits (e.g., SNAP, Medicaid); 2) provide WIC fresh fruits and vegetables benefits; and 3) provide emergency shelters and implement two new grant programs for family violence prevention.

<sup>1</sup> [2020 Annual Report](#), Catholic Charities USA, [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org).

Chair of the Board  
Michael D. Connelly

President & CEO  
Sr. Donna Markham OP, PhD

Episcopal Liaison  
The Most Reverend  
Frank J. Dewane  
Bishop of Venice, FL



Catholic Charities USA stands ready to work with Congress to respond to the needs of vulnerable people in service to the common good.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sister Donna Markham, OP." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sister Donna Markham OP, PhD  
President & CEO