



# Catholic Charities of Idaho

1501 S. Federal Way  
Boise, ID 83705  
[www.ccidaho.org](http://www.ccidaho.org)



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF BOISE

## Immigration

Given our Christian mission, Catholic Charities of Idaho and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise represent the voice of the most vulnerable in Idaho. Our legislative priorities are in the areas of affordable housing, food/nutritional security, equitable and affordable healthcare, economic security, and immigration reform.

### About Immigration

Our current immigration system is broken and ineffective. The economic and political motivations that compel immigrants to risk unauthorized entry into America are varied, but family reunification, a need to work, and a desire to provide monetary support for family are often the driving factors for immigrants entering the U.S. Almost two-thirds of all undocumented families have children who are U.S. citizens by birth. When parents or other family members are unexpectedly taken away, children are left to suffer not only from trauma, but from the loss of their support system and economic security as well. Understanding the need for reform, we seek to reduce the number of disrupted lives and communities in Idaho by supporting just and fair comprehensive immigration policies that address the needs of newcomers as well as the security and economic health of our nation.

### Immigration Information

*Immigrants tend to complement the local workforce as well as boost state revenue.*

- Unauthorized immigrants make up half of all farm laborers, 25% of workers in the meat and poultry industry, 24% of dishwashers, and 27% of drywall and ceiling tile installers.
- Each year, unauthorized immigrants provide \$7 billion to the Social Security system and millions to state revenues, but few immigrant families use public benefits.

*Just and fair comprehensive immigration reform would keep families together and improve the well-being of U.S. citizen children.*

- Most children of unauthorized immigrants are U.S. citizens by birth (73%).
- One in five children in the U.S. has at least one immigrant parent.

*Just and fair comprehensive immigration reform would help make the U.S. more secure.*

- There are almost 12 million undocumented individuals in the U.S., and by requiring that they register with the U.S. government (without fear of being deported), law enforcement will be able to focus on other illegal individuals and potential dangers.

### Catholic Social Teaching

Immigration, while a political issue, is a fundamental moral issue which impacts human life and dignity. The Church's teaching on the dignity of the human person and the value of life directly relates to the commitment that every individual's basic human rights are met, regardless of citizenship status. Citizenship does not grant basic human rights, personhood does. We have a responsibility to protect, support, and encourage the family unit for the basic well-being of the entire society, and we seek to promote family stability and end immigration enforcement practices that violate the dignity of the human person, separate families, and lead to exploitations and abuse.

### About Catholic Charities of Idaho

The mission of Catholic Charities of Idaho is to advance the dignity of individuals, families, and communities by strengthening families, advocating justice, and engaging the community to serve the common good. These three principles guide the work of Catholic Charities of Idaho throughout the state of Idaho. Catholic Charities of Idaho offers services to all people regardless of religion, age, gender, disability, race/ethnicity, income, or background.

### About the Catholic Diocese of Boise

United with our Bishop and in communion with the Universal Church, we the People of God in Idaho are called to build up the Kingdom of God by: proclaiming the presence of God in word and sacrament; calling each other to conversion and to joyful sharing of the Good News by word and deed; nurturing and supporting vital faith communities; being a prophetic voice which affirms the good values of society and challenges what is destructive; discovering, celebrating and integrating the gifts of each individual, community and culture; recognizing and responding to those in need.

For a list of resources used in this publication, please contact:

Christine Tiddens, Legislative Intern  
ctiddens@ccidaho.edu (208) 989-1097 Fax: (208) 350-7499