



CATHOLIC CARES

MICROGRANTS

[CATHOLICCARES.ORG](https://www.catholiccares.org)

#CATHOLICCARES #LOVETHYNEIGHBOR

2021



MICROGRANT PROGRAM

Administered by the Catholic Cares Coalition

Catholic Organizations Promoting Education of the Covid-19 Vaccination

THE CHALLENGE

Covid-19 is a deadly virus. To date, it has killed 3.8 million people world-wide: over 600,000 in the United States of America (USA) alone. Of the 176.4 million reported cases, the highest number of cases, 3.8 million, are in the USA. The virus makes many people very sick – forcing some to be hospitalized and placed on a ventilator. While most people recover from Covid-19 (91%), doctors and scientists are still learning the long-term impact of the virus on human health and well-being.

Countries around the world responded in numerous ways (quarantines, social distancing, masking) to mitigate the spread of the virus and several launched historic efforts to produce a vaccine. Several vaccines were developed and three -- Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson -- were given emergency authorization for use in the USA. The effectiveness of these vaccines, in real-world conditions, is 90% or more. Vaccination has emerged as the best way to protect the health and well-being of human beings and to stop the spread of the virus.

Nevertheless, some people are hesitant to accept the vaccine. The reasons are many, are usually personal, and, in some cases, are religious in nature. Catholics are taught to “do good and avoid evil.” This raised moral questions and fueled a political debate on the safety and morality of accepting the vaccine. A significant number of Catholics (23% White, 34% Hispanic according to the PRRI), describe themselves as vaccine hesitant.

A CALL TO ACTION

Due to the moral nature of accepting the vaccine, and the impact on the common good for not accepting the vaccine, a note from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which was approved by Pope Francis December 21, 2020 that states, “all vaccinations recognized as clinically safe and effective can be used in good conscience with the certain knowledge that the use of such vaccines does not constitute formal cooperation with the abortion from which the cells used in production of the vaccines derive.”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) also came out in support of accepting the vaccine. Bishop Kevin Rhoades (Chairman of the Committee on Doctrine) said accepting vaccination “can be an act of charity that serves the common good,” and the USCCB released a video stressing that accepting the vaccine was not participation in evil and, indeed, was serving “the common good.”

The leaders of several Catholic organizations came together to explore what they could do to promote vaccine acceptance, its equitable distribution, and accompany those who were uncertain on moral grounds.

A RESPONSE

These leaders came together and created the Catholic Cares Coalition. On World Health Day, the organizations announced a unified effort to “encourage constituents and faith communities to accept vaccination as an act of charity and solidarity with others that will help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and build immunity against the virus.” (Press Release, April 7, 2021) A complete list of the participating organizations is on www.CatholicCares.org.

Recognizing there has been differing information and understanding about the vaccines, the Catholic organizations joined together to promote the common good and amplify the teachings of Pope Francis and U.S. Catholic Bishops on accepting the vaccine as they become available and promoting equitable distribution.

The coalition is also encouraging Catholics to recognize there are moral reasons for taking personal responsibility in an effort to end the pandemic so that society, particularly the most vulnerable, can attain physical, mental, and economic wellness. Each organization in the coalition has committed to three major goals.

- 1. Leverage their communication channels and resources to share consistent information about the importance and moral responsibility of individuals to accept a COVID-19 vaccine when available.***
- 2. Provide human, spiritual, and pastoral support for those struggling to understand, affirm, and act on Catholic social teaching, including the teachings of Pope Francis and the U.S. Catholic Bishops.***
- 3. Advocate for the equitable distribution of the vaccine in the U.S. and globally.***

OUR MISSION

The purpose of the Catholic Cares Coalition is to promote vaccine acceptance, equity, advocacy, and understanding. It wants to address the number of Catholics who are vaccine hesitant. According to a survey conducted by PRRI (March 2021), 23% of White Catholics and 34% of Hispanic Catholics are hesitant to receive the vaccine.

In addition, members of the 50 organizations that formed the coalition report some groups are not being served due to the assumptions about distribution (i.e., the need for a computer and internet to schedule a vaccination appointment).

THE CONRAD H. HILTON FOUNDATION

In May 2021, the Catholic Cares Coalition received a grant from the Conrad H. Hilton Foundation to mobilize the coalition of Catholic organizations to “effectively promote vaccine acceptance and equitable distribution.”

MICROGRANTS - A CALL FOR CREATIVITY AND COLLABORATION

What is the purpose of a microgrant?

