



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Website: www.rurdev.usda.gov

**FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
Public Outreach
BEST PRACTICES GUIDE**

Developed: June 2008

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STATE BEST
PRACTICES

BEST PRACTICES OF USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT STATE OFFICES:
HOW TO ENGAGE FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

These practices were collected from USDA Rural Development state offices. They are a resource for any employee interested in learning more about how to engage non-profit organizations in RD programs. The practices cover a range of important topics including outreach, technical assistance, and customer service.

WHAT: Keep a database of contacts.

WHY: Using a database will allow you maintain the ability to quickly send out helpful information updates to all contacts.

HOW:

- *Locate* nonprofit organizations, including churches or faith-based groups in the area; *add* the contact information to the database.
- *Maintain* a database of those who inquire about RD programs or attend an RD conference.
- *Send* updated information on new programs, funding availability, fact sheets and newsletters through the database to all contacts.

WHAT: Use local sources of information to find potential projects or partnership opportunities.

WHY: Using local information keeps RD staff informed about community needs, and allows them identify organizations and individuals who can benefit from RD programs.

HOW:

- Scan *newspapers* and *community websites* for articles on non-profit organizations and faith-based groups that are seeking assistance.
- Attend local *events* sponsored by organizations that could benefit from RD programs.
- Search the local *phone books* and *internet* for social service agencies to find new contacts.

WHAT: Encourage RD staff to get involved in the community.

WHY: Being involved will help staff better understand the needs of the community and allow them to serve as a helpful contact for local organizations.

How:

- Encourage RD staff to *volunteer* in the community and *join* community organizations.

WHAT: Communicate with FBCI Coordinators from other RD state offices, other departments/agencies, and State or local government offices.

WHY: Allows you to share ideas and best practices, and learn about possible partnership opportunities.

How:

- Attend one-on-one *meetings* with local community FBCI liaisons.
- *Communicate* with FBCI liaisons to publicize RD funding opportunities and learn about other programs that might be of interest to your nonprofit contacts.

WHAT: Actively participate in USDA, FBCI, RD, and other community conferences.

WHY: Participating in conferences keeps RD staff informed about community needs and creates the opportunity to promote RD programs and make contacts with potential applicants.

How:

- Participate in conferences by organizing a *booth* or table where RD staff can conduct outreach to visitors.
- Distribute *brochures* about RD and programs available.
- Provide staff as *presenters* in grant writing and other workshops.

WHAT: Network with local community leaders and government officials.

WHY: Forming relationships with local leaders allows you to publicize funding availabilities and RD programs, and to learn about partnership opportunities.

How:

- *Meet* with federal, state, and local government officials on a regular basis.
- Incorporate FBCI and RD programs into *discussions*.
- Stay in regular *contact* with regional economic developers, consulting engineers, and planning commissions.

WHAT: Visit bank loan officers regularly.

WHY: Forming these relationships gives banks an opportunity to better understand how RD programs can benefit lenders and borrowers to maximize opportunity.

How:

- Make regular *visits* to banks loan officers to develop a relationship.
- Regularly hold informational *meetings* with lenders to explain RD programs and incorporate information on FBCI and the Equal Treatment Rule.

WHAT: Provide detailed and personal assistance to organizations throughout the application process.

WHY: By giving timely, quality assistance in the pre-application and application process, organizations are more likely to turn in correct applications. This will expedite the process and save RD staff and the organization valuable time.

How:

- Schedule regular *meetings* with applicants.
- *Explain* the steps involved in the process and answer all questions.
- Provide technical, *hands-on instructions* through the entire application process and update the applicant with progress of the application.
- Keep *prepared application packages* on-hand to send out once the NOFA is published.

WHAT: Distribute questionnaires to funding recipients and conduct polls to judge service provided by RD.

WHY: The results of the polls and questionnaires will help RD staff assess the quality of service provided and identify areas for improvement.

How:

- After service from RD staff is rendered, provide recipient with a *questionnaire*.
- Conduct quarterly or annual *polls* of the organizations and individuals who have participated in RD programs.

WHAT: Publicize and promote RD programs and successes.

WHY: Promoting RD will create a positive image for the agency and inform the community about RD programs and funding availability.

How:

- Send *press releases* or submit *articles* to local newspapers to highlight any program changes or funding opportunities.
- Get *media coverage* of RD accomplishments so the public can see what programs are offered (i.e. check presentations, groundbreaking, ribbon cutting, etc).
- Post success stories to State Office *website*.
- Send out *brochures* describing all programs as an attachment to a monthly utility bill to residents of community.
- Note: All material produced must be sent to the National Office for preview prior to release. For examples, refer to the Iowa and Georgia FBCI brochures.

WHAT: Treat others the way you would want to be treated.

WHY: All staff should be using good business practices and complying with all civil rights laws and regulations.

How:

- If you say you will do something, *do it*.
- If you are unable to do something that has been requested, *explain* why you cannot.

NON-PROFIT BEST
PRACTICES

BEST PRACTICES FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:
HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY PARTNER WITH USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

These practices were collected from a variety of USDA Rural Development non-profit partners across the nation. They are a resource for any organization interested in Federal funding, especially those new to the process. The practices cover a range of topics and also apply to those seeking funding from other government sources.

