



Working to Reduce Poverty in America

April 22, 2019

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a statement regarding the proposed merger between SunTrust Bank and BB&T and our work with the SunTrust Foundation. I am writing on behalf of Catholic Charities USA regarding our work with the Sun Trust Bank Foundation over the past four years.

Catholic Charities USA is the national membership office which represents a network of more than 165 member agencies that provide direct human services in all 50 states and the U. S. Territories. In 2017, this network provided assistance to more than 8 million individuals nationwide through the many programs designed to reduce poverty and support long-term stability.

Catholic Charities USA has had two national grants from the Foundation, the first of which began in 2015 that allowed our national membership office to train agency staff in evidence-based practice aimed at increasing financial stability for those served by our network. A second grant was secured in 2017 to train member agencies active in the SunTrust service area on new techniques and program models that help families succeed. These trainings have been diverse, including a *train the trainer* on a curriculum to help families build early literacy skills with their children and ensure that they are kindergarten-ready; *Your Money, Your Goals*, a financial stability curriculum developed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; and later this year, a two-day training program on integrating financial coaching within human services. This work has allowed Catholic Charities USA to train more than 150 agency staff who, in turn, touched the lives of an estimated 25,000 individuals and families served in local programs.

The Foundation has been a strong partner in helping our network stay abreast of emerging and evidence-based practice. The SunTrust Foundation listened and responded to our needs and requests where our missions aligned.

We hope we can continue this fruitful relationship as SunTrust and BB&T evolve in this proposed merger.

Sincerely,  


Jane Stenson  
Vice President, Food and Nutrition/Poverty Reduction Strategies

Chair  
Charles Cornelio

President & CEO  
Sr. Donna Markham OR, PhD

Vice Chair  
Robert McCann

Secretary  
Martina O'Sullivan

Treasurer  
Michael Connelly



2050 Ballenger Avenue, Suite 400, Alexandria, VA 22314 | Phone: 703-549-1390 | Fax: 703-549-1656  
[www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org)