



Member Message April 22, 2020

Dear Mothers and Sisters,

The Hilton Foundation has been in touch with us regarding the following items:

1. The Foundation let us know that they have set aside a limited amount of funding to be available for CMSWR communities who are experiencing "emergency" situations as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. If you find your Community in need in this way, please let me know.
2. We received the message below from Sister Jane at the Hilton Foundation regarding protection policies for children and vulnerable adults that are being put in place by the Foundation. As you will see from the letter below, the Foundation's expectation is that those who receive grants from them either have similar policies in place or have a plan to put them in place in the near future. The company conducting the orientation (Praesidium) is a well respected provider of protection programs and may already be familiar to you. We would encourage you to participate in the webinars they are offering; they may be helpful to you in establishing a policy/program if you don't already have one, or they may give you additional helpful insights.

With prayers for you and your Communities,
Sister Mary Christine, RSM

Dear partners,

We are grateful for your continued partnership and hope that you, your colleagues, and those you serve are remaining healthy as the world progresses together through the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to stand with you in solidarity during these challenging and unprecedented times.

Over the past ten months, the Catholic Sisters Initiative has been preparing to roll out a new safeguarding policy for our grantees and partners that will build our collective capacities to put in place systems that protect the rights and well-being of children and vulnerable adults who are served by our programs.

I am pleased to share that the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Catholic Sisters Initiative, in partnership with the Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities (FADICA), will begin the rollout of our new safeguarding program this month.

The first activity will be a series of webinars for grantees. This capacity-building effort will include expert training and sample policies that are being offered by our partner, Praesidium, at no cost to you. The first webinar will be on April 23 at 12:00 p.m. PST / 3:00 p.m. EST. This one-hour webinar will provide:

- A high-level overview of best safeguarding practices
- Introductory but practical steps for developing safeguarding policy in direct-service organizations. What are the bite-size, manageable pieces that are most important and universal for all sectors?
- An acknowledgment of the unique safeguarding challenges posed by COVID-19, specific to the sectors in which grantee partners are working

To register for the webinar, please [click here](#). Please note that custom registration fields include the name of your organization, as well as the FADICA member organization with which you are affiliated. Please enter "Conrad N. Hilton Foundation" in the latter field. The information will be used to shape webinar discussion and provide the opportunity for additional resources and support after the webinar. Also, you will receive a confirmation from Adobe Connect and additional information for connecting to the webinar. If you experience difficulties registering, please reach out to Colleen Crawford, FADICA program manager, at ccrawford@fadica.org.

We strongly encourage you and any others from your organization who are interested to participate in this training opportunity. It is our expectation that all grantees will participate either in this webinar or a follow-up session to be scheduled at a later date.

In addition, we will begin implementing changes to our grantee agreement letters. Existing grantee agreements are not being modified; however, moving forward, we will require our partners to confirm the existence of, or intention to create and implement, safeguarding policies and protocols that protect the safety of children and vulnerable adults who may interact with the organization's employees, volunteers and programs.

I hope that you are able to take advantage of this webinar and of any additional sessions to follow. We will keep you informed as these and other resources become available.

Thank you,

Sr. Jane Wakahiu, LSOSF, Ph.D.



Vision Statement

The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious will be a collaborative body of life-giving women religious committed to "the full flowering" of religious life in the United States by placing our collective feminine genius at the service of the Church and one another. CMSWR will be a wellspring of hope and a trusted resource for the ongoing revitalization of religious life and the New Evangelization.

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