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Charities staffs cut up to 40%

by Dennis Coday

NCR Today

With Catholic Charities offices across the country experiencing unprecedented demand for their services -- food, housing, health care and employment aid -- they are also facing unprecedented cuts in funding, according to a media release from Catholic Charities USA.

The release, "Government Must Not Balance Budget on the Backs of the Poor", says:

"Catholic Charities agencies are scaling back programs and laying off the [people] who serve those most in need. In some cases the lay-offs will rise as high as 40% of paid workforce, catapulting more workers into the long lines who stand in need of help."

In an open letter to government officials at all levels, Fr. Larry Synders, president of Catholic Charities USA, warns that "proposed and unprecedented cuts to programs that provide minimal, but essential, services to the country's poor and most vulnerable are leaving these people with no hope for safety net services."

Synder write: "It is morally imperative that the country pursue recovery programs and strategies that will not plunge the poor into ever more catastrophic circumstances from which they will find it almost impossible to recover."

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