



**Sponsor Formation Program
for Catholic Health Care
2026 – 2027**



When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

ACTS 2:1-4

New American Bible, Revised Edition

**SPONSOR FORMATION PROGRAM
FOR CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE**

CHA's Sponsor Formation Program for Catholic Health Care prepares individuals for service as members of Juridic Persons to carry out the health ministry of the Catholic Church.

In addition to a rich grounding in the theological and canonical principles that apply to all sponsorship models, CHA's formation program offers participants opportunities for spiritual development personally and as members of a community who share a deep commitment to advance Jesus' healing mission in the world today.

The program consists of four two-day sessions in the fall and spring. Gatherings focus on developing and enhancing critical competencies for sponsorship through a combination of reflection, participant involvement, group interaction, and presentations by nationally recognized ministry leaders and speakers. In addition, preparatory and follow-up materials allow for additional learning integration. In the time between sessions, participants will meet with assigned Conversation Partners and in groups of fellow participants to reflect on their learnings and make appropriate application for their spiritual development and work in the Catholic health ministry.



EAGLEWOOD RESORT AND SPA

in the Chicago area is a peaceful retreat in a beautiful natural setting.

Comments from Recent Participants:

I always learn something through the group interaction. I am grateful for the table conversation, the total group engagement and the informal conversations during breaks.

Truly appreciated the update and refreshment these sessions afforded me even though I have been serving as a religious congregation sponsor for many years – moving to sponsorship in a PJP will be different and this prep is perfect.

I realized how much we, the assembly that gathered, had bonded over these 18 months. This particular session was helpful in summarizing and bringing us to closure, while encouraging us to continue ongoing formation.

This was a very important session both in terms of content and discussion. As a group, we are at a new place. Everyone contributed in discussions. Kudos to the CHA team for helping us to come to this point. I sensed some deep ownership and understanding of mission in participants' respective roles.

Overview

OBJECTIVE

In order to form individuals to serve in the role of sponsor, this program will enable participants to articulate, integrate and implement the foundational elements of Catholic health care sponsorship.

LOCATION

The program takes place at the Eaglewood Resort & Spa in the Chicago area, conveniently located near the Chicago O'Hare Airport.

FORMAT

The program consists of a series of four in-person sessions in the fall and spring. Each session begins on Wednesday afternoon and concludes on Friday morning. Each session will be complimented with a virtual session to deepen the participants' experience.

Gatherings focus on developing and enhancing critical competencies for sponsorship through a combination of reflection, participant involvement, group interaction and presentations by nationally recognized ministry leaders and speakers. In addition, preparatory and follow up materials allow for additional learning integration.

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION

Participants in CHA's *Sponsor Formation Program for Catholic Health Care* are selected by a sponsoring organization that is a member of the Catholic Health Association. Enrollment is limited to foster meaningful opportunities for reflection, interaction, networking and learning integration. Current sponsors and persons deemed to have demonstrated potential for possible service as a sponsor receive priority consideration. Other leaders of Catholic health ministries who interface with sponsors will also be considered for the program.

EXPENSES

The registration fee for the 2026–2027 program is \$6,000 per participant. The fee includes all program-related costs, hotel accommodations and meals associated with the sessions. Transportation is not included

This registration fee is for Representative Members. For information on registration fees for other member types, please contact the CHA Service Center at: servicecenter@chausa.org

Curriculum & Timeframe

The curriculum weaves biblical, theological, and spiritual aspects of sponsorship ministry into a model that incorporates adult learning methods within a framework of ministry formation. Participants are expected to fully engage in a formational experience that enables them to articulate and integrate the foundational elements of Catholic health care sponsorship.

Orientation Session

FEBRUARY 11 or 17, 2026

THEME: FOUNDATIONS OF SPONSORSHIP

An online session will orient participants to the basic foundations of the ministry of sponsorship. Participants will engage with interactive content introducing the key components of sponsorship.

