

How To Partner Effectively With Faith-based Organizations

**National Crime Prevention Council
2006**



GOALS



- Review the history of faith-based community initiatives
- Outline the legal guidelines for engaging faith-based organizations
- Survey helpful resources



DEFINITIONS



What is the difference between a community-based organization and a faith-based organization?



Community-based Organizations

- Most people refer to community organizations as those whose governing structure involves members of the community.
- Some even use the zip codes of board members to determine if an organization is community-based.



Faith-based Organizations

- Religious congregations (church, mosque, synagogue, temple, etc.)
- Organizations, programs, or projects operated or sponsored by religious congregations
- Nonprofit organizations that clearly show by their mission statements, policies and/or practices that they are religiously motivated or religiously guided institutions



Overview of Faith-based Community Initiatives

- Work of faith-based organizations not new
- Executive orders
- White House Office for Faith-Based Community Initiatives (FBCI)
- Cabinet-level Faith-based Centers
- Purpose: Level the playing field



FBCI: National Overview

- The FBCI's intent is to level the playing field for community organizations (secular and faith-based) to partner with the federal government.
- In January 2001, President George W. Bush signed executive orders requiring five agencies to set up offices to respond to this initiative. In December 2002, he added two more agencies.

The agencies are Labor, Education, Health and Human Services, Justice, Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, and the Agency for International Development.



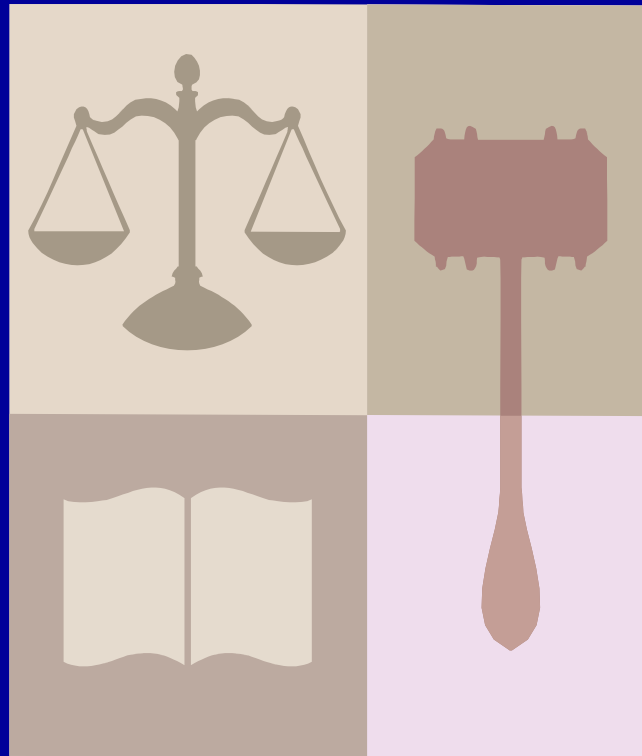
FBCI: National Overview

The administration asked agencies to achieve progress in the following five areas by July 1, 2005.

- Barrier removal (state level)
- Outreach and technical assistance
- Metrics
- Pilots and demonstrations
- Evaluation



Looking at the Legal Guidelines



LEGAL DOS AND DON'TS

QUIZ



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Legal Dos: What's Okay?

Summary of Legal Analysis

- Direct financial support from federal agencies to faith-based organizations is permitted for secular activity.
- Indirect support (vouchers, beneficiary choice) is allowed as long as there is a genuine, independent choice among religious and secular options.
- Faith-based organizations are permitted to retain their religious identities.



Legal Dos: What's Okay?

Summary of Legal Analysis

- Faith-based organizations are generally exempt from employment discrimination based on religion.
- Federal funds can pay for staff time as long as that time is not being used for religious instruction, worship, or proselytizing.
- The services provided must be available to everyone regardless of religion.



Legal Dos: What's Okay?

Helpful Hints for FBOs

- Separate religious and secular (federally funded) activities by space and/or time.
- Create separate bank accounts for secular activities that have federal or government funding.
- Anticipate how to handle potential conflicts or issues.



Legal Dos and Don'ts: Resources

Where to go for more help...

- White House guidelines
- The Roundtable for Religion and Social Welfare Policy
- The Corporation for National and Community Service
- Program director/state commission
- Your own legal counsel



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Contributions of FBOs

- Social capital
- Pro-social impacts
- Role of faith-based organizations in addressing community health and safety problems
- Continuum of focus for services
 - Members/congregation
 - Community/program services
 - Humanitarian/national/international



Assets of FBOs



- Membership and youth groups
- Property and meeting space
- Presence in the community
- Volunteer mobilization
- Information dissemination mechanism
- Community leadership
- Social justice/public health/safety advocacy



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Five Resiliencies

Based on National Longitudinal Survey

- Significant Adults
- Altruism—Service
- Hope—Faith
- Skills—Positive alternatives
- Locus of Control—Voice/ownership



Ways FBOs Can Help

- Meeting space
- Communication/Education
- Can be a coalition member
- Sponsor alcohol-free activities for youth
- Volunteers
- Consistent messages from pulpit
- Parent training
- Accountability/expectations



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Examples of FBO Partnerships

- Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Brocton, Massachusetts
 - Prisoner Reentry



Examples of FBO Partnerships

- Hope Now For Youth, Fresno, California
 - Vocational Placement for Gang-Involved Youth



Resources



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Resources



- White House
www.whitehouse.gov
- The Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy
www.religionandsocialpolicy.org
- The Corporation for National and Community Service
www.nationalservice.org
- National Criminal Justice Reference Service
www.ncjrs.gov



Resources

- Faith and Service Technical Education Network

www.fastennetwork.org

- Center for Public Justice

www.cpjustice.org/charitablechoice

- Administration for Children and Families

www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccf



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Resources

- List of intermediaries
- *Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches* (National Council of Churches)
- *Federal Funds for Organizations that Help Those in Need* (White House)
- *Changing Communities through Faith in Action* (NCPC)
- Community Service Block Grants



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