



FEMA

November 19, 2025

VIA E-MAIL: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RE: Notice of Suspension and Proposed Debarment; FEMA-2025-1106-3770

Dear [REDACTED],

On behalf of the DHS Office of General Counsel, and FEMA, I have suspended the Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley (CCRGV) from future covered transactions and contracts under federal procurement programs with any agency in the executive branch of the United States Government for a temporary period under Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2 C.F.R.) pt. 180.700. The suspension will continue until completion of a DHS investigation of CCRGV's data collection practices used to support its claims for reimbursement under FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter-Humanitarian program and Shelter and Services Program. I have also proposed CCRGV for debarment pursuant to the authority of, and the debarment procedures contained in, 2 C.F.R. pt. 180 as implemented by 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000; and, under Title 48 of the C.F.R. (48 C.F.R.) pt. 9 by way of reciprocity. For reference, the C.F.R. may be located on the Internet at <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>.

The enclosed Action Referral Memorandum (ARM) and its attachments set forth the basis for the suspension, and proposed debarment, under 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.700(b), 180.800(b)(1-3), and 180.800 (d). For copies of any ARM attachments, please contact the FEMA Suspension and Debarment Director (SDD) at the e-mail address provided below.

Effect of Action

During the period of suspension and if CCRGV is ultimately debarred, CCRGV will be ineligible to receive certain federal assistance, loans and benefits (or contracts thereunder), or from participating as a principal, agent or key employee in those transactions. CCRGV will also be precluded from receiving any federal contract or approved subcontract, or to act as an agent or representative on behalf of another in such transactions. CCRGV's name will also be published in the General Services Administration's System for Award Management. See <http://www.sam.gov/SAM/>. Ineligibility is effective throughout the Executive Branch of the Federal Government.

SUBJECT: Notice of Suspension and Proposed Debarment
Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, FEMA-2025-1106-3770
November 19, 2025

Debarment Period and Factors Considered

If debarment is imposed, the period of debarment, as provided by 2 C.F.R. § 180.865(a), will be for a period commensurate with the seriousness of the causes and generally should not exceed three (3) years. Please note that the Federal Government can impose a period of debarment more or less than the general three year period depending on the risk posed. Based on the information before me, if we do not receive a response to this notice of proposed debarment and debarment is imposed, it will be for a period of six (6) years. Mitigating and aggravating factors have been taken into account. *See* the factors considered at 2 C.F.R. § 180.860.

How to Contest this Action

If CCRGV wants to contest this action, **it must notify me by e-mail at [REDACTED] or by U.S. Standard mail using the United States Postal Service (USPS) within 30 calendar days after receipt of this notice.** Any e-mails or letters received after 5:00 p.m. on the 30th calendar day will not be made part of the administrative record. CCRGV is strongly encouraged to submit any information via e-mail or via overnight delivery. If CCRGV decides to communicate through USPS or other overnight delivery service, it should direct communications to:

Office of the Chief Counsel
FEMA Suspension and Debarment
DHS/FEMA
500 C. St SW 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20472

CCRGV's response must state in detail the reasons it believes suspension, and/or debarment, of CCRGV is not warranted and any mitigating factors it believes deserve consideration. The response contesting this action should include documentary evidence demonstrating that CCRGV is presently responsible. In addition to any information and argument in opposition, **CCRGV must address the factors and provide the info listed at 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.730, and 180.825.** For reference, the C.F.R. is located at <http://ecfr.gov>.

If it is found that the information or argument submitted raises a genuine dispute over material facts, fact-finding may be conducted to determine the disputed facts. If CCRGV believes that any information contained in the ARM is incomplete or inaccurate in any material way, please provide the additional or correct information. All submissions will become part of the administrative record for this matter. Facts proved by conviction or civil judgment, however, are not subject to dispute in this debarment proceeding.

In addition to a written submission, CCRGV may meet with the SDD to further address the previously presented information or to provide further information about CCRGV's present responsibility to perform under federal procurement or non-procurement awards. If CCRGV would like to schedule a meeting, please state this in an initial letter contesting this action. If CCRGV desires to meet, please remember that it must first make a complete written submission in response to this Notice within the 30-day period to avoid being in default and imposition of

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Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, FEMA-2025-1106-3770
November 19, 2025

debarment without further proceedings. For more information about how to contest this notice, please see 2 C.F.R. pt. 180 generally, and, in particular §§ 180.815 – 180.870. My decision will be made based on the information contained in the administrative record and other information provided at the meeting.

It is important to note that suspension and debarment are not imposed for the purpose of punishment. They are discretionary measures used to ensure the government conducts business with responsible persons. The determination whether or not to debar CCRGV will be made on the basis of the administrative record, together with any written materials submitted for the record by the government or CCRGV during the period of proposed debarment.

Sincerely,

A redacted signature consisting of two black rectangular boxes. The first box is on the left and the second is on the right, connected by a thin horizontal line. A small red mark is visible between the two boxes.

DHS Suspension and Debarment Official

Enclosure
CC: Sister Norma Pimental