

Religion and Domestic Violence

Information and Resources

KEY ISSUE

Funding for Faith-Based Organizations



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KEY ISSUE

Funding for Faith-Based Organizations

In 2001, an Executive Order was issued creating the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (Office of The White House, 2006). The goals of faith-based initiatives are to identify and eliminate barriers for faith and community-based organizations in the provision of social services; provide equal opportunities to grassroots organizations, both secular and religious, to compete for federal dollars; and encourage greater public financial support for these organizations (White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, 2001). While Congress crafts legislation to regulate faith-based organizations receiving federal funds, individual Faith-Based and Community Initiatives offices within seven cabinet departments (US Departments of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Education, Labor, Justice, and Agriculture) have taken steps to move the initiatives forward by providing information on funding, technical assistance, and other resources available to faith-based and community organizations.

In January 2002, Congress appropriated the first funding for the Compassion Capital Fund (CCF) within the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. This funding has continued at an annual level of \$30 million. The CCF is a key component of the President's Faith-Based and Community Initiative and has the primary purpose of "helping faith-based and community organizations increase their effectiveness, enhance their ability to provide social services to serve those most in need, expand their organizations, diversify their funding sources, and create collaborations to better serve those in need" (HHS, 2006). The CCF reflects the administration's belief "that faith-based and community organizations are uniquely situated to partner with the government in serving poor and low-income individuals and families, particularly those with the greatest needs such as families in poverty, prisoners reentering the community, homeless families, and at-risk youth" (HHS, 2006).

The CCF administers two grant programs: the Demonstration Program and the Targeted Capacity Building Program. The Demonstration Program funds intermediary organizations to provide training, technical assistance and capacity-building sub-awards to assist in the development and expansion of local faith- and community-based organizations. The Targeted Capacity Building Program provides a one-time \$50,000 award to increase the capacity of faith- and community-based organizations to serve targeted social service priority areas. CCF funding is also available to support research regarding the role of faith- and community-based organizations that provide social services in their communities and the impact on the lives of the individuals they serve, as well as the establishment of a national resource center and clearinghouse (HHS, 2006). Further information on CCF can be accessed through the website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccf/>.

HHS (2005) also publishes the *Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives: Grant Opportunities Notebook*. The *Notebook* provides basic information for each funding opportunity, including: the agency within HHS administering the grant, contact person and information, web site, when the grant is announced, whether subcontracting is permitted, total allocation and the funding type. A copy of the *Notebook* is enclosed in this information packet and is available to download in PDF format from the HHS website (<http://www.hhs.gov/fbci/GrntNtbkINTRACTV2.pdf>) or by contacting HHS directly by telephone at 877-696-6775.

Through the provision of technical assistance and resource guides such as the *Notebook*, barriers to receiving federal funding are being eliminated and doors are being opened to allow faith-based and community organizations to compete equally for funding. As new organizations receive funding to provide social services, including services to victims and survivors of domestic violence and their children, it becomes increasingly important for existing programs to establish partnerships and collaborations with other service providers in their area to ensure that the needs of battered women and their children are met.

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Works Cited

Office of the White House (2006). *Unlevel Playing Field: Barriers to Participation by Faith-based and Community Organizations in Federal Social Service Programs*. Retrieved April 2003 from: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/08/unlevelfield.html>

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ENCLOSURES

The enclosed materials (reprinted with permission) provide research findings, examples of promising projects and referral materials that offer basic information on religion and domestic violence:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2005). *Center for Faith-based and Community Initiatives: Grant Opportunities Notebook*. Retrieved February 2005 from: <http://www.hhs.gov/fbci/GrntNtbkINTRACTV2.pdf>.

