

Greetings from the Director

It is my privilege to serve as Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. President Bush has charged our Office with strengthening the partnership between the Federal government and those faith-based and community groups that provide compassionate care and produce impressive results. Over the years, I have seen firsthand what faith-based and other community organizations are capable of doing. They transform the lives of their struggling neighbors and restore their dignity; improve communities; and reform our hopes, expectations, and standards of success. The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and the Agency Centers are changing the needless rules and regulations that discourage these organizations from working with the Federal government to serve those most in need. And we are reaching out to grassroots groups so that they do not remain strangers to a Federal government that needs their help. Our Office and its partners throughout the Federal government are committed to working with those people who can bring hope and a better life to those in need.

Jim Towey, Assistant to the President



“Because one of the deepest values of our country is compassion, we must never turn away from any citizen who feels isolated from the opportunities of America. Our government will continue to support faith-based and community groups that bring hope to harsh places.”

President George W. Bush
February 2, 2005

White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

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Department of Education
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Department of Health and Human Services
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Department of Homeland Security
810 7th St., NW
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www.dhs.gov/fbci

Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th St., SW
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www.hud.gov/offices/fbci/index.com

Department of Justice
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Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420
(202) 273-7499
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Small Business Administration
409 3rd St., SW, 8th Floor
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WHITE HOUSE Faith-Based & Community Initiative

Faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) have a long tradition of helping Americans in need and together represent an integral part of our nation's social service network. Yet, all too often, the Federal government has put in place complicated rules and regulations preventing FBCOs from competing for funds on an equal footing with other organizations. President Bush believes that besides being inherently unfair, such an approach can waste taxpayer dollars and cut off the poor from successful programs. Federal

funds should be awarded to the most effective organizations — whether public or private, large or small, faith-based or secular — and all must be allowed to compete on a level playing field.

WHITE HOUSE
FAITH-BASED
AND
COMMUNITY
INITIATIVES

The Initiative in Action

President Bush created the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in eleven Federal agencies to lead a determined attack on need by strengthening and expanding the role of FBCOs in providing social services. The Federal government has worked to accomplish this mission through an array of regulatory and policy reforms, legislative efforts, and public outreach to FBCOs. Additionally, by making information about Federal grants more accessible and the application process less burdensome, the Initiative has empowered FBCOs to compete more effectively for funds. The ultimate beneficiaries are America's poor, who are best served when the Federal government's partners are the providers most capable of meeting their needs.



Goals of the Initiative

- **Identifying** and **eliminating** barriers that impede the full participation of FBCOs in the Federal grants process.
- **Ensuring** that Federally-funded social services administered by State and local governments are consistent with equal treatment provisions.
- **Encouraging** greater corporate and philanthropic support for FBCOs' social service programs through public education and outreach activities.
- **Pursuing** legislative efforts to extend charitable choice provisions that prevent discrimination against faith-based organizations, protect the religious freedom of beneficiaries, and preserve the religious hiring rights of faith-based charities.

Increasing Accessibility

The underlying premise of the President's Initiative is that a more open and competitive Federal grant-making process will increase the delivery of effective social services to those whose needs are the greatest. The Federal agencies have successfully undertaken a variety of measures to level the playing field in the Federal grants process, including:

- **Making** information more accessible;
- **Providing** training and technical assistance;
- **Broadening** program eligibility;
- **Changing** regulations;
- **Streamlining** grant applications;
- **Focusing** on the unique needs of grassroots organizations; and
- **Eliminating** preferential treatment for existing and former grantees.



White House Conferences

The White House is hosting a series of regional conferences and targeted workshops to continue its support for the work of effective faith-based and community social service programs. The events will provide participants with information about the government grants process and available funding opportunities, an overview of the legal responsibilities that come with the receipt of Federal funds, and various grant writing tutorials. The conferences will also provide an opportunity to inform State and local officials about the agencies' equal treatment regulations and other central elements of the Faith-Based and Community Initiative.

The conferences are co-hosted by the Departments of Justice, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Education, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security, the Agency for International Development, and the Small Business Administration.

Written Documents

The White House Office has published several written resources to assist grassroots groups in navigating the Federal grants system. These documents include *Federal Funds for Organizations That Help Those In Need* (a catalog of Federal grant opportunities), *Guidance to Faith-Based and Community Organizations on Partnering with the Federal Government* (a guide to the legal responsibilities associated with the receipt of Federal funds), and *Protecting the Civil Rights and Religious Liberty of Faith-Based Organizations* (a booklet which outlines the protection of religious hiring rights). These documents are available at www.fbc.org.

