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FACES State Commission Toolkit

Implementing the President's Faith-Based and Community Initiative at the Corporation for National and Community Service

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Background

Programs within the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) of partnering with and distributing resources to community organizations (both the signing of Executive Orders and the establishment of the White House Off Community Initiatives, President George W. Bush has made it a priority of the HHS, HUD, Education, Agriculture, and the Agency for International Development charged with enhancing its outreach and engagement of these two target populations, but as part of the way CNCS does business. Faith and Communities the CNCS implementation of the president's initiative.

Starting with the Glass Half Full

The most important step to implementing this initiative is to start with the glass concerns about the separation of church and state have caused government faith organizations (FBOs), and community-based organizations (CBOs) alike to avoid assume something cannot happen. Rather, begin by asking the appropriate questions that fall within the law. Try to be fair and equitable, but take a problem-solving approach to make a partnership work. For help with knowing what to do when an issue is complex from legal counsel. Check out state requirements as well as federal and CNCS and [Appendix C.](#))

What the Initiative Is and Is Not

The Faith-Based and Community Initiative (FBCI) seeks to level the playing field for community, and grassroots organizations equal access, the eligibility to compete for organizations for public funding. "Unlevel Playing Field," the report issued by the details the barriers and inequities in funding experienced by community organizations based) when trying to compete for government resources. ([See Appendix D.](#)) special treatment or special advantage for these groups such as reducing administrative burden does it seek to create funding resources set aside specifically for these groups existing barriers in order to allow such organizations to compete equally and fairly.

Building Social Capital, Mobilizing Volunteers, Solving Community Problems: The Faith-based and Community Initiative and CNCS

Community organizations, faith-based and secular, play a critical role in strengthening neighborhoods and communities, mobilizing residents to address community issues and delivering direct services across a broad spectrum to address critical unmet needs. Community organizations serve to enhance the development of social capital and infrastructure. They tend to be staffed by residents and members who reflect the diversity of shared experiences, who have walked in their neighbor's shoes. Services delivered tend to:

- respond to the felt needs of the community they originate from
- grow out of a desire to serve others, particularly the less fortunate
- solve problems present in the population they serve
- mobilize residents or members as volunteers for service delivery
- be physically present in the neighborhood
- better represent the ethnic and language diversity of the neighborhood
- build relationships in addition to delivering services.

Research demonstrates the positive contributions of FBOs specifically to public well-being measures in America. A handout is provided that outlines the statistics on civil society, building social capital, mobilizing volunteers, and solving community problems.

Definitions

Defining the key terms for the Faith-Based and Community Initiative has been challenging. AmeriCorps guidelines offer the following definitions.

Community-Based Organization, Small

Following Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines, the Corporation for National and Community Service defines a community-based organization as an organization where its headquarters or service location is in the neighborhood of the clients served.

Faith-Based Organization

Following the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines, the Corporation for National and Community Service defines Faith-Based Organizations to include: (1) a religious congregation (church, mosque, synagogue, or other religious organization, program or project sponsored/hosted by a religious congregation or organization); (2) a nonprofit organization founded by a religious congregation or organization; (3) a nonprofit organization with a religiously motivated mission, or religiously motivated institution; or (4) a collaboration of organizations that clearly identifies itself as a faith-based organization from the previously described categories.

Intermediary Organization

National, regional, state, or local organizations that agree to provide the technical assistance to assist community or faith-based organizations that do not have the capacity to apply for a Corporation grant. Intermediaries serve as the legal applicant for a Corporation grant, thereby enabling organizations to manage a federal grant when no other organizations are in place. Successful new applicants and continuing applicants demonstrate partnerships with these community organizations, through such as providing office space, host sites, or partnering for volunteer recruitment.

The Challenges

The challenges facing community organizations (secular and faith-based) include:

- Lack of experience/capacity in dealing with the fiscal, administrative, and

associated with applying for, accepting, and utilizing government and

- Concern about the implications of government intrusion or monitoring.

Questions raised by State Commissions about implementing this initiative hav

- What are the expectations for State Commissions in implementing this
- How are community organizations (secular and faith-based) being defi
- How do State Commissions establish a baseline and measure progres
- What is the role of the State Commission in connection with other age
- initiative?
- Who are these community organizations (secular and faith-based) and
- What are effective strategies to build the capacity of this target audien
- How best to manage the increasing expectation for monitoring and acc
- building needs of community organizations (secular and faith-based)?
- What other resources exist to support this initiative and these organiza
- How to manage the time-intensive demands on the part of staff with th

The challenge of granting more small awards vs. a few large ones is the same other local, state, and federal agencies seeking to level the playing field for co and faith-based). Examples of emerging strategies to deal with these challeng or existing coalitions to serve as grantees to manage and distribute members and faith-based); issuing planning grants to prepare applicants for the process management strategies to implement the initiative.

The Benefits

Anticipated benefits or outcomes for this initiative include:

- Equal access for community organizations (secular and faith-based) to
- An increase in direct services being developed and delivered at a gras
- An increase in the outreach to and diversity of volunteers at a grassroc
- An impact on the infrastructure of neighborhoods and communities.
- An impact on the quality of life at the individual and community level.

The Toolkit

This Toolkit seeks to provide State Commissions and other grantees with the i outputs, and resources (see [Appendix G](#) and [Appendix H](#)) that will make the ir Community Initiative into the way they do business more effective, efficient, ar

The Toolkit is organized into seven components.