WHAT: Stay informed of new grant announcements from RD and other funding availabilities.

WHY: Staying informed of funding opportunities will keep you prepared and ready for grant announcements and deadlines.

How:

- Sign-up on any *listserv* offered to receive Notices of Funding Availability (*NOFA*)
- Maintain *contact* with RD staff who can give advance notice of when funding opportunities become available.
- Sign-up for *Grants.gov*.

WHAT: Seek out funding from multiple government entities.

WHY: Diversifying funding streams will help ensure stability and provide leverage.

How:

- *Apply* for funds from all government entities (local, State, Federal).
- Stay informed of *government assistance* programs.

WHAT: Seek out established and successful organizations.

WHY: Established organizations are knowledgeable about grant-writing and grants management, and can offer advice based on their experiences.

HOW:

- Meet with established organizations and *ask* questions about the application process.
- Maintain contact with them and use them as a *resource*.
- Ask for referrals from RD state offices.

WHAT: Utilize community volunteers to offset staffing costs.

WHY: Volunteers will save your organization money, and experienced volunteers can share their knowledge and expertise.

HOW:

- Post *fliers* for needed volunteers.
- Use local *volunteer service providers* to quickly find available volunteers.
- Use local *graduate students* in MBA programs to conduct market research, develop a marketing plan, and critique financial and business management.

WHAT: Delegate tasks to staff.

WHY: Not all responsibility should be on one person in the organization. Delegating will ease stress and cause people to work together to get things done.

HOW:

- *Divide* application packages amongst staff and give timelines for due dates.
- Give each staff member a certain *responsibility*.

WHAT: Maintain contact with RD program staff.

WHY: RD program can discuss details of RD programs, answer questions, and help find other programs for which your organization may be eligible.

HOW:

- Form a *relationship* with the RD office staff and they will be a resource to your organization.
- Routinely *contact* the local area office to determine what RD programs may be available.

WHAT: Attend conferences.

WHY: Conferences can serve as an information resource about RD program and other programs and are a good place to make valuable contacts.

HOW:

- *Sign-up* on RD and FBCI email lists to learn about upcoming events.
- Attend various *workshops* at conferences and be sure to *network*.

WHAT: Promote your organization.

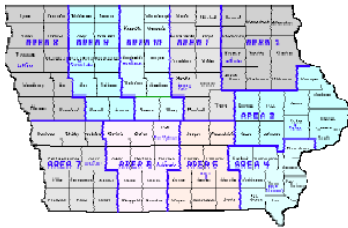
WHY: Advertising can give the organization a positive reputation.

HOW:

- Use the organization's *website* to feature success stories with pictures,
- *Advertise* the organization's efforts through newspapers, radio and television,
- Distribute *handouts* describing the organization,
- Host *events* that promote the organization's work,

Area Offices and Phone Numbers

Albia — 641-932-3031
 Atlantic — 712-243-2107
 Humboldt — 515-332-4411
 Indianola — 515-961-5365
 Iowa Falls — 641-648-5181
 Le Mars — 712-546-5149
 Mt. Pleasant — 319-986-5800
 Storm Lake — 712-732-1851
 Tipton — 563-886-6006
 Waverly — 319-352-1715



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Committed to the Future of Rural Communities

Every day, the dedicated staff at USDA Rural Development works to increase economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for the 1.9 million Iowans living in rural communities.

Rural Development programs help families find affordable homes and apartments, assist businesses to create economic opportunities and jobs for workers, and allow communities to build essential infrastructure and buildings offering valuable services to local citizens.

Rural Development is making a positive difference in America, ensuring rural communities are a healthy, safe and prosperous place to live and work.



USDA Rural Development State Office
 210 Walnut Street, Room 873
 Des Moines, Iowa 50309
 Phone: 515-284-4663
 Fax: 515-284-4859
 Web site www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia

Mark Reisinger, State Director



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Faith-Based and Community Initiative



Partnering with Faith-Based and Community Organizations

Helping Build Stronger, More Vibrant Rural Communities

Guiding Principles of the Faith-Based and Community Initiative

Level the playing field to allow the most effective organizations and programs, whether faith-based or secular, to partner with the federal government to provide the best services to those who are in need. There is no bias for, or against, religion or faith-based organizations.

Ensure that faith-based groups are not forced to change their character to partner with the federal government. A faith-based organization providing federally-funded benefits or services may retain religious terms in its name, religious art, icons, scriptures or other religious symbols in its facilities, and a religious mission statement. Its board of directors may be selected on a religious basis and may include clergy.

Protect the religious liberty of those seeking help from government-funded goods and services. No individual may be denied service because of religious affiliation, including lack of affiliation. No receipt of such services by a beneficiary may be conditioned upon his or her participation in religious activities.

There can be no direct government funding of inherently religious activities such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization. An organization may continue to engage in such activities, but they must be separate in time or location from the government-funded program, be voluntary for program beneficiaries, and be privately-funded.

