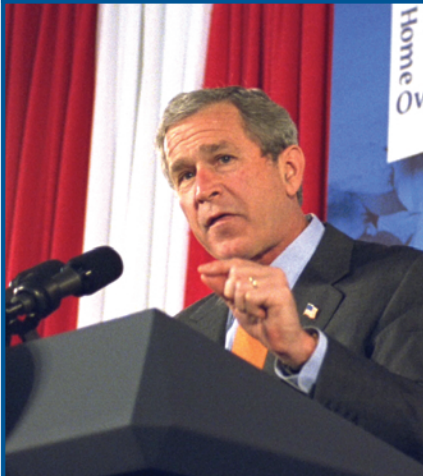


WHITE HOUSE
FAITH-BASED
AND
COMMUNITY
INITIATIVES



“We ought not to fear faith, we ought not to discriminate against faith-based programs. We ought to welcome what I call neighborhood healers in the compassionate delivery of help so that people can experience the greatness of our country. I like to say, government can pass out money, but it cannot put hope in people’s hearts, or purpose in people’s lives.”

*President George W. Bush
July 16, 2003*

President Bush’s Faith-Based & Community Initiative

Our country is blessed with a long tradition of and honorable commitment to assisting individuals, families, and communities who have not fully shared in America’s prosperity. But despite efforts by the Federal and State governments to battle social distress, too many of our neighbors still suffer from poverty and despair. In every corner of America, people of all ages and walks of life are calling out for help.

- **Approximately 13 million children under the age of 18 – almost a fifth of America’s young people – go hungry or are at risk of being hungry**
- **Close to 2 million children have a parent in prison**
- **Last year, 22 million Americans had substance dependence or abuse problems**
- **There are 42 million people in the world living with HIV/AIDS and close to 900,000 of these people live in the United States**

For years, faith-based and community groups have been assisting these people and others in need. They have transformed lives with their compassion and are America’s unsung heroes – healing our country’s ills one heart and one act of kindness at a time.

Unfortunately, the Federal government has often not been a willing partner to these faith-based and community groups. Instead, it has put in place complicated rules and regulations that hinder these groups from competing for Federal funds on an equal footing with other, larger charities. President Bush wants to change this. He believes that all groups – faith-based or secular, large or small – should compete on a level playing field, so long as they obey all legal requirements. That is the reason for the President’s Faith-Based and Community Initiative and why it is one of his top domestic priorities.



The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and the Agency Centers collaborate closely to support the essential work of all charities. Their goal is to make sure that effective faith-based and community organizations compete on an equal footing for Federal dollars, face fewer bureaucratic barriers, and receive greater private support.

WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

One of President Bush's first official acts as President was to create the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. The Office was tasked at its inception with leading a "determined attack on need" by strengthening and expanding the role of faith-based and community organizations in addressing the nation's social problems. The President envisions a faith-friendly public square where faith-based organizations can compete equally with other groups to provide government or privately-funded services.

President Bush also created Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in seven cabinet departments – the United States Departments of Justice, Agriculture, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Education and the Agency for International Development – to promote the Initiative.

Activities of the White House Office

- Working legislatively to encourage the good works of faith-based and community organizations and give them the fullest opportunity permitted by law to compete for Federal funding
- Identifying and eliminating improper Federal barriers to the full participation of faith-based and community-serving programs in the provision of social services
- Encouraging greater corporate and philanthropic support for faith-based and community organizations through public education and outreach activities

Priority Areas

The White House Office strives to support organizations that serve people in need, particularly those that serve the following populations:

- At-risk youth
- Ex-offenders
- Homeless and hungry
- Substance abusers
- Those with HIV/AIDS
- Welfare-to-work families

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCES ON FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The White House Conferences on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives provide participants with information about the Federal funding process, available funding opportunities, the requirements that come with the receipt of Federal funds, and cutting-edge practices from other organizations. The White House is hosting the Conferences with support from the Departments of Justice, Agriculture, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Education and the Agency for International Development.

RESOURCES FOR GRASSROOTS GROUPS SEEKING FEDERAL FUNDS

Every year, the Federal government spends billions of dollars for health and human service programs. There are thousands of faith-based and community organizations across the country that receive Federal funds. Although the use of government money by faith-based and community organizations is not new, there are many small grassroots organizations that still have questions about the Federal funding process. They wonder, “How can we find out about Federal funding opportunities?” They ask, “If we get money from the Federal government, what legal requirements will we have to follow?”

The White House Office and the seven Agency Centers can help.

Internet Resources – The White House Office has put together a list of close to 200 Federal programs that your organization may be interested in. You can use this list, which is available at www.fbc.gov, as a starting point for learning more about specific programs. The Agency Centers’ websites contain more information about specific initiatives and programs administered by their Departments.

Legal Guidance – The White House Office website also offers some guidelines on the legal requirements that can come along with Federal funding. These “dos and don’ts” answer some of the questions that faith-based and community groups most frequently ask.

Compassion Capital Fund – Assistance may also be available from one of over thirty organizations funded by the Department of Health and Human Services’ Compassion Capital Fund. These intermediary organizations have received grants to provide training, technical assistance, and sub-awards to a diverse range of faith-based and community organizations seeking to increase their ability to provide social services to those in need. Technical assistance activities are offered free of charge and focus on strategic planning; financial management; board development; fundraising; and outcome measurement. You can learn more about the Compassion Capital Fund at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccf.



“What faith-based programs say, time after time, is that miracles are possible. Faith-based programs work. They are able to address the deepest needs of our heart. But first, let me say, government has no business funding religious worship or teaching. However, our government should support the good work of religious people who are changing America. This means that when government gives contracts to provide social services, religious groups should have an equal chance to compete. And when we make decisions on public funding, we should not focus on the religion you practice, but on the results you deliver.”

*President George W. Bush,
October 29, 2003*

SOME BASIC FACTS ABOUT FEDERAL GRANTS

The Federal government uses two kinds of grants.

1 There are grants handed out directly by a Federal agency to a local social service organization (also known as “discretionary” grants). An example of this type of grant is a homeless assistance grant given out by the Department of Health and Human Services to a homeless shelter.

2 There are grants that put Federal money in the hands of States, cities, or counties for them to distribute to charities and other social service providers, usually under their own rules and regulations (also known as “formula” or “block” grants).

Therefore, you can apply directly to the Federal government or you can apply to a State or locality that distributes money it receives from the Federal government.

An Important Point – More Federal money is available from programs administered by States and localities than from the Federal government. For example, last year, the Department of Health and Human Services awarded significantly more money to States and localities, which in turn made much of the money available to non-governmental organizations, than it gave directly to grant applicants.



“Our strength is in the hearts and souls of American citizens, people from all faiths, all walks of life – whether they be Christian, Jew, or Muslim, or Hindu, people have heard the universal call to love a neighbor just like they’d like to be called themselves. There are some whose problems can only be solved when a brother or sister puts their arm around you and says, ‘I love you; what can I do to help you.’”

*President George W. Bush
October 8, 2003*

Important Contact Information

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