**Catholic Charities USA Communities of Practice**

**Definition:**

A Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) Community of Practice is a voluntary group composed of Catholic Charities member agency staff and selected advisors, facilitated by CCUSA subject matter experts, who work to advance the collective impact of one of the seven Catholic Charities national strategic priority areas: ***Affordable Housing, Integrated Health & Nutrition, Immigration & Refugee Services, Leadership Development & Catholic Identity; Disaster Services, Social Enterprise Initiatives, Advocacy & Social Policy Initiatives.***

**Purpose:**

Capacity building to increase national scale and improve national outcomes within the seven strategic priorities: Objectives include:

* Collective impact
* Shared strategy
* Shared metrics
* Engagement with public policy
* Development and/or sharing of national standards of excellence
* Discovery & scaling of best (evidence-based) practices
* Peer networking
* Training

**Membership & Structure:**

A CCUSA Community of Practice is composed of staff and other representatives of member agencies as well as partner organizations and subject matter experts as invited. Membership is intentionally fluid in order to allow for the contributions of numerous participants from a large number of member agencies to accelerate growth and success.

Each Community of Practice (CoP) has an organizing committee comprised of volunteer representatives of the member agencies who plan its activities. CCUSA subject matter experts facilitate the meetings of the CoP and focus the work on collective impact. Each CoP decides to have one or more subject area working groups.

**Frequency of CoP Meetings:**

* CoPs meet in person at least once a year, but more if possible
* For convenience and cost saving, face to face meetings are planned in conjunction with other convenings
* Technology is utilized for more frequent meetings