Rural Development funds for acquisition, construction or rehabilitation cannot be used for improvements to principle places of worship, even if used for eligible activities during non-worship times. Funds can only be used to support the non-religious social services that they supply.

Community Facilities Direct Loans, Guaranteed Loans and Grants

- Provide funding for essential community facilities such as town halls, childcare centers, assisted living facilities, libraries and fire stations.

Rural Community Development Initiative

- Provides technical assistance to recipients to develop or increase their capacity to undertake housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

Rural Rental Housing Loans

- Provide affordable multi-family housing for very low, low, and moderate-income persons, including families, elderly and persons with disabilities.

Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Loans

- Provide loan guarantees by other lenders for development of affordable multi-family housing.

Farm Labor Housing Loans and Grants

- Provide decent, safe, and sanitary low-rent housing for domestic farm labor, on and off-farm site.

Rental Assistance

- Provides funding to existing and newly constructed Rural Rental Housing or Farm Labor Housing financed complexes to subsidize tenant rent.



Housing Preservation Grants

- Provide funding to sponsoring organizations to help with home repair, and rehabilitation of low and very low-income housing.

Technical and Supervisory Assistance Grants

- Provide funding to organizations to help support counseling and housing delivery programs.

Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance

- Provide funding to organizations to support innovative efforts that empower low-income individuals and families to build their own homes.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Technical Assistance Grants

- Provide funding to support enhanced learning and health care opportunities for rural residents.

Rural Business Enterprise Grants

- Finance and facilitate development of small and emerging private business enterprises.

For more information contact your local USDA Rural Development office or visit www.usda.gov/fbc



USDA-Rural Development helps communities help themselves!

USDA Rural Development has loan and grant programs for rural communities. Non-profits, both faith and community based, can apply for funds for essential community facilities or projects. Types of projects non-profits have been awarded funding include, but are not limited to, soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters, child care facilities, battered women's shelters and half-way houses. Some pursue affordable housing! We may be able to help you!

We can also help you find partners to leverage limited federal funds. We've learned that what one community can't do alone can be done with a little help. By bringing together federal, state, non-profit and for profit organizations, we can work together. It's a little like an old fashioned barn raising - hard to do by yourself, but achievable with help!

We can also provide technical assistance or meet with community leaders to explain our programs. We can facilitate a community coming to consensus on where to start!

Call us to set up a meeting or visit our website for more information: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ga>.

In Fiscal Year 2007, Rural Development invested over \$1 billion to help rural Georgia communities. Through USDA Rural Development:

- ✓ 807 families bought a home
- ✓ 2,052 jobs were created or saved
- ✓ 320 families made critical home repairs
- ✓ 10 communities installed water or sewer systems, serving 6,664 households
- ✓ Communities purchased police cars, fire trucks and emergency generators. They also renovated a hospital, a group home, a city hall and a public safety building.

All of this was possible with help from USDA Rural Development!



L to R: Angel Food Ministries in Monroe received \$6.2 million to expand a warehouse for their low cost food program that serves 39 states; a child care facility; a food bank serving rural counties.

Does your rural community need any of the following (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care facility | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifesaving Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced workforce training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> After school program | <input type="checkbox"/> Crisis hotline | <input type="checkbox"/> Computers for GED completion or adult ed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Low cost medical clinic | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical assistance on how to start |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Home | <input type="checkbox"/> Broadband access | <input type="checkbox"/> Assistance in setting up a nonprofit (501c3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Bank | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Battered women's shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group Home | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-family housing/apartment complex | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol or drug rehab facility | | |

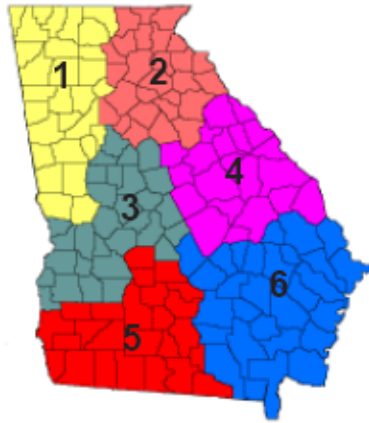
I'd like more information on how to work with USDA-Rural Development. Please contact me:

Name _____ E-mail _____ Phone _____

I live in _____ County.

Communities we've helped in the last few years. Is yours on the list?

