

U.S. Latin American Sisters Exchange Program

2023-2028 Guidelines and expectations



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 a guideline of the program requirements and expectations for dioceses who show interest in participating in the next cohort. Please review these program details to better understand the five-year commitment that will be asked of your diocese if you are selected to participate in this program.

Timeline:

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 academics 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.
- Legal and immigration fees for processing their religious worker visas.
- Cost of education and language training (including travel) for the sisters at Catholic Extension partnership colleges and 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
- Safe and reliable vehicle/s with car insurance
- A portion of the salary (if over the \$100,000 salary funding) to ensure it is comparable to other leaders in their region

Program focus:

Participating dioceses should understand that:

- Participating sisters will earn a master's or bachelor's degree in Social Science with the help of 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 goal of the sister's ministry is to increase the capacity of sisters to meaningfully address poverty and elevate the recognition of sisters as moral leaders and voices of change in the global effort to relieve human suffering.
- Support sisters, their congregations, and their ministries to 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.)
- 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