

Catholic Charities COVID-19 Relief: Utility Assistance for Georgetown Households

GHF COVID-19 Relief Fund - September 2020

Catholic Charities of Central Texas

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Application Form

COVID-19 Relief Effort

***PLEASE REFER TO GHF'S COVID-19 RELIEF FUND DESCRIPTION FOR COMPLETE ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION.** Applicants must align with GHF's established guidelines for its target population & geographic area. **In all cases, special emphasis will be given to efforts that help the most vulnerable people in our community.**

Title of Organization's Relief Effort*

Catholic Charities COVID-19 Relief: Utility Assistance for Georgetown Households

Type of Organization*

Please define your organization type. Are you a 501c3 nonprofit organization? A church or faith-based organization? Other?

Catholic Charities of Central Texas is a 501c3 charitable nonprofit organization.

Amount Requested*

Please provide an exact dollar amount requested not to exceed \$25,000.

\$25,000.00

Type of Support*

If funded, are your relief efforts intended to:

Support community members hardest hit by COVID-19

Type of Relief*

What type of relief are you providing (check all that apply)?

Financial assistance

COVID-19 Challenges*

What are the most pressing COVID-19-related challenges your organization is facing at this time? What adjustments have you made to address these challenges?

The most pressing COVID-19 related challenge for Catholic Charities has been the ability to respond to the increased demand for services with limited resources and an uncertain future.

Phone calls for our financial assistance have doubled since the start of the pandemic, and we anticipate this heightened demand to sustain through the fiscal year as the effects of COVID-19 continue to ripple through our community. We were successful in raising rapid response dollars for COVID-19 in March – May, but we are unsure of what the future holds. In developing the budget for our fiscal year 2021 (July 1 – June 30), expenses were kept flat or reduced when possible in anticipation of reduced fundraising potential and service fees. Our Advancement team is charged with raising \$1.7 million during fiscal year 2021 in order to fund agency operations. We will attempt to raise this funding from a combination of individual, foundation, and corporate donors. Our largest fundraiser to be held in November will be virtual, and we do not know if it will yield the same result as our in-person fundraisers. Our team is working diligently to find creative ways to engage donors and applying for available grant opportunities.

Client/Target Population Challenges*

What are the most pressing COVID-19-related challenges faced by your client/target population right now? What adjustments have you made to address these challenges?

Our client population faces multiple challenges related to the health, mental health and economic crises prompted by COVID-19. A Texas Tribune report indicates that 3.2 million Texans have filed for unemployment since mid-March. While the overall unemployment rate has improved since May, it remains at a higher level than during the 2008 recession. (1) Job loss or hour reduction forces families to choose between paying their rent and utilities, putting food on the table, or buying diapers for their babies. In Texas, 45.9% of households do not have the three months of savings necessary to weather a crisis like a job loss or a large medical expense. (2) As COVID-19 restrictions continue, our clients risk falling further behind in meeting their basic expenses.

In addition to the economic crisis caused by the pandemic, a crisis in mental health is looming. Economic distress, fear of COVID-19, social isolation, increased stress, and loss of purpose are contributing to an increase in mental health disorders. (3) In non-pandemic times, one in five Texans will experience a mental health issue, yet less than half will receive the treatment that they need. (4) A June CDC survey found that 40% of respondents were struggling with pandemic-related mental health or substance use issues, including anxiety, depression, trauma, new or increased substance abuse and suicidal thoughts. (5)

From March – June 2020, Catholic Charities increased our overall service delivery by 180% to respond to the needs of our community. We have partnered with Austin Public Health to administer \$1.6 million in basic needs assistance to Austin/Travis County residents impacted by COVID-19 who are not eligible for federal relief. This partnership frees up additional agency resources to serve residents outside of Travis County. Our Counseling Services is offering two free teletherapy sessions for persons across our service region experiencing anxiety or job loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, student support groups are offered via Zoom to help students from 5th – 12th grades cope with issues related to COVID-19 as well as daily challenges. We hosted a drive-thru event at our Austin location to distribute 550 personal hygiene kits and 16,000 diapers to families without access to these items. A similar event is planned in September, 2020 at our Bryan, Texas office.