- Alma ... Ball Ground ... Baxley ... Blackshear ... Blakely ... Bremen ... Brunswick ... Buena Vista ... Byron ... Cartersville ... Cave Spring ... Clarkesville ... Clayton ... Cochran ... Colquitt ... Concord ... Crawfordville ... Cuthbert ... Dalton ... Daltona ... Donaldsonville ... Fitzgerald ... Emerson ... Glennville ... Jasper ... Kingston ... Lafayette ... Louisville ... Lyerly ... Monticello ... Nicholson ... Mountain ... Reynolds ... Rockmart ... Sandersville ... Sparta ... Thomaston ... Thomson ... Wadley ... Waynesboro ... White ... Zebulon
- West Point ... Winder ... Winterville ... Washington ... Vidalia ... Waco ... Tallapoosa ... Tallapoosa ... Social Circle ... Shelman ... Ringgold ... Roberta ... Oak Park ... Pembroke ... Pine ... Macon ... Macon ... McCaysville ... Miller ... Lilly ... Lincoln ... Jeffersonville ... Kingstand ... Hamilton ... Hartwell ... Ivey ... Forsyth ... Ft. Valley ... Gainesville ... Douglas ... Eastman ... Elberton ... Ellijay ... Dallas ... Darden ... Dawsonville ... Dillard ... Blackshear ... Blakely ... Bremen ... Brunswick ... Buena Vista ... Byron ... Cartersville ... Cave Spring ... Clarkesville ... Clayton ... Cochran ... Colquitt ... Concord ... Crawfordville ... Cuthbert ... Dalton ... Daltona ... Donaldsonville ... Fitzgerald ... Emerson ... Glennville ... Jasper ... Kingston ... Lafayette ... Louisville ... Lyerly ... Monticello ... Nicholson ... Mountain ... Reynolds ... Rockmart ... Sandersville ... Sparta ... Thomaston ... Thomson ... Wadley ... Waynesboro ... White ... Zebulon



For help with Rural Development programs, contact the area office serving your county.

Area 1 - Cartersville 770-386-3393 david.huckabay@ga.usda.gov
 Area 2 - Monroe 770-267-1413 jane.ferguson@ga.usda.gov
 Area 3 - Macon 478-752-8121 nigel.parish@ga.usda.gov
 Area 4 - Waynesboro 706-554-7001 katherine.ross@ga.usda.gov
 Area 5 - Tifton 229-382-0273 godfrey.hinds@ga.usda.gov
 Area 6 - Baxley 912-367-3603 ricky.sweat@ga.usda.gov

State Office 706-546-2165 terry.dismuke@ga.usda.gov

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From:

Apply 1st
Class
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Here

Mr. Terry Dismuke
 Faith-Based Program Manager
 USDA Rural Development, Stop 301
 355 E. Hancock Ave.
 Athens, GA 30601

PRESENTATION - WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE - FAITH BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

We're going to do something different for the first part of our presentation. It's a beautiful day outside and we're going to take an imaginary car ride. Then Jerry will talk specifics about some of our programs that may be of the most interest to you.

OK, clear your minds and picture yourself out in the country driving down the road. You can let your eyes wander because traffic is light. All around you are varying shades of green and brown, trees, and blue sky....Mother Nature at work. Depending on where you are, there are wiffs of different smells in the air but underneath it all, the air smells crisp and clean.

Off to the right you see a big white water tower with PWSD 2 written on it - Public Water Supply District No. 2. You know the residents in the surrounding area have safe, clean water readily available to them.

In the distance, you can see a large apple orchard. Nearby is a building with workers coming in and out. The building houses the seasonal workers (and in some cases their families) that have come to pick the apples and ready them for market.

Down the road is a building sitting all by itself. There are several pick-up trucks out front. The building has two big bays. One houses a shiny red fire truck. The other holds an ambulance/rescue vehicle. The pick-up trucks belong to the volunteers manning the station. You notice a pole with an early warning siren on it. -- You'll see several of these during your drive.

Not too much further along the way is a building with a lot of activity. Some of the local farmers have banded together; formed a Cooperative so they can better market their products; and are engaged in value-added processing.

You know you're getting closer to town. On the left is a small industrial park. The roads are paved and there's lighting around the buildings and lots. The three businesses in the park provide about 125 jobs for residents in the surrounding area. The farmers that need to supplement their farm income no

longer have to drive 50 miles to a larger town to find employment. This little industrial park also provides an incentive for some of the children to return when they finish college and it gives the community income through a larger tax base.

You're almost in the town. You notice a complex of multi-unit rental housing. There's a playground and a woman in a wheel chair watching the children play. If you could see inside her apartment, you'd find widened hallways so she can navigate her wheel chair. The kitchen cabinets have been lowered and she can wheel right up to her sink. The bathroom is also wheel chair accessible. This allows her to continue to live independently. Because she receives rental assistance, she's able to provide for herself even on her low fixed income.

There's a subdivision of 11-1400 square foot homes. A young couple is outside one of the houses swinging their baby. They never imagined they'd be living the American dream this early in their lives together. They were able to purchase their home without a down payment and have a monthly payment they can handle. They now feel a sense of roots; this is someplace they want to stay. They've taken an interest in the community and are becoming involved.

As you get close to the main business district, you see a row of older homes. One of them catches your eye. It has a fresh coat of paint and a new roof. There's an elderly couple sitting on the porch, which has been rebuilt with a ramp leading up to the porch. If you could go inside, you'd find a new high efficiency furnace. For the first time in six years, they can turn their thermostat up to a comfortable level and not have to go without other necessities to pay the utility bill. Down the street, workers are making repairs to several other houses.

On the main street, you see a Library and one street over you can see the local Hospital which was recently renovated. Both buildings have broadband capabilities. The high speed internet connection at the Library allows residents access to any and everywhere. The Hospital is linked with a major university hospital several hundred miles away. The doctors can talk with each other which allows "specialist" treatment for the rural residents without the need for them to drive 200 miles.

