

Immigration and Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

Catholic Charities of Central Colorado offers over 70 programs and services throughout the Diocese of Colorado Springs to alleviate the suffering of those experiencing poverty. One of those programs is the **Family Immigration Services (FIS)** program, which supports migrants with a pathway to *legal residency*. In fiscal year 2024, 553 people from 50 countries were served through FIS. This program accounts for 8.43% of our fiscal year 2025 budget and is funded through individual donations, foundations, fees, and grants.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is Catholic Charities supporting illegal migration?

No. Catholic Charities of Central Colorado (CCCC) provides the following legal services for migrants through Family Immigration Services (FIS):

- U.S. Citizenship
- Permanent Residency
- Petitions for Family Members
- VAWA self-petitions for survivors of domestic violence and abuse
- Consular Processing
- Renewal of Documents such as Permanent Resident Cards and Work Authorization
- Renewal of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) Status
- Visas for Victims of Serious Crimes and Human Trafficking (U-visa, T-visa)
- Removal Defense
- Asylum
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

All these legal services apply only to those who have a pathway to legal status (citizenship, residency, green card, etc.) for remaining in the community and country. Most of these services are fee-based with a sliding scale based on income/ability to pay.

2. Does CCCC help undocumented migrants “work the system”?

No. It would be unethical and uncaring to provide - and charge for - these services to anyone who we assess as not having a legal pathway. Migrants are vulnerable to individuals who offer misinformation and “false hope” for a fee. We recognize a duty to inform those without a legal path of the realities of their situation.

3. How are these programs funded? Are any of them funded by government grants?

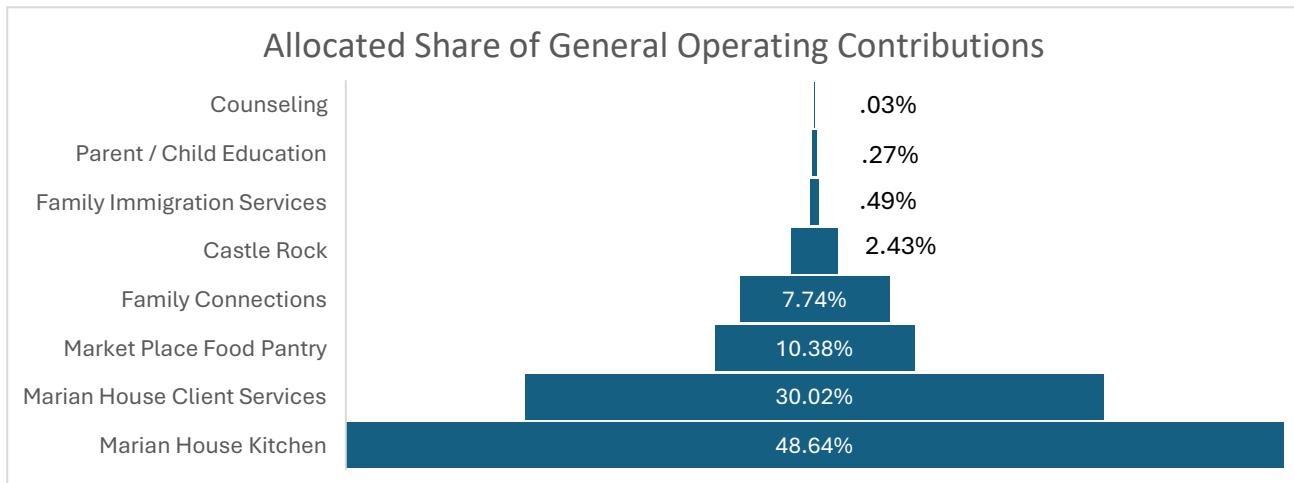
FIS staff and services are funded through fees, designated grants, designated contributions, and general contributions.

CCCC receives government funding for one migrant service: a grant funded by the Colorado Department of Public Safety called the Crime Victim Services (CVS) grant. Because migrants often do not feel comfortable reporting crimes to law enforcement, this program allows us to help protect those who have been victims of crime with crisis intervention, emergency services, counseling, legal advocacy, and court support. CCCC receives no federal grants earmarked for migrant services.

4. Does Catholic Charities of Central Colorado provide any services to undocumented migrants?

Catholic Charities provides basic needs such as food, clothing, school-based case management, and some medical services **to all people who show up in need of help**. As our faith demands, **we follow the gospel call to Welcome the Stranger** (Mt 25:38) and to serve those who we encounter in need.

Basic needs are provided by Catholic Charities in response to Christ's call to show mercy for all, regardless of their citizenship or residency. We do not screen for residency or place of origin in our provision of these basic needs. While some of the individuals and families receiving these services self-identify as migrants, it is a small percentage of the total individuals served in those program areas.



5. Are our local Catholic Charities working at the US/Mexico border?

No. Catholic Charities of Central Colorado does not provide services or funding to the Catholic Charities agencies who are working with migrants on the US / Mexico border. All donations that come to us are used in the ten Colorado counties we serve.

6. Is it true that Catholic Charities is working on the border to encourage illegal immigration and using taxpayer dollars to do so?

No. The services provided by Catholic Charities agencies located in border communities are transparent, legal, and done in partnership with ICE and Border Control. Those agencies provide shelter, food, and other emergency services to migrants, most of whom have been asylum seekers and therefore released into the United States by U.S. Department of Homeland Security officials per long-standing asylum laws. Without this work, border cities like El Paso, Tucson, San Diego, McAllen, and Brownsville would be experiencing a far more severe humanitarian crisis.

More Resources

Links to more information on Catholic Charities services and the viewpoint of the Church on immigration:

POPE FRANCIS'S LETTER TO BISHOPS

Link: [Letter of the Holy Father to the Bishops of the United States of America \(10 February 2025\) | Francis](#)

Site: <https://www.vatican.va/contnent/francesco/en/letters/2025/documents/20250210-lettera-vescovi-usa.html>

USCCB

Link: [Justice and Mercy: Bishops across the United States articulate Catholic Church teaching on migration](#)

Site: <https://stories.catholiccharitiesusa.org/justice-and-mercy>

Link: [Bishops defend Catholic Charities work with migrants, refugees as obedience to Jesus - OSV News](#)

Site: <https://www.osvnews.com/bishops-defend-catholic-charities-work-with-migrants-refugees-as -obedience-to-jesus/>

COLORADO CATHOLIC CONFERENCE: COLORADO CATHOLIC BISHOPS LETTER ON IMMIGRATION

Link: [ff the Colorado Bishops' Statement on Immigration: Welcoming the Stranger, Protecting the Common Good - Colorado Catholic Conference](#)

Site: <https://cocatholic.org/bishop-letters/the-colorado-bishops-statement-on-immigration-welcoming-the-stranger-protecting-the-common-good/>

CCUSA

Link: [CCUSA, USCCB, CHA emphasize need for protected areas for immigration enforcement - Catholic Charities USA](#)

Site: <https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/2025/01/23/ccusa-usccb-cha-emphasize-need-for-protected-areas-for-immigration-enforcement>

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING ON IMMIGRATION

Link: [Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration and the Movement of Peoples | USCCB](#) –

Site: <https://usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/immigration/catholic-teaching-on-immigration-and-the-movement-of-peoples>

THE U.S REFUGEE ADMISSIONS PROGRAM AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Link: [USRAPexplainer.pdf](#)

Site: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/USRAPexplainer.pdf>