1 Texas Tribune. “Nearly 3.2 million Texans have filed for unemployment relief since mid-March.” 13 Aug 2020. Retrieved from: https://apps.texastribune.org/features/2020/texas-unemployment/?_ga=2.26427709.1481281429.1597437960-2100807129.1597437960

2 “Texas: Percentage of households without sufficient liquid assets to subsist at the poverty level for three months in the absence of income,” Prosperity Now Scorecard (Washington, DC: Prosperity Now, 2019). Data Source: Survey of Income and Program, U.S. Census Bureau.

3 “Preparing for the Second Wave: The Path Forward for Mental Health and Substance Use in the Face of COVID-19.” May 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.texasstateofmind.org/uploads/pressreleases/Release-PathForward-SecondWave.pdf>

4 Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for Texas. Brief Overview: Texas Mental Health Landscape. 10 Feb. 2016. Web. 29 Mar. 2018.

5 Czeisler MÉ, Lane RI, Petrosky E, et al. Mental Health, Substance Use, and Suicidal Ideation During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, June 24–30, 2020. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2020;69:1049–1057. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6932a1>

Evolving Challenges*

How do you anticipate these challenges - both for your organization and target population - will evolve over the next 6-12 months?

We predict the increased demand for Catholic Charities' services to sustain throughout the next 6-12 months, yet we are uncertain of the resources we will generate to meet the demand. While we have already made the decision to host our November fundraising event virtually, we hope to hold our spring event in-person in April, 2021. As cancellations of large gatherings extend into the fall and winter, we recognize that even plans for the spring are tentative.

While the CARES Act and local ordinances temporarily protect some renters from eviction, many others are at risk of losing their housing. The most recent US Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey indicates that 18.3% of renters across the nation were unable to pay July's rent on time, and 33% indicated little or no confidence in paying August's rent on time. The survey estimates that 31-48% of Texans may be at-risk of eviction. (1) We anticipate the need for financial assistance to increase as families fall further behind on payments and predict that we will need additional funding to help families remain housed.

1. Benfer et al. (2020). The COVID-19 Eviction Crisis: an Estimated 30-40 Million People in America Are at Risk – In Texas – at least 1,154,000 at risk. The Aspen Institute. Retrieved from <https://www.txnp.org/2020/08/15/the-covid-19-eviction-crisis-an-estimated-30-40-million-people-in-america-are-at-risk-in-texas-at-least-1154000-at-risk/>.

Organizational Adjustments*

What changes or shifts prompted by COVID-19, if any, have been or will be made by your organization in order to continue to achieve your mission?

For the safety of our staff and clients, Catholic Charities of Central Texas shifted to a remote service model which allows all six agency programs to remain fully operational. On May 11, some of our staff returned to our offices, while maintaining social distancing. Most client services continue to take place virtually in order to keep everyone safe.

Counseling Services: We provide mental health services in multiple languages for individuals, families, children, couples, and groups. Services are offered on a sliding fee scale, and no one is turned away due to inability to pay. The program is offering two free teletherapy sessions for persons experiencing anxiety or job loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Disaster Response: We respond to disasters by distributing donated funds to individuals and local agencies, providing manpower, and assisting in direct relief and recovery services. We provide emergency financial aid, expedited document replacement for proof of naturalization or other immigration-related documents, material assistance, and home rebuilding. During COVID-19, Disaster Response is distributing housing and utility assistance and gift cards for grocery stores.

Financial Stability: We help families and individuals avoid homelessness and achieve financial security through case management, education and emergency financial assistance. Calls for financial assistance have doubled since the beginning of the pandemic. Financial empowerment courses continue via virtual platforms. We have partnered with the City of Austin's Austin Public Health Department to administer \$1.6 million in basic needs assistance to Austin/Travis County residents impacted by COVID-19 who are not eligible for federal relief.

Gabriel Project Life Center: We help parents give their children a healthy start at life by offering pregnancy and parenting classes, mentoring, and material assistance. We held a no-contact diaper and hygiene drive-thru event to distribute 550 personal hygiene kits and 16,000 diapers to families without access to these items.

Immigration Legal Services: We provide affordable legal assistance to individuals and families eligible to apply for immigration benefits with a focus on family reunification. All Immigration Legal Services clients continue to receive the same level of legal support via our secure virtual portal and phone conference. Along with the Texas Here to Stay coalition, a collaborative of immigrant advocates in Austin, we have hosted six virtual DACA renewal clinics.

St. Michael's Veteran Services: We provide veterans and their families the tools they need to overcome life challenges after military service through financial assistance for rent, mortgages, utilities and transportation; mentoring; employment and education support; housing stabilization; and referrals. All veteran and client families will receive the same level of support via phone conference. Additional financial assistance is being distributed to meet the increased need for basic needs assistance for veteran households.