One of the two churches in town is located on the next corner. There's a Meal on Wheels van out front and people are going in and out of the church carrying Styrofoam containers of food prepared in the church kitchen. They're getting ready to make their daily deliveries to the shut-ins and elderly.

Next door is a day care center. A lot of the workers in the industrial park use this facility. They know their children will be well cared for and safe.

As you start to reach the other end of town, you pass a locally owned gas station and a small grocery store. There's a 30 unit motel not far away.

The next thing you see is a new Community center. Inside is a meeting of local leaders and residents. They're going through a strategic planning process to determine the most important needs and wants of the community. Through the course of several meetings, they'll prioritize their goals and determine the best ways to reach them. A Rural Development employee is assisting them in this process.

You pass the county school. Inside is a room containing 35 computers, all linked with the same university 200 miles away. Through an interactive tele-video process, some of the high school seniors are taking college algebra and will receive college credit.

Close to the school is a new housing subdivision. More than just construction workers are helping to build the homes. These homeowners will realize the American dream because their houses will cost less thanks to their "sweat" equity.

Off to the left is a sewage treatment facility.

As you continue to drive on down the road, you get a sense that this rural town is going places. There's a permanence to it and you feel when next you happen to pass down this road, it will still be there and thriving.

PAUSE

And now you know what Rural Development does. All the things I pointed out along the way (and more), Rural Development can help make a reality. We do this through our grant and loan programs, by working with our many partners, and through the technical assistance we can offer to rural communities and residents.

If you live in a rural area or are working to assist rural residents and communities, check us out. There's much we can offer you and I think you'll relate well with us. The majority of our employees are rural residents living in towns just like the one we visited. We are your neighbors and truly understand the importance of the needs, hopes, and dreams you are trying to fulfill.

Don't forget to visit our booth where specific information is available from Missouri and Illinois RD.

Jerry will give you contact information at the end of his presentation.



Committed to the future of rural communities.

RD NEWS FLASH

United States Department of Agriculture - Rural
Development

World Wide Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/vt>

VERMONT and NEW HAMPSHIRE Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grants Programs December 12, 2007

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program (DLT) is designed specifically to meet the educational and health care needs of rural America.

- Through loans, grants, and loan and grant combinations, advanced telecommunications technologies provide enhanced learning and health care opportunities for rural residents.
- The DLT program has funded over **845 projects** in **48 states** and four US territories totaling **\$263 million**.
- Perhaps your organization can benefit from this program. Loan applications are accepted year round. We anticipate offering grant applications after the New Year.
- Want to learn more? Additional information and application packages are available by visiting www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm or by contacting Deborah Maguire, Deborah.maguire@vt.usda.gov or 802-828-6024.
- Please respond to Deborah.maguire@vt.usda.gov if you are interested in hearing about upcoming DLT learning opportunities. We are in the process of planning a teleconference workshop for February.
- Please tell a friend or associate! We want to spread the word about DLT.

www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm

Deborah Maguire, Community Programs Specialist
USDA Rural Development
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Montpelier, VT 05602
802-828-6024

Deborah.maguire@vt.usda.gov

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Federal Government Programs Forum ***For Faith-Based Organizations & Community-Based Organizations***

Where: Hoke Union Building, Room 309
Eastern Oregon University
One University Boulevard
LaGrande, OR 97850-2807

When: Tuesday, May 23, 2006
8:00 AM – 12:30 PM
(Registration 8 AM to 8:30 AM)

THIS IS FREE – Join us for this free half-day event to meet with representatives from various federal agencies responsible for loan and grant programs available under Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

HEAR HOW-- Community-based Organizations and Faith-Based Organizations successfully participated in available programs.

LEARN WHAT-- Your organization needs to do to participate and benefit. As part of President Bush's Faith-Based and Community Initiative, the U. S. Government is committed to ensuring **ALL** qualified community-based organizations and faith-based organizations have equal access to the participating programs and benefits.

Participating Agencies

- US Department of Health & Human Services
- US Department of Housing & Urban Development
- US Department. of Education
- USDA Rural Development
- Small Business Administration
- US Department of Labor

SPACE IS LIMITED!

TO REGISTER: contact Eric Herst, USDA Rural Development, toll-free at 1-866-923-5626, Ext. 3302, or by email at eric.herst@or.usda.gov . We will need your name, organization, mailing address, phone number, and email address.

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested in advance.



Region VIII

Faith-Based Resource Guide
and
Federal Agencies' Contact Information

Updated: January, 2007

The White House Office for Faith Based and Community Initiatives

As one of the first acts of his Presidency, George W. Bush established the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. He also created Centers for the Initiative at the Departments of Commerce, Education, Justice, Labor, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Veterans Affairs, and the Agency for International Development. The White House Office and the Agency Centers were charged with ensuring that local faith-based and community groups can compete equally with other organizations to provide government-funded services.

Directors and their representatives from the agencies listed above meet regularly in Federal Regional Interagency Councils for the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. They share information on their programs and share opportunities to educate customers about those programs. As a Council and as individual agencies, they collaborate on leveling the playing field for participation by faith-based groups competing for federal grants.

