



Working to Reduce Poverty in America

June 21, 2023

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Shaheen and Ranking Member Moran:

I write on behalf of Catholic Charities USA in service to the network of Catholic Charities agencies throughout the country and the U.S. territories to request robust funding for the Department of Justice (DOJ) grant programs that serve youth, families, and communities impacted by crime and the criminal justice system. For FY 2024 appropriations, I ask you to consider increasing funding above last year's levels.

Catholic Charities' ministry is founded on the fundamental Gospel principle that all human beings are created in the image and likeness of God and possess inherent and inviolable dignity, including people impacted by the criminal justice system. We serve these individuals and their families, providing companionship and support during times of affliction and isolation and healing.

From 2021 to 2022, the majority of the 167 Catholic Charities member agencies in the network offered essential services to hundreds of victims of crimes, such as survivors of gender-based offenses and human trafficking. These services included trauma-informed care, counseling, and housing support, accompaniment, and emotional support tailored to individual needs, as well as case management assistance to help individuals recover and rebuild their lives. Additionally, through parish social ministries, various Catholic Charities agencies provided domestic violence awareness training and support to their communities.

Catholic Charities also assists people reentering society from incarceration who face significant barriers while reintegrating, including homelessness, unemployment, mental and physical health challenges, and social isolation. The Catholic Charities network offers reentry support services to assist these individuals in becoming contributing members of society and to reduce recidivism.

Catholic Charities agencies work with state and local government institutions to offer evidence-based and effective strategies to prevent youth delinquency. These strategies include trauma-informed mental and behavioral health services,

Chair of the Board
Neal Black

President & CEO
Sr. Donna Markham OP, PhD

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



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mentorship, and job training programs. With an increase in drug overdoses and violence among youth in schools and communities, funding is essential to ensure organizations such as Catholic Charities can increase their capacity to provide a safe space, mentorship, and guidance to nurture young people into developing positive social skills and promote successful outcomes.

An increase for DOJ programs for FY 2024, or at least maintaining FY 2023 funding levels, would sustain critically-needed community services to provide the care, mentorship, and training needed to protect young people and foster safer and more prosperous communities.

Specifically, we ask for an increase for the following DOJ grant programs:

- Crime Victim Assistance
- Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program
- Juvenile Mentoring Program
- Violence Against Women Formula Grants
- COVID-19 Crime Victim Assistance
- Sexual Assault Services Formula Program
- Second Chance Act Reentry Initiative

Catholic Charities agencies remain committed to our ministry of service and we look forward to our continued collaboration with you as we respond to the needs of communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony J. Granado', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anthony Granado,
Vice President of Government Relations,
Catholic Charities USA