



ABOUT US



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Each and every day, Catholic Charities of Central Texas, working in and through the Diocese of Austin, extends the light of Christ to individuals and families in need with programs that provide help in the present and hope for a better future.

Established more than 20 years ago, Catholic Charities was reorganized in 2002 to launch new services under a new mission and vision. Catholic Charities is a ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Austin. As such, we are a faith-based organization with a three-part mission of service, advocacy and collaboration. We exist to give witness to the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. That message calls us to recognize Jesus in every man, woman and child and to love Him through them.

In 2002, we began with two programs – Immigration Legal Services and Parish Social Ministry – and a budget of \$500,000. We have expanded those efforts with compassionate service that empowers individuals, strengthens families – and builds better communities. The budget has grown to \$2.2 million from many different funding streams.

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES?

Catholic Charities of Central Texas works to strengthen individuals, families and communities through direct services, collaboration and social justice advocacy.

WHAT ARE THE CORE OPERATING PRINCIPLES?

Love - Services are provided with empathy and respect for each person. We are called to serve others as a reflection of our faith and love for God.

Service - Services provided by Catholic Charities are open to all in need regardless of race, religion or income.

Advocacy - We promote social justice for all and work toward systemic change.

Integrity - We operate with integrity and the highest professional standards.

Stewardship - We are good stewards of our resources utilizing donations and volunteers in an accountable manner. We provide meaningful opportunities for individuals and organizations to use their time and talents in service to others.

WHERE IS CATHOLIC CHARITIES LOCATED?

Catholic Charities covers the 25 Central Texas counties that comprise the Diocese of Austin. Currently, the agency has six offices. The main and largest office is located in Austin (Travis County) but we also have satellite offices in: Bell, Brazos, Hays, McLennan and Williamson counties. To obtain addresses and phone numbers of all our locations, please visit our Web site at www.ccctx.org

WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES?

Catholic Charities of Central Texas – *Austin, Travis County*

- Case Management, Best Single Source Agency for Travis County
- Disaster Response/Recovery
- Angels of Hope Food Pantry
- Access Central Texas – Benefits enrollment assistance for Medicaid, TANF, CHIP, SNAP (food stamps) and Medicare Part D
- Immigration Legal Services
- Diocesan Law Project
- Life Skills Classes (nutrition, cooking, financial literacy, ESL and citizenship)

Catholic Charities of Central Texas – *Killeen/Temple, Bell County Office*

- Immigration Legal Services – Naturalization and family based cases only
- Citizenship classes to help prepare immigrants for naturalization
- Case Management for Hurricane Ike survivors

Catholic Charities of Central Texas – *Bryan, Brazos County Office*

- Case Management for hurricane and disaster victims
- Parish Social Ministry
- Utility Assistance (for residents up to 200 percent of FPL)

Catholic Charities of Central Texas – *San Marcos, Hays County Office*

- Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Rehousing Program
- Access Central Texas – Benefits enrollment assistance for Medicaid, TANF, CHIP, SNAP (food stamps) and Medicare Part D

Catholic Charities of Central Texas – *Waco, McLennan County Office*

- Immigration Legal Services (Clients must be up to 125 percent of FPL, family-based, U-visa and VAWA petitions)
- Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-housing Case Management Program
- Access Central Texas – Benefits enrollment assistance for Medicaid, TANF, CHIP, SNAP (food stamps) and Medicare Part D

Catholic Charities of Central Texas – *Georgetown, Williamson County Office*

- Access Central Texas – Benefits enrollment assistance for Medicaid, TANF, CHIP, SNAP (food stamps) and Medicare Part D
- HUD Housing Counseling Program
- Financial literacy classes & One-on-one counseling

HOW IS CATHOLIC CHARITIES AFFILIATED WITH THE DIOCESE OF AUSTIN?

Catholic Charities is the primary social service agency of the Diocese of Austin serving all regardless of religious affiliation, at their time of greatest need.

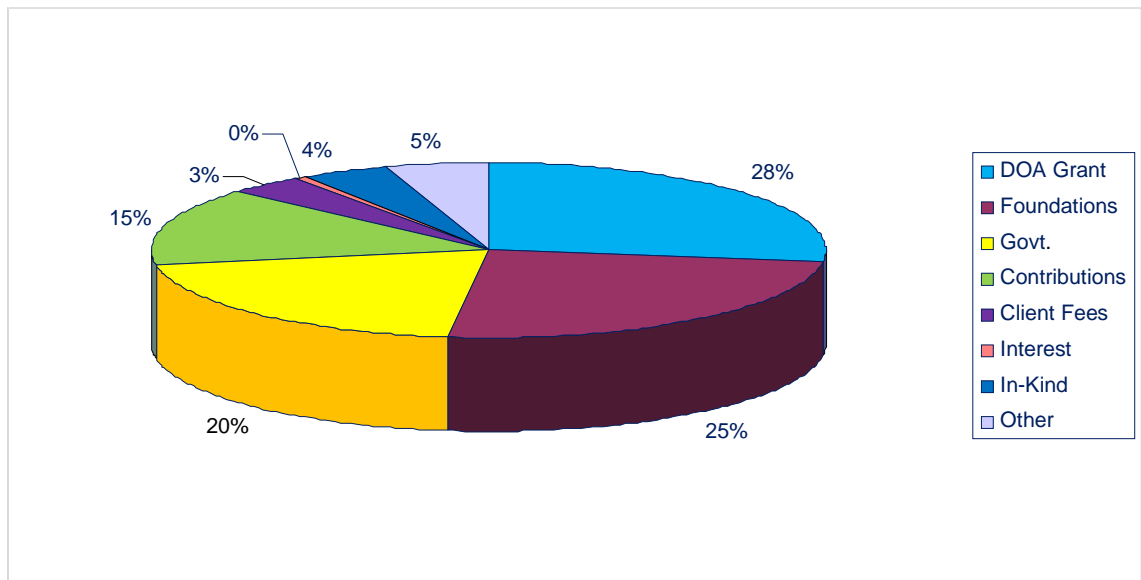
Our agency is rooted in the Gospel and the Social Teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Catholic Charities is an organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Services as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization; oversight is provided by a volunteer board of directors and the organization operates under its own by-laws and articles of incorporation.

ISN'T CATHOLIC CHARITIES FUNDED THROUGH THE CSA APPEAL? IF SO, WHY DO YOU ASK FOR DONATIONS?

Yes, Catholic Charities receives 28 percent of its overall budget from a grant from the Diocese of Austin, but that means that we need to raise the remaining 72 percent of our budget from donations, grants and other sources. The Diocese cannot provide 100 percent funding for Catholic Charities; without additional funds, Catholic Charities would have to limit services to the Austin office only.

The 2008-09 Financial Audit showed Catholic Charities received funding from several different resources, including contracts (20 percent) and foundation grants (25 percent). In-kind donations of office space and utilities make it possible for Catholic Charities to operate our satellite offices; in-kind donations are 4 percent of our overall budget.

The audit shows that Catholic Charities is an effective steward of its resources; 85 cents of every dollar goes toward direct client services.



HOW DOES CATHOLIC CHARITIES WORK WITH ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES AND PARISH-BASED SOCIAL MINISTRIES THAT HELP THE POOR?

Catholic Charities values our partnerships in service to the poor and vulnerable. Therefore, we collaborate closely with parishes, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, other Catholic ministries and community organizations. The poverty rate in most of the counties of our Diocese exceeds the national poverty rate of 13.2 percent. Catholic Charities works to collaborate, support and strengthen services to the poor and vulnerable, not by duplicating existing services, but to work with others, especially parishes, to leverage all of our resources to help those most in need.