Visit: www.fbc.gov

Jay Hein, Director
White House Office for FBCI
The White House, Washington, D.C. 20502
202-456-6708
FAX 202-456-7019

U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

The mission of the Department is to increase homeownership, support community development, and expand access to affordable housing free from discrimination.

HUD's Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) announces billions of dollars each year through programs tailored to assist communities in designing and implementing housing and community development programs that address local needs. Funds are available to State and local governments, Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities, non-profit organizations, public and private developers and managers of affordable housing, universities, public housing authorities and resident organizations, and graduate students in fields of interest to HUD. Available funding programs include Housing Counseling Programs, Supportive Housing for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities, Continuum of Care and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS.

Visit: www.hud.gov/offices/fbci/index.cfm or www.hud.gov/grants/index.cfm

In support of its goal to promote participation of grassroots faith-based and other community-based organizations, HUD has established the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (FBCI). Although the center is not a funding source, it fulfills its mission by seeking input, sharing resources, and building a network of organizations to maximize the impact of local and national community development projects. By forming partnerships among various levels of government and community-based grassroots organizations, including faith-based organizations, communities can utilize all their resources to build stronger communities.

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U.S. Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education maintains a Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives accessible to the public at <http://www.ed.gov/about/inits/list/fbci/index.html>. The goal of the Center is to break down existing barriers and empower faith-based and community groups, enlisting them in support of the Department's mission to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence for all Americans.

The web site provides:

- Background about the Faith-based and Community Initiative,
- Information about grants from the U.S. Department of Education,
- Announcements about upcoming conferences and workshops,
- Grant writing tips, and
- Partnership ideas.

From after-school programs to weekend computer labs, from early reading to family literacy, there are many opportunities for faith-based and community organizations to help ensure that no child is left behind. Several specific grant opportunities are:

- **Safe and Drug Free Schools—Mentoring Programs (CFDA: 84.184)**

This discretionary grant program supports projects that address the academic and social needs of children with greatest need through school-based mentoring programs and activities and provides these students with mentors. Partnerships between local education agencies and faith-based or community organizations are strongly encouraged.

- **Carol M. White Physical Education Program (CFDA: 84.215F)**

The purpose of this discretionary grant program is to initiate, expand, and improve physical education programs for kindergarten through 12th grade students by providing equipment and support and staff and teacher training.

- **21st Century Community Learning Centers (CFDA: 84.287)**

The purpose of this program is to provide expanded academic enrichment opportunities for children attending low performing schools. This is a formula grant program funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Applications are made to the appropriate state office, and states provide competitive awards to local entities. Changed spacing a bit in these paragraphs just to make it consistent.

Visit: www.ed.gov/faithandcommunity

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U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Three agencies of the USDA support the Department's Center for Faith Based and Community Initiatives (FBCI). They are Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Foreign Agriculture Service, and Rural Development.

Regarding the Initiative Priority Areas outlined by the White House FBCI Office, FNS is involved with addressing people in need who are "Hungry."

FNS General Info –

- Vision: To lead America in ending hunger and improving nutrition and health.
- Mission: To increase food security and reduce hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition education in a manner that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence.
- Nutrition assistance programs – www.fns.usda.gov – serve one in every six Americans.
- Agreements with State and Tribal governments (and some local organizations) to pass down resources to administer USDA programs. Also, a few specialized grants that tie into some program initiatives.
- Programs are primarily administered at the local level by private, public and nonprofit organizations.
- Programs help families and individuals stretch limited budgets, improve nutrition, and reduce the risk of diet-related health problems. The programs also help create an infrastructure for strengthening agriculture.
- Target FBCI programs include – www.usda.gov/fbc/programfns1.html -
 - Summer Food Service Program
 - Child and Adult Care Food Program
 - The Emergency Food Assistance Program

Visit: www.usda.gov/fbc

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Rural Development

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) is the only agency in government that provides loan and grant funding to build a community from the ground up. RD's forty programs are designed to assist rural communities with infrastructure, business and cooperative development, essential community facilities, and housing needs. RD is an investment bank for rural America. Programs increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. In Colorado, RD employees are ready to provide assistance through eight field offices across the state.

As part of the President's Faith Based and Community Initiative, USDA partners with faith based and community organizations to alleviate hunger and build strong communities. These efforts to equip and empower faith based groups are strengthening services to communities in need through:

- **Mutual Self-Help Housing** – a method of building homes that empowers low-income individuals and families to build their own homes while teaching valuable skills. USDA RD provides grants to qualified non-profit and public organizations to support these innovative efforts.
- **Multi-Family Housing** – provides loans and loan guarantees to non-profit and for-profit developers to build affordable rural rental housing.
- **Farm Labor Housing** – provides decent, safe, and affordable low-rent housing to domestic farm laborers through loans and grants to States, local governments, non-profit organizations, and others.
- **Community Facilities Programs** – provide grants, loans, and loan guarantees to public entities, non-profit organizations, and tribal governments to develop essential community facilities such as schools, libraries, medical clinics, community centers, and fire and rescue stations in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 population.
- **Sale or Lease of Real Estate Owned (REO) Single Family Properties** – provides non-profit organizations the opportunity to purchase non-program REOs at a reduced price if used as transitional housing for the homeless. Additionally, the non-profit organization may lease the property for \$1.00 per year to utilize the property for transitional housing for the homeless.