1. [Establish a Baseline](#)
2. [Conduct an Environmental Scan](#)
3. [Develop the Commission's Strategy](#)
4. [Reach Out to New Organizations](#)
5. [Collaborate with Intermediaries/Coalitions](#)
6. [Help New Organizations Build Capacity](#)
7. [Define Accountability / Monitoring / Outcomes](#)

The format for each section includes a description of the component; the challenges in implementing the component; and specific strategies, outputs, and tools to implement into the design and content of the Toolkit has been drawn from 12 State Commissions in Arkansas, Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Maine, Montana, Ohio, and South Carolina.

Do you have input, comments, or suggestions?

The contact information for the FACES Initiative is FACES@ncpc.org or call 1-800-368-5848. We are encouraged to contribute effective practices, tools, or resources from State Commissions to TA providers. In addition, please use this information to ask questions, request suggestions.

Tool Type	Title	Purpose	Location
Policy	Executive Order The White House, George W. Bush January 2001	This Executive Order outlines the establishment of the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiative.	Appendix A www.whitehouse.gov/news/rel2.html
Policy	Executive Order 13198 The White House, George W. Bush January 2001	This Executive Order outlines the agency responsibilities with respect to Faith-based and Community Initiative.	Appendix A www.whitehouse.gov/news/rel3.html
Policy	Executive Order The White House, George W. Bush December 2002	This Executive Order outlines the equal protection of the laws for faith-based and community organizations	Appendix A www.whitehouse.gov/news/rel5.html <i>Introduction</i>
Policy	Executive Order The White House, George W. Bush December 2002	This Executive Order outlines the responsibilities for the Department of Agriculture and the Agency for International Development	Appendix A www.whitehouse.gov/news/rel6.html <i>Introduction</i>
Reference	White House	Home page for	www.whitehouse.gov /governn

	Office of Faith-based and Community Initiative	the White House's FBCI initiative. This includes information about upcoming conferences, grant opportunities, related legislation, and the other cabinet Centers for the FBCI.	
Reference	Corporation for National and Community Service	Latest news for CNCS including the Faith-based and Community Initiative	www.nationalservice.org/what
Reference	Department of Housing and Urban Development	HUD's Center for Faith-based and Community Initiative	www.hud.gov/offices/fbci/inde
Reference	Department of Health and Human Services	HHS's Center for Faith-based and Community Initiative	www.hhs.gov/fbci/
Reference	Department of Labor	DOL's Center for Faith-based and Community Initiative	www.dol.gov/cfbci/
Reference	Department of Education	DED's Center for Faith-based and Community Initiative	www.ed.gov/offices/OIIA/faitf
Reference	Department of Justice	DOJ's Center for Faith-based and Community Initiative	www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fbci/about
Reference	2004 AmeriCorps Guidance	AmeriCorps guidance for Faith-based and Community Initiative	Appendix B
Reference	FAQ and CNCS Civil Rights Statement Office of General Counsel	These documents clarify the CNCS policy for recruiting AmeriCorps members into faith-based organizations, prohibited activities, and	Appendix C

		how antidiscrimination protections should be applied in CNCS programs.	
Reference	Guidance to Faith-Based and Community Organizations	This document offers guidance to community organizations on partnering with the federal government	Appendix C www.whitehouse.gov/governm
Reference	Government Partnerships with Faith-Based Service Providers: The State of the Law Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy December, 2002	This document outlines the results of an in-depth look at the state of the law including the Establishment Clause, state constitutional law, the law of employment discrimination, federal programs that invite FBOs, and state social service contracts	www.religionandsocialpolicy.org/2002_state_of_the_law.pdf
Study	Unlevel Playing Field: Barriers to Participation by FBOs / CBOs in Federal Social Service Programs The White House August 2001	This report summarizes the initial findings from the five cabinet centers on barriers impeding religious and grassroots organizations seeking to serve the common good in collaboration with the federal government. Some of the findings include the following: -Small FBOs receive very little federal support relative to the size and scope of the social services they provide.	Appendix D www.whitehouse.gov/news/rel

		<p>-There is a widespread bias against FBOs/ CBOs in federal social service programs.</p> <p>-There are needlessly burdensome administrative creations required of FBOs.</p> <p>-Charitable Choice has been almost entirely ignored by federal administrators.</p> <p>-Some FBOs/ CBOs do receive financial support.</p> <p>-An outline of the 15 barriers found between the federal system and FBOs/ CBOs.</p>	
Reference	Key Court Cases	Summarizes key court cases in federal and state law surrounding the funding of FBOs with public funding. A review of each state is provided.	Available on Request from FAI
Handout	Contributions of FBOs	This handout highlights key findings of nearly 700 studies citing benefits of FBOs. It includes statistics on charitable giving; volunteer service; and positive impacts on health, safety, and well-being measures.	Appendix E
Reference	Developing Definitions for	This document offers helpful	Appendix F

	FBOs and CBOs	background to assist the Commission to develop its own definitions of community organizations (secular and faith-based).	
Reference	Working Group on Human Needs	This segment of the report completed by the Working Group is a matrix designed to help define the range of faith-based organizations.	Appendix F www.working-group.org/report
Reference	Summary of Studies and Articles	This summarizes studies related to the Faith-based and Community Initiative including those from Working Group, Hudson Institute, and Public and Private Ventures.	Appendix G
Reference	Background Resources	This list provides additional contacts for policy, research, and university studies as well as topical reading suggestions.	Appendix H

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