During the session participants will discuss:

- ✦ Sponsorship defined
- ✦ Origins of Catholic health care sponsorship
- ✦ The sponsor responsibilities



Session One

MARCH 18 – 20, 2026

THEME: THE CALL TO SERVE

- ✦ Called to serve in the Church and Catholic health care
- ✦ Exploring spirituality
- ✦ Sponsorship history, theology, and development

Participants will be invited to reflect on sponsorship as a vocation to serve in the Church.

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Articulate the meaning of vocation and identify how their vocation is a call to serve within the Church.
- Understand the meaning, development, and core responsibilities of sponsorship of Catholic health care.
- Appreciate the importance of spirituality and spiritual practices.
- Appreciate the call to serve in the name of the Church as custodians of Catholic identity.

Following the session, CHA will facilitate a virtual gathering to enrich the participants' experience and foster continued dialogue.

Session Two

OCTOBER 7 – 9, 2026

THEME: TO SERVE WITHIN THE CHURCH

- ✦ Mission and the prophetic tradition of the Church
- ✦ Spirituality and community
- ✦ Canon law, sponsorship and health care

Participants will explore the Church's prophetic tradition and the fundamental aspects of canon law related to the ministry of sponsorship.

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Continue to understand the meaning and purpose of the Church.
- Appreciate the prophetic role of the sponsor in the Church.
- Recognize the underlying principles of community.
- Understand essential aspects of canon law as applied to sponsorship.

Following the session, CHA will facilitate a virtual gathering to enrich the participants' experience and foster continued dialogue.



Session Three

MARCH 17 – 19, 2027

THEME: LIVING OUR TRADITION

- ✦ Discernment
- ✦ Catholic Social Tradition
- ✦ *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*

Participants will be invited to reflect on sponsorship as a vocation to serve in the Church.

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the history and principles of the Catholic Social Tradition in the context of the Catholic health ministry.
- Recognize the underlying principles of a spirituality of discernment and its application to communal decision-making.
- Understand the format and purpose of the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* (ERDs) and their impact on the sponsor's role.

Following the session, CHA will facilitate a virtual gathering to enrich the participants' experience and foster continued dialogue.

Session Four

OCTOBER 6 – 8, 2027

THEME: COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

- ✦ Emerging issues in Catholic health care
- ✦ Ecclesial relations and sponsorship
- ✦ Formation as a life-long journey

Participants will explore the emerging issues facing Catholic healthcare and why ecclesial relations are essential to the sponsor ministry.

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify current issues in U.S. health care and their impact on the Catholic health ministry.
- Appreciate the essential relationship between the sponsor and the Church.
- Understand the essential role of the laity in the ministry of sponsorship.
- Appreciate the importance of a commitment to ongoing formation for sponsorship.

Following the session, CHA will facilitate a virtual gathering to enrich the participants' experience and foster continued dialogue.



*We Will Empower Bold Change
to Elevate Human Flourishing.SM*





THE SHARED STATEMENT OF IDENTITY FOR THE CATHOLIC HEALTH MINISTRY

We are the people of Catholic health care, a ministry of the Church, continuing Jesus' mission of love and healing today. As provider, employer, advocate, citizen – bringing together people of diverse faiths and backgrounds – our ministry is an enduring sign of health care rooted in our belief that every person is a treasure, every life a sacred gift, every human being a unity of body, mind and spirit.

We work to bring alive the Gospel vision of justice and peace. We answer God's call to foster healing, act with compassion and promote wellness for all persons and communities, with special attention to our neighbors who are poor, underserved and most vulnerable. By our service, we strive to transform hurt into hope.

AS THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH CARE, WE COMMIT TO:

- ✦ Promote and Defend Human Dignity
- ✦ Attend to the Whole Person
- ✦ Care for Poor and Vulnerable Persons
- ✦ Promote the Common Good
- ✦ Act on Behalf of Justice
- ✦ Steward Resources
- ✦ Serve as a Ministry of the Church

Learn More

For more information, contact:

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