Due to the pandemic, we had to cancel our Brazos Valley fundraiser that was meant to be held in April 2020. Our Creating Hope Luncheon, our largest annual fundraiser scheduled for November, will be a virtual event. Our team is working diligently to find creative ways to engage donors and applying for available grant opportunities. In order to be good stewards of our resources, Catholic Charities does not plan to initiate any expansion projects over the next 6 months unless directly related to the COVID-19 crisis.

Mitigation of Systemic Barriers*

How does your organization serve individuals and families experiencing systemic barriers to weather the economic and health effects of COVID-19?

Catholic Charities stands in solidarity with those who are most vulnerable, especially children and the elderly, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities and health needs, and those who feel marginalized because of their religious beliefs, gender, race or nationality. We advocate for policies that help those who are living in poverty to break out of the cycle and to thrive. Our services are available to anyone in need regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or economic status.

All of our programs are delivered in English and Spanish, and we contract with professional interpreters to provide services in additional languages at no cost to the client. We serve individuals of any immigration status, including those not eligible for relief under the CARES Act. Our remote service delivery model removes transportation and distance barriers and allows clients to maintain appointments without health risk.

We seek not just to serve clients experiencing systemic barriers, but to provide the tools to overcome those barriers and achieve their goals. We provide financial empowerment education to help families budget, reduce debt, improve their credit and protect their identity. We have collaborated with our partners in the Texas Here to Stay coalition to host six virtual DACA renewal clinics since the beginning of the pandemic to ensure that DACA recipients, or "dreamers" are able to remain lawfully employed.

Single Sentence Description*

Describe the relief efforts for which you are seeking funding, detailing how you will provide support for those in need.

Catholic Charities will provide utility assistance to Georgetown-area residents impacted by COVID-19, including current expenses and utility debt, to help them remain stably housed with electricity and running water.

COVID-19 Relief Description*

Please specifically indicate how those affected will benefit from your relief efforts. Describe who will be served, how eligibility for services will be determined, how you will reach the individuals and families you hope to serve, and describe your process for implementation. If this relief funding will be used to support your organization's operations and programs, please describe the need for these funds and how they will be used.

Our relief efforts will allow families impacted by COVID-19 to remain in their homes with their power on and give them the ability to reallocate their limited financial resources to meet other basic needs. Our current funding sources only allow us to assist with current utility bills, but we know that families who have fallen behind on bills due to COVID-19 need help with both current and past due bills. This relief funding will give us the ability to assist clients with any utility bill so that they retain good status with their utility providers and move beyond their debt.

To qualify for financial assistance, clients must be living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. During our intake process, our case manager will assess each family for all their needs and refer to other Catholic Charities or community services as needed. She will speak with the client about how they have been impacted by COVID-19.

All program services are currently provided remotely. Individuals call our main office line, and they receive a call back from our case manager. Clients scan and email or take photos of their eligibility documentation, which includes an application for assistance, photo ID and current bill. Documentation is collected by mail for clients who do not have technology access. Financial assistance is distributed remotely by communicating with utility providers by phone and checks are mailed directly to utility providers.

Catholic Charities conducts outreach to our network of parish partners, including St. Helen Catholic Church in Georgetown and St. Patrick Catholic Church in Hutto to raise awareness of our services. Additionally, program information is regularly shared with social service providers across Georgetown and Williamson County, and referrals are received from 2-1-1.

We will allocate 10% of funding from the Georgetown Health Foundation to offset staffing costs associated with client appointments and processing requests for payment.

Implementation Timeframe*

How long do you anticipate it will take you to develop and implement your relief efforts? Please include the duration of time you anticipate offering these services.

Catholic Charities has provided relief to households impacted by COVID-19 for the duration of the pandemic. We will continue to assist families through the economic and mental health crises associated with COVID-19 even when the health risk from the virus has subsided.

Utility assistance payments on behalf of Georgetown residents will be available immediately upon receipt of a grant. We anticipate that funding from the Georgetown Health Foundation will be expended during our current fiscal year, which ends on June 30, 2021.

Collaboration

If you are collaborating your relief efforts with other organizations, please list these organizations here and describe the nature of the collaboration.