Visit: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/co/index.htm>

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U. S. Department of Justice

The Task Force for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is the result of President Bush's order to create a Center at the Department of Justice. Working with various components within the Department of Justice, the Task Force assists faith-based and other community organizations (FBCOs) in being given equal consideration to compete for federal grants, contracts, and formula or block sub-grants. The Bureau of Prisons, Office of Civil Rights, the Office of Justice Programs, and the Office on Violence Against Women administer a number of funding opportunities for which FBCOs are eligible to apply.

Funding opportunities for faith-based and non-profit organizations include:

- Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program
- Helping Outreach Programs Expand (HOPE)
- Weed and Seed
- Education and Technical Assistance Grants to end Violence Against Women with Disabilities
- Training Grants to Stop Abuse & Sexual Assault Against Older Individuals or Individuals with Disabilities Program
- Community Correction Centers
- Serious & Violent Offender Reentry Initiative

Visit: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fbci/welcome.html>

No Local Faith Based Liaison

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U. S. Department of Labor

The Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (CFBCI) at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) seeks to empower faith-based and community organizations (FBCO) as these organizations help their neighbors enter, succeed and thrive in the workforce. They target those organizations that are trusted institutions providing valuable services but that may not be partnering with government programs.

To accomplish this mission, they work to remove administrative and regulatory barriers and develop innovative programs to foster partnerships between DOL-funded programs and FBCOs. DOL educates organizations about local opportunities to collaborate with and about opportunities to participate in national grant programs. They also work with local government officials and administrators to integrate faith-based and community organizations into the strategic planning and service delivery processes of local Workforce Investment Boards.

Funding opportunities for faith-based and non-profit organizations include:

- Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program
- Veterans Workforce Investment Program
- Limited English Proficiency and Hispanic Worker Initiative
- Migrants and Seasonal Farmworkers Programs– National Farmworkers Jobs Program
- Migrants and Seasonal Farmworkers Programs– National Farmworkers Jobs Program, Housing Assistance
- Demonstration Grants; Solicitation for Grant Applications – Preparing Youth Offenders to Enter High Growth and High Demand Industries (May not be available in subsequent years)
- Demonstration Grants; Solicitation for Grant Applications – Prisoner Re-entry Initiative (May not be available in subsequent years)
- International Child Labor Program’s Child Labor Education Initiative
- Grants for Small Faith-Based and Community Non-profit Organizations
- Formula: Workforce Investment Act: Adult Programs
- Formula: Workforce Investment Act: Dislocated Worker Programs
- Formula: Workforce Investment Act: Youth Programs
- Formula: Wagner-Peyser Act: Employment Services

Visit: www.dol.gov/cfbc

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U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Business and Community Initiatives designs programs and activities to inform, educate, and train prospective and existing small business owners. The office engages with private sector partners in co-sponsorships designed to provide small business owners cost-effective and high quality programs, reflective of trends in small business development.

SBA also offers numerous loan programs to assist small businesses. It is important to note the SBA is primarily a guarantor of loans made by private and other lending partner institutions. The most popular SBA loans include the lender-based 7(a) Loan Guaranty, the 504 Loan Program (administered by Certified Development Companies-CDCs) and the Microloan (administered by 7(m) loan partners.)

Visit: www.sba.gov/fbci

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U. S. Department of Health & Human Services

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the U.S. government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.

HHS administers 11 divisions, including eight agencies in the Public Health Services and three Human Service agencies. Examples follow:

- Financial assistance and services to low-income families and preventing child abuse and domestic violence (ACF)
- Medical and social science research (NIH)
- Preventing outbreak of infectious disease (CDC)
- Assuring food and drug safety (FDA)
- Medicare and Medicaid (CMS)
- Improving maternal and infant health (HRSA)
- Substance abuse treatment, prevention and mental health services (SAMHSA)
- Services for the elderly (AoA)
- Comprehensive health services for Native Americans (IHS)

Funding opportunities for faith-based and non-profit organizations include, but are not limited to the following:

The Compassion Capital Fund (CCF) is a multi-million-dollar fund that Congress appropriates to HHS to assist with implementation of the faith-based initiative. CCF represents the first appropriated federal funds that are specifically targeted to assist the grassroots organizations that are the focus of President Bush's Faith and Community-Based Initiative.

- Compassion Capital Fund Demonstration Grants
- Compassion Capital Fund Targeted Capacity-Building Program

Other examples include:

- Basic Center Program
- Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program
- Street Runaway and Homeless Youth Outreach
- Transitional Living Program for Homeless Youth (TLP)
- Special Projects of National Significance
- Transitional Living Program for Homeless Youth
- Rural Health Research Grant Program - Cooperative Agreement

Visit: www.hhs.gov/fbci

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U. S. Department of Commerce

Funding opportunities for faith-based and non-profit organizations include:

- Economic Development Administration

Public Works

The Public Works Program empowers distressed communities to revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructures to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment.

