



Dear Colleagues:

On December 12, 2002, President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13279 calling for equal treatment of faith-based and community groups that apply for federal funding. This order was aimed at providing faith and community groups with opportunities to receive federal funds without compromising their beliefs or autonomy.

Faith-based and community organizations play a vital role in maintaining the safety of our neighborhoods, towns, and cities. These organizations are often critical components of an effective public safety strategy, providing valuable services to the community and helping state and local governments with their criminal justice needs where gaps exist.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is committed to facilitating the collaboration among government criminal justice agencies and faith-based and community organizations. At BJA we have reviewed our existing policies and programs to ensure that faith-based and community organizations have the maximum latitude, within statutory confines, to be an integral part of the criminal justice system, consistent with the fundamental principles and criteria outlined by President Bush. We also have included, on the back of this flier, a list of resources that may be useful when developing such partnerships in your jurisdiction.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions. We look forward to working with you on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Domingo S. Herraiz  
Director, BJA



## **Equal Treatment for Faith-Based and Community Organizations**

Many programs within BJA offer faith-based and community organizations opportunities for funding through grants, subgrants, service contracts, or technical assistance services. These programs include:

- ★ Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.
- ★ Mental Health Courts Program.
- ★ Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative.
- ★ Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program.
- ★ Drug Courts Discretionary Grant Program.

For more information about these and other BJA initiatives or programs, visit our web site at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA) and click on Programs. If you have questions about this or any other BJA initiatives or programs, e-mail us at [AskBJA@usdoj.gov](mailto:AskBJA@usdoj.gov).



## Resources on the Faith-Based and Community Organizations Initiative

President's Executive Order on Faith-Based and Community Organizations  
[www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/12/20021212-6.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/12/20021212-6.html)

White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives  
[www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci](http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci)

U.S. Department of Justice Task Force for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives  
[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fbci](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fbci)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Faith-Based & Community Initiatives  
[www.health.org/initiatives/faithbased](http://www.health.org/initiatives/faithbased)

U.S. Department of Labor Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives  
[www.dol.gov/cfbci](http://www.dol.gov/cfbci)

Faith-Based and Community Organizations Involved in Criminal Justice  
[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry/sar/welcome.html](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry/sar/welcome.html)

*Guidance to Faith-Based and Community Organizations on Partnering with the Federal Government*  
[www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/guidance/index.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/guidance/index.html)

*Federal Funds for Organizations That Help Those in Need*  
[www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/GrantCatalog2004.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/GrantCatalog2004.pdf)

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
Washington, DC 20531  
Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use \$300



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