Catholic Charities of Central Texas will be solely responsible for the distribution of funds received from the Georgetown Health Foundation. Currently, all services are provided remotely via phone and internet. Catholic Charities receives referrals from our Georgetown-area community partners such as The Caring Place and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Helen Catholic Church.

Number of People Served*

Please provide an estimate of the total number of people you hope to serve through this relief effort. Be sure to include an estimate of Georgetown residents served as well.

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Expected Outcome(s)*

What do you expect the outcome(s) of the relief effort to be? How do you plan to assess results?

Through this relief effort, Catholic Charities aims to help Georgetown-area families remain in their homes with their power on and allow them to reallocate their limited financial resources to meet other basic needs. Payments are made directly to the utility provider, allowing the case manager to confirm the exact amount owed and ensure payments are credited to the client's account.

Client intake data is tracked, including demographics and amount of financial assistance distributed. The Director of Financial Stability is responsible for data quality and reporting.

Budget*

Specifically detail program costs with rationale for each line item. Indicate the number of individuals and families that you can serve with the funds requested. Be sure to include overhead and indirect costs, with rationale.

Project Budget.pdf

Prior Fiscal Year Balance Sheet*

Attach PDF.

CCCTX Balance Sheet FY19.pdf

Prior Fiscal Year Income Statement*

Attach PDF.

CCCTX Income Statement FY19.pdf

Other Sources of COVID-19 Support*

Please list all other COVID-19 sources for which you have received or applied for funds, including federal, state, local, and private. Provide requested amount, date of request, anticipated response date or date received, and how you are using or plan to use the funding.

Brazos Valley COVID-19 Community Relief Fund, \$12,500, Req. 3/27/2020, Rec. 4/3/2020, Financial assistance Brazos Valley Households (HH)

Austin Community Foundation - Hispanic Impact Fund, \$10,000, Req. None, Rec. 4/8/2020, Operating

Gallogly Family Foundation, \$25,000, Req. None, Rec. 4/13/2020, Operating

CCUSA (re-grant from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), \$3,469, Req. None, Rec. 4/9/2020, Operating

The Moody Foundation, \$100,000, Req. None, Rec. 3/19/2020, Operating

Catholic Charities USA, \$10,000, Req. 3/20/2020, Rec. 3/23/2020, Operating

HEB, \$5,000, Req. 4/2/2020, Rec. 4/16/2020, Operating

Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance, \$25,000, Req. 3/27/2020, Rec. 4/1/2020, Financial assistance for veterans in 25 counties

Austin Public Health, \$1,600,000, Req. 4/15/2020, Rec. 4/17/2020, Financial assistance Austin/Travis County HH

City of College Station CDBG, \$15,000, Req. 4/15/2020, Rec. 5/1/2020, Financial assistance College Station HH

Baylor Scott & White Health, \$2,500, Req. 4/16/2020, Rec. 5/6/2020, Virtual mental health services

Brazos Valley COVID-19 Community Relief Fund, \$5,000, Req. 4/29/2020, Rec. 5/8/2020, Utility assistance Brazos Valley HH

City of Bryan CDBG Reallocation, \$18,000, Req. 5/19/2020, Rec. 5/29/2020, Financial assistance Brazos County HH

EFSP CARES Brazos County, \$18,751, Req. 5/29/2020, Rec. 5/26/2020, Utility assistance Brazos County HH

EFSP CARES Travis/Williamson County, \$59,200, Req. 5/20/2020, Rec. 5/28/2020, Utility assistance, Travis/Williamson County HH

City of Bryan CDBG CARES, \$45,000, Req. 6/24/2020, Rec. 7/14/2020, Financial assistance Bryan HH

St. David's Foundation, \$150,000, Req. 8/13/2020, Ant. 9/30/2020, Virtual mental health services

Scanlan Foundation, \$75,000, Req. 5/12/2020, Ant. 10/15/2020, Operating

Applied Materials Foundation, \$15,000, Req. 6/15/2020, Ant. 8/30/2020, Financial assistance Austin/Travis County HH

Mays Business School, \$15,000, Req. 8/12/2020, Ant. 10/30/2020, Operating

Sharing This Application

We have an opportunity to share information with Chisholm Trail Communities Foundation should their Fund Advisors be interested in supporting the programs that apply through this process. May we share this application and/or information about your relief effort with Chisholm Trail Communities Foundation?

Yes, share application

Brief Funding Agreement*

Please read the following information, and click "I agree" below before submitting your application.

If funds are granted, my organization will enter into a grant agreement which will require the following along with other standard requirements:

- We agree to spend all the grant funds, as described herein, during the grant period.