Economic Adjustment

The Economic Adjustment Program assists state and local interests to design and implement strategies to adjust or bring about change to an economy. The program focuses on areas that have experienced or are under threat of serious structural damage to the underlying economic base.

Technical Assistance

The Technical Assistance Program helps fill the knowledge and information gaps that may prevent leaders in the public and nonprofit sectors in distressed areas from making optimal decisions on local economic development issues.

Partnership Planning

EDA's Partnership Planning Programs help support eligible local organizations with their long-term planning efforts and their outreach to the economic development community on EDA's programs and policies.

Visit: www.commerce.gov/fbci

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U.S. Agency for International Development

President Bush created the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (CFBCI) at US AID in December 2002. US AID's Center seeks to create a level playing field for faith-based and community groups to compete for US AID programs. The initiative also reaches out to faith-based and other community organizations to increase their access to and knowledge of U.S. Government funding sources. CFBCI meets regularly with faith-based and community organizations and highlights demonstration projects that showcase the effectiveness of US AID's faith-based and community partners.

Visit: www.usaid.gov/ourwork/globalpartnership/fbci/

No local FBCI Liaison

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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Center empowers faith-based and other community organizations to apply for federal social service grants. It supplies information and training, but decisions about which groups will be funded are made through each grant program, generally involving a competitive process. There are no set-asides for faith-based organizations; however, the FBCI creates a level playing field for faith-based and other community organizations so that they can work with the government to meet the needs of America's communities through available federal programs.

Some of the programs that VA operates to benefit veterans and others include:

- Center for Minority Veterans
- Center for Veterans Enterprise
- Center for Women Veterans
- Homeless Assistance Programs & Initiatives
- National Cemetery Administration
- Veterans Benefits Administration
- VA Voluntary Services
- National Rehabilitation Special Events

Visit: www.va.gov/opa/fbci

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U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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Corporation for National and Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service's mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. The Corporation plays a vital role in supporting the American culture of citizenship, service and responsibility. They are a catalyst for change and a champion for the ideal that every American has skills and talents to give. The Corporation is the nation's largest grantmaker supporting service and volunteering. Through their Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs, they provide opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to express their patriotism while addressing critical community needs.

With more Americans volunteering through religious organizations than through any other type of organization, the Corporation's Faith-Based and Community Initiative is an integral part of their efforts to provide opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to give back to their communities. The Initiative helps connect faith-based and other community groups to the Corporation, ensuring that these groups have the capacity, tools, and volunteer power they need to help America's communities flourish.

Visit: www.nationalservice.org/for_organizations/faith/index.asp

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Federal Executive Boards

Mission

"Although each executive agency and its field organization have a special mission, there are many matters on which the work of the Departments converge. Among them are management and budgetary procedures, personnel policies, recruitment efforts, office information duties, and similar matters. There are opportunities to pool experience and resources, and to accomplish savings. In substantive programs there are also opportunities for a more closely coordinated approach in many activities."

With those words, the concept of Federal Executive Boards (FEB) was introduced by President John F. Kennedy in 1961. Today, a quarter of a century later, 28 FEBs exist to provide closer coordination among Federal agencies outside Washington, DC. As regional hubs for all government activity, their work relates to five mission themes:

- ***Communicate*** - FEBs inform member agencies of each other's initiatives and successes, and inform the local community of national policies and priorities.
- ***Reduce Costs and Improve Efficiency*** - FEBs bring together agencies with common goals so that their efforts are complementary.
- ***Facilitate Service Delivery*** - FEBs draw together agencies with common clients so that government services are convenient for the customers.
- ***Partner with Community Groups*** - FEBs partner with community groups to solve problems.
- ***Coordinate Emergency Services*** - FEBs stand ready to marshal resources of the entire federal community, whether to aid a member agency in a crisis, or to assist the citizenry in a public emergency.

Visit: www.denver.feb.gov

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ADDITIONAL GRANT RESOURCES

White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

www.fbc.gov or www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbc/

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

www.cfda.gov

Federal Business Opportunities

www.fedbizopps.gov

Federal Register

www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html

FirstGov (Official website for searching the U.S. Government)

www.firstgov.gov

Grants.gov (Official website for finding and applying to Federal funding opportunities)

www.grants.gov

Department of Veterans Affairs Home Page

www.va.gov

U.S. Census Bureau (for assistance in finding useful data and information in the
proposal-writing process)

American Fact Finder

www.factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet

U. S. Census Bureau Regional Offices

www.census.gov/contacts/www/c-regoff.html

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Home Page

www.epa.gov

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Home Page

www.fdic.gov

Social Security Administration Home Page

www.ssa.gov

“The paramount goal is compassionate results, and private and charitable groups, including religious ones, should have the fullest opportunity permitted by law to compete on a level playing field, so long as they achieve valid public purposes. . . The delivery of social services must be results-oriented and should value the bedrock principles of pluralism, nondiscrimination, evenhandedness, and neutrality.”

President George W. Bush

