



Catholic Foundation  
of Michigan

PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SEARCH PROSPECTUS

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

[www.catholicfoundationmichigan.org](http://www.catholicfoundationmichigan.org)

Start Date: This is an Immediate Opportunity



**ACELA**  
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Leadership and  
Advancement



## About the Catholic Foundation of Michigan

The Catholic Foundation of Michigan is an independent, lay-led Catholic community foundation dedicated to strengthening the Catholic mission. Established in 2016 by visionary lay leaders, the Catholic Foundation has grown into a trusted steward of Catholic philanthropy supporting parishes, schools, ministries, and charitable organizations that bring the Gospel to life across Michigan.

With an active and engaged board of directors, the Foundation benefits from deep institutional wisdom combined with a forward-looking commitment to sustainable Catholic philanthropy. Its community centered approach, strong governance, and service driven culture have positioned the Foundation as a model of Catholic community foundation leadership regionally and nationally.

Endorsed by the Archdiocese of Detroit, the Catholic Foundation partners closely with individuals, families, parishes and statewide Catholic organizations to ensure that generosity has a lasting impact rooted in faith.

## Mission

The Catholic Foundation of Michigan inspires charitable giving and assists donors in investing in the future of Catholic parishes, schools and nonprofit organizations.

The Catholic Foundation supports donors in living out their faith through generosity and strengthens Catholic institutions that form disciples, serve the vulnerable, and advance the common good.



COLLECTIVE IMPACT  
*Since Inception*



## Catholic Values

The Catholic Foundation's work is anchored in the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church and guided by principles that reflect our identity as a ministry of stewardship:

- **Faithfulness to the Church:** We uphold Catholic teaching in all that we do. We work in partnership with Church leadership, always seeking unity, transparency, and fidelity.
- **Dignity of Every Person:** Inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, we honor the inherent dignity of every person, from donors to grantees to those they serve.
- **Stewardship & Accountability:** We treat every gift as a sacred trust and operate with uncompromising integrity, prudence, and professionalism.
- **Service & Accompaniment:** We walk with donors, ministries, and partners to help them discern their God-given mission.
- **Legacy for Future Generations:** We believe that Catholic philanthropy strengthens the Church today and builds a future filled with hope.

## Philosophy

The Catholic Foundation of Michigan serves as the center of Catholic philanthropy. The efforts of the Catholic Foundation, together with the community creates a vital ministry that is a source of abundant blessings on the Church.

***Support the Community:*** We collaborate to provide funding to support our local parishes, schools, and ministries in perpetuity, allowing their staff to focus on what really matters, Christ-centered service to others.

***Invest Responsibly:*** The Catholic Foundation is dedicated to the highest levels of transparency and professionalism. All funds entrusted to the Catholic Foundation are invested according to the USCCB's Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines and granted in line with Catholic values.

***Share the joy of Philanthropy:*** All Catholics can experience the joy of charitable giving. The Catholic Foundation makes it easy to connect the greatest needs in our community to have the most significant impact.

***Dynamic Impact:*** We believe Catholic philanthropy strengthens the entire community. Through responsive granting, donor-advised funds, and collaborative initiatives, we support ministries that evangelize, educate, and serve those most in need.

# Invest. Serve. Grow.



## Granting

The Catholic Foundation of Michigan provides grants that are mission-aligned and faithful to Catholic teaching. Our granting philosophy emphasizes:

- **Endowed Funds** that provide stable, ongoing resources for parishes, schools, ministries, and diocesan initiatives.
- **Responsive Granting** that allows ministries and nonprofits to address emerging needs in their communities.
- **Donor-Advised Funds** that empower individuals and families to direct support to Catholic and community nonprofits.
- **Scholarships** that expand access to Catholic education.
- **Thematic and Regional Initiatives** that strengthen areas such as vocations, youth discipleship, Catholic education, social outreach, and care for the vulnerable.

## What Makes the Catholic Foundation of Michigan Unique

- **Lay-Led Catholic Community Foundation:** The Catholic Foundation is one of few fully lay-led Catholic community foundations in the country, combining professional expertise with deep commitment to Catholic identity.
- **Strong Governance with Stability and Vision:** With a dedicated and experienced board providing continuity and experience, the Catholic Foundation benefits from steady governance and a strong strategic voice.