- We agree, if we cannot spend all grant funds during the grant period, to request a grant extension. If a grant extension is not granted, or if funds cannot be spent during the extension period, we agree that we will return all remaining funds.
- We confirm that the organization is in good standing with all appropriate local, state and federal governmental bodies and/or regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over the organization and its activities.
- We agree to submit a final grant report.

I Agree

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Project Budget.pdf
- CCCTX Balance Sheet FY19.pdf
- CCCTX Income Statement FY19.pdf

Catholic Charities COVID-19 Relief: Utility Assistance to Georgetown Households

Project Budget

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Revenue	GHF	All Other Funders	Total	Description
Georgetown Health Foundation	\$25,000		\$25,000	Utility assistance to 45 households; 10% admin rate
EFSP CARES Travis/Williamson County		\$6,250	\$6,250	Utility assistance to 25 households
Atmos Energy		\$5,000	\$5,000	Utility assistance to 20 households
Individual Donors		\$3,661	\$3,361	
Total	\$25,000	\$14,911	\$39,611	
Expenses				
Project Salaries & Benefits	\$2,500	\$3,661	\$6,161	90 households x 2.5 hrs per household x \$27.38/hr case manager
Direct Client Assistance	\$33,750		\$33,750	Utility assistance to 90 households
Total	\$36,250	\$3,661	\$39,911	

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF CENTRAL TEXAS, INC.
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2019 AND 2018

Assets:	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 433,929	\$ 253,557
Money Market Cash Equivalents	596,287	587,493
Grants Receivable	239,130	528,580
Other Receivables	23,522	23,281
Prepaid Expenses	<u>28,378</u>	<u>33,100</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>1,321,246</u>	<u>1,426,011</u>
Vehicles and Equipment, Net of Accumulated Depreciation of \$45,602	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 1,321,246</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,426,011</u></u>
 Liabilities:		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 9,203	\$ 29,590
Payroll Taxes and Benefits	227,272	235,468
Funds Held for Others	<u>-</u>	<u>725</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>236,475</u>	<u>265,783</u>
 Net Assets:		
Without Donor Restriction	348,999	311,474
With Donor Restriction	<u>735,772</u>	<u>848,754</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>1,084,771</u>	<u>1,160,228</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 1,321,246</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,426,011</u></u>



Note on Financial Statements

The most recent financial statements available for a full fiscal year are for our 2019 fiscal year. Draft financial statements for fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) are still in development and will be available on or after September 15, 2020. We would be pleased to forward them to you at that time.

In order to receive a copy of draft fiscal year 2020 financial statements on or after September 15, please contact:

Annie Chavez, Associate Director of Grant Management
annie-chavez@ccctx.org

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF CENTRAL TEXAS, INC.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total
Revenues:			
Diocesan Grants	\$ 698,064	\$ -	\$ 698,064
Foundation Grants	69,067	617,575	686,642
Governmental Grants	1,771,283	23,570	1,794,853
Special Collections	-	71,400	71,400
Contributions	430,392	166,308	596,700
Contributions - Special Events	651,171	500	651,671
In Kind Contributions	309,300	-	309,300
Client Fees	563,517	-	563,517
Interest Income	8,836	-	8,836
Other	1,575	-	1,575
	<u>4,503,205</u>	<u>879,353</u>	<u>5,382,558</u>
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	<u>992,335</u>	<u>(992,335)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Revenues and Net Assets Released from Restrictions	<u>5,495,540</u>	<u>(112,982)</u>	<u>5,382,558</u>
Expenses:			
Immigration Legal Services	1,314,878	-	1,314,878
Parish Relations	95,907	-	95,907
Financial Stability	1,299,809	-	1,299,809
Gabriel Project Life Centers	476,410	-	476,410
Counseling Services	673,718	-	673,718
Disaster Response	314,666	-	314,666
St. Michael's Veteran's Services	397,935	-	397,935
	<u>4,573,323</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,573,323</u>
Management & General	135,049	-	135,049
Fundraising	749,643	-	749,643
	<u>5,458,015</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,458,015</u>
Change in Net Assets	37,525	(112,982)	(75,457)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	<u>311,474</u>	<u>848,754</u>	<u>1,160,228</u>
Net Assets at End of Year	<u>\$ 348,999</u>	<u>\$ 735,772</u>	<u>\$ 1,084,771</u>



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