As part of that grant, the Coalition created a microgrant program. The purpose of a microgrant is to encourage creativity and collaboration locally and to fund activities by Catholic organizations (parishes, agencies, schools, etc.) that will significantly impact vaccine acceptance and equitable distribution.

How much money is available for a microgrant?

Microgrants are available up to \$5,000 per organization.

What would these “activities” look like? How might the funds be used?

We encourage creativity and collaboration! Catholic parishes, schools, and universities – and many other Catholic organizations – have already creatively responded to the need for vaccine equity. The Catholic Cares Coalition wants to share these stories to encourage efforts towards vaccine acceptance. Every vaccination is important because every person is important. Stories can be sent to: CatholicOrgs4Vaccination@gmail.com.

Can you give me some examples?

SAMPLE ONE: A parish wants to improve its outreach to its Spanish-speaking members. It creates a core message in Spanish to promote an upcoming vaccine clinic at the Church. It recruits three members of the Spanish community (elder, young adult, youth) to deliver the message (print, audio, and video), and it purchases automatic dialing software, text messaging software, and Facebook ads to distribute the message over the course of two weeks.

SAMPLE TWO: A Catholic University wants to incentivize vaccine acceptance among young people (16-22) in its city. It establishes a date for a clinic, promises all young people who come a free lunch, a campus tour, a university "gift," and participation in a raffle for a \$1,000 scholarship to the university within the next four years. The grant funds are used to cover the cost of the lunch and promotion.

How do I apply?

The application and decision-making process has been streamlined to provide funds quickly so that promising initiatives can be put into action.

- 1) Complete the online application at www.CatholicCares.org. A working copy of the application is at the end of this description.
- 2) Respond to a follow-up email should the award committee deem it necessary.
- 3) If awarded, accept the terms and conditions for the microgrant.

FUNDING CRITERIA

The review committee will review each application using the following standards:

- 1) The organization is Catholic.
- 2) The organization displays a reasonable assessment of the need.
- 3) The organization has a clear understanding of the population it is attempting to serve.
- 4) The organization has a clearly described activity and has the capacity to successfully implement that activity.
- 5) The organization provided a reasonable description of the costs of the activity and an itemized budget on how the funds will be used to support the activity.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1) The grantee warrants that it is a tax-exempt Catholic organization and the microgrant will be used for the activities outlined in the application.
- 2) Activities will begin before or by September 1 and conclude no later than October 15, 2021.
- 3) The organization will acknowledge – in print and other media – that the some of the funds needed for the activity were “made possible by the Conrad H. Hilton Foundation through the Catholic Cares Coalition.”
- 4) Funds will be available to the organization named in the application once awarded. They will be sent to the named contact (“responsible person”). Funds will be via ACH or by check from the United States Catholic Mission Association, the fiduciary agent for Catholic Cares Coalition.
- 5) The awardee will provide a one-page report to the coalition on its activities, its outputs, and the immediate outcomes within 30 days of the completion of the activities. This should include:
 - What was done?
 - By whom was it done?
 - What was not done? Why?
 - How many people were vaccinated?
 - What population was served?
 - What was the impact on the community?
 - What methods did you use?
 - What communications media were employed?
 - How is this type of effort sustainable?
 - Signature and title of the responsible person.

TIMELINE

June 5, 2021

The Catholic Cares Coalition Microgrant Program is launched. The microgrant description and application process is available on www.CatholicCares.org.

July 16, 2021

The first round – Applications are received, reviewed, and decided upon.

July 23, 2021

The second round (if funding permits) – Applications are received, reviewed, and decided upon.

04 July 31, 2021

All microgrants are awarded.

APPLICATION WORKING DOCUMENT

All applications must be completed on the Coalition's website – www.CatholicCares.org
Need help? Contact: CatholicOrgs4Vaccination@gmail.com.

ORGANIZATION

Name of Catholic Organization:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
EIN:		
(Arch)diocese:		

RESPONSIBLE PERSON

Name:		
Address (if different than organization):		
City:	State:	Zip:
Office Phone:	Cell Phone:	Position:
Email:		

ACTIVITY

Vaccine Acceptance Rate. Based on the most recent information on vaccine hesitancy from the CDC, what is your vaccine acceptance rate (https://data.cdc.gov/Vaccinations/Vaccine-Hesitancy-for-COVID-19-County-and-local-es/q9mh-h2tw/data):
Description: Whom are you trying to engage? Describe the proposed activity or program. When will the activity begin? When will it conclude?
Budget: What are the anticipated expenses? (Please itemize.) What are the total funds requested? (Maximum \$5,000)

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