- **Donor Experience Rooted in Relationship:** We accompany donors at every stage of their philanthropic journey, helping them discern, structure, and grow their charitable impact in alignment with their faith.
- **Professional Excellence Anchored in Catholic Teaching:** Top tier investment management, transparent reporting, Catholic investing, legal and accounting best practices, and disciplined governance ensure that every gift is stewarded with care.
- **Trusted Relationship with the Archdiocese of Detroit:** While operating independently, the Foundation serves as a valued partner to the archdiocese, supporting diocesan ministries, schools, and parishes through philanthropic solutions.
- **Statewide Collaboration:** The Foundation's 2025 partnership with the Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Michigan (CFSM) reflects the commitment to strengthening Catholic philanthropy across the state, building efficient shared services and stronger Catholic infrastructure.
- **Responsive to the Needs of the Church Today:** The Catholic Foundation is uniquely positioned to respond quickly and thoughtfully to emerging needs in the Catholic community, while preserving donor intent and supporting long-term mission sustainability.



## Position

The President and Chief Executive Officer serves as the chief leader and public representative of the Catholic Foundation of Michigan, reporting to and partnering closely with the Board of Directors to advance the mission of the Foundation. Rooted in Catholic values, the CEO provides strategic vision, operational leadership, and organizational stewardship to ensure Catholic Foundation's mission, financial health, and long-term vitality.

A priority of the CEO role is driving the continued growth of endowed and directed funds. Cultivating new giving opportunities is paramount, while strengthening philanthropic partnerships across the Catholic and broader community. The Foundation's mission is rooted in Catholic values and grants to both Catholic and non-Catholic nonprofits whose mission align.

As the Foundation's principal ambassador, the CEO builds and nurtures relationships with donors, Catholic institutions, and community partners. The CEO elevates the Catholic Foundation's presence, impact, and ensures donor intent is upheld. This leadership role also cultivates a collaborative, mission-driven organizational culture and guides staff in executing strategic priorities.

Now completing its eighth year of service, the Catholic Foundation is a relationship-driven 501(c)(3) organization built on trust, financial stewardship, and growth in Catholic philanthropy. The CEO works in partnership with the Board, staff, and Catholic leaders statewide to expand Catholic giving and support the needs of the Catholic community.

A comprehensive position description, detailing all responsibilities, competencies, and performance expectations, is being finalized and will be provided to candidates as they advance in our search process.

## Application Procedure

To apply, please submit the following four documents, confidentially, and as separate PDF attachments in one email to Katherine Shubnell at [katie.shubnell@acelasolutions.com](mailto:katie.shubnell@acelasolutions.com).

- Letter of Interest summarizing your motivation for the position and the leadership strengths you would bring to the Catholic Foundation.
- Catholic Leadership Philosophy Statement describing your leadership perspective and values as they relate to Catholic mission and service.
- Current resume with all appropriate dates included.
- List of five references including each person's name, relationship to you, phone number, and email address (references will not be contacted without your approval).



ACELA Solutions is a trusted national partner serving catholic schools, dioceses, foundations, religious communities, and social ministries. We deliver mission-driven leadership solutions rooted in discernment, strategy, and stewardship, helping catholic institutions strengthen their mission, culture, and capacity.

With decades of experience across catholic schools, dioceses, religious communities, and ministries, our team brings lived expertise to every engagement. We accompany our partners through a relationship-centered approach grounded in faith, professionalism, and commitment to mission over margin.

ACELA's integrated model spans executive search, leadership coaching, team and culture development, strategic planning, organizational and operational assessments, school system strategy and design, board development, long-term counsel, and helping institutions build cultures of philanthropy that support long-term vitality. We help institutions navigate transitions, build strong teams, and design structures that sustain growth and mission.

ACELA Solutions is formed through legacy, built for leadership, and honored to walk with catholic communities seeking clarity and transformational impact.

Learn more at [www.acelasolutions.com](http://www.acelasolutions.com)