

April 7, 2026

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

The Honorable Hal Rogers, Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen, Ranking
Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Grace Meng, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Honorable Members of Congress:

I am writing on behalf of Catholic Charities USA to request funding for the Department of Justice (DOJ) grant programs that serve youth, families, and communities affected by crime and the justice system. We remain grateful for your continued support and collaboration in service to these communities. As you prepare the budget for FY 2027, I request that you allocate funding, accounting for inflation, to DOJ programs that meet the critical needs of vulnerable individuals.

I. Crime Victim Assistance and Services for Survivors of Human Trafficking

A third of the 169 independent Catholic Charities member agencies collaborate with government at all levels to serve those victimized by crime, including victims of domestic violence, survivors of human trafficking, and young people living in situations that increase their risk of being trafficked or exploited. These agencies provide trauma-informed care, counseling, housing support, and case management assistance tailored to the needs of these vulnerable individuals and families.

Catholic Charities agencies receive hundreds of referrals from federal and state government agencies each year to provide comprehensive services to human trafficking survivors. This collaborative relationship has existed for decades. Adequate funding is essential to maintain this public-private partnership to ensure survivors are protected and supported. Additionally, the recently enacted Trafficking Survivors Relief Act will require funding for its implementation. Catholic Charities agencies are prepared to collaborate with the Department of Justice and other relevant government entities to ensure a smooth implementation process.

Therefore, I ask you to maintain the previous year's funding levels for the following programs:

- Crime Victim Assistance Fund
- Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program

- Violence Against Women Formula Grants
- COVID-19 Crime Victim Assistance
- Sexual Assault Services Formula Program

II. Second Chance Act Reentry Initiatives

We are grateful for the \$111 million allocated to reentry programs and research in the last fiscal year. This and other related funding allocated to DOJ programs will sustain critical community programs that support individuals in their reintegration journey following incarceration. Catholic Charities agencies that welcome returning individuals collaborate with correctional facilities to develop comprehensive programs that facilitate successful reintegration, aiming to reduce recidivism and promote public safety. Services include job placement, financial literacy, substance abuse support, anger management support, mental health counseling, reestablishing family ties, and much more. The Council for State Governments reports that there has been a 23% reduction in state-level reincarceration rates since the law's enactment over 15 years ago.¹ This data demonstrates that Second Chance initiatives enhance public safety and reduce recidivism. Ongoing funding for this work benefits us all.

III. Youth Mentoring and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grants

We are thankful for the \$105 million allocated to youth mentoring grants, the \$50.5 million allocated to delinquency prevention, and additional funding for other youth-focused programs for FY 2026. Catholic Charities member agencies work alongside federal, state, and local governments to implement evidence-based strategies that effectively prevent delinquency. Our efforts include providing trauma-informed mental and behavioral health services, mentorship, and job training programs. Sufficient funding for youth-focused services would empower charitable organizations like ours to enhance our capacity to guide young individuals, develop their social skills, and promote positive outcomes. We strongly encourage you to continue funding programs such as youth mentoring, the Delinquency Prevention Block Grant, the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program, and other DOJ-funded initiatives that support young people and their development.

In closing, please count on Catholic Charities to support your efforts to ensure the well-being of our sisters and brothers across the country.

Sincerely,



Kerry Alys Robinson
CEO, Catholic Charities USA

¹ The Council of State Governments Justice Center, *50 States, 1 Goal: Examining State-Level Recidivism Trends in the Second Chance Act Era* (April 2024), <https://csgjusticecenter.org/publications/50-states-1-goal/>.