

U.S. Latin American Sisters Exchange Program

2023-2028 Guidelines and expectations



Overview

Catholic Extension, in partnership with the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, seeks to build upon its current success with the U.S. – Latin American Sisters Exchange Program (USLASEP), by growing the program to include more sisters and more mission dioceses. This document will serve as an overview of the program requirements and expectations for dioceses who show interest in participating in the next cohort. Please carefully review these program details to better understand the five-year commitment for participating dioceses.

The Sisters' Availability:

This five-year program will begin in 2023 and end in 2028, with the expectation that:

- The sisters will participate in at least two Catholic Extension mandatory gatherings each year that focus on their completion of an academic degree program or ongoing formation and other trainings including ESL and intercultural competencies.
- The sisters are permitted time off in accordance with their congregational commitments.
- The sisters will return to their home congregations at the completion of the program.

Funding:

Participating dioceses will receive funding to cover the following:

- Up to \$100,000 each year for five years to cover the salary and benefits (health insurance, retirement etc.) for three or four sisters. Note: the sisters' salaries must be in accordance with the diocesan pay scale, even if the total amount exceeds Extension's funding.
- Legal and immigration fees for processing their religious worker visas.
- Cost of education/ESL (including travel) for the sisters at Catholic Extension's partner universities.
- Travel costs for the bishop's interview with congregation's superior general or provincial.

Participating dioceses will be responsible for providing:

- Safe residence that includes furniture and utilities
- Basic necessities for ministry including a computer, cell phone and internet
- A safe and reliable vehicle/s with car insurance
- A portion of the salary (if necessary) to ensure it meets the diocesan pay scale.

Program focus:

Participating dioceses should understand that:

- The Conrad Hilton Foundation is mandating that the sisters' work in ministries focus on developing Human Potential within their communities, with emphasis on serving at-risk youth and families. Sisters will develop human potential at scale for children, youth, and families living in conditions of disadvantage (i.e., providing support for educational achievement, job training, entrepreneurship, family support etc.) This does not preclude the possibility of the sisters working in pastoral and spiritual ministries. However, their outreach and empowerment of youth and families on the margins, will be the main activities scrutinized by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation each year during evaluations.
- Participating sisters will earn a master's or a bachelor's degree through Catholic Extension's university partners. Due to the heavy academic workload, it is important that the sisters are given at least 10 hours a week to attend online courses or complete homework assignments.
- The sister's ministry will increase their capacity to meaningfully address poverty and elevate the recognition of sisters as moral leaders/voices of change in the global effort to relieve human suffering.
- Sisters will actively participate in local advocacy efforts on behalf of the immigrants/migrants they serve and use their collective voice to advocate and raise awareness for important issues of justice.

I am supportive of this vision for the five-year program.

Diocese

Signature of Bishop