

reaching the heart
of the community



Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

annual

REPORT 2006

mission:

To improve the well-being of Alaskans by strengthening and expanding the contributions of faith-based and community initiatives.

1. Fostering Partnerships
2. Building Capacity
3. Expanding Awareness

history:

In 2003 Lt. Governor Loren Leman led a series of statewide scoping meetings and subsequently appointed 21 Alaskans to a Faith Based and Community Initiatives (FBCI) Task-Force. The Task-Force was asked to assist in maximizing Alaska's resources of compassion to meet the challenges faced by those in need.

The FBCI Task-Force met several times, researched best practices and needs, hosted the first statewide FBCI conference and prepared a report on its activities. The report included a number of recommendations to the Governor. One of the recommendations was to establish a permanent faith-based and community initiatives office and an advisory council. In September 2004, Administrative Order 221 was issued to create this office and council.

- **January 2005:** Office of FBCI Established
- **January 2005:** Executive Director Appointed
- **April 2005:** FBCI Advisory Council Appointed



FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
Governor

KARLEEN K. JACKSON
Commissioner

Alaska

office of faith-based
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES &

we believe...

- That Alaskans need to tap additional resources to address the unacceptable levels of human need in our communities.
- That faith-based and other community organizations and initiatives can contribute new resources to address these needs.
- That public funds are best leveraged through efficient collaborative partnerships between government and private groups.
- That some faith-based and community groups are unnecessarily disadvantaged in efforts to partner with the state government.

we intend...

To strengthen and expand the resources contributed by faith-based and community initiatives.

we will...

1. Foster partnerships between and among government, faith, and community groups.
2. Build capacity in faith-based and community organizations.
3. Educate the government, organizations, and the public about FBCI contributions, opportunities and issues.

key objective #1

Foster partnerships between and among government, faith, and community groups.

performance measures

I. Provide a single point of contact for faith-based, community and grassroots organizations in Alaska to receive information, assistance and referrals.

actions

- a. Produced and maintained statewide faith-based directory.
- b. Produced and maintained resource library.
- c. Produced and maintained informational website.
- d. Developed "Report of Contact" instrument to measure office contact, support, and follow-up activities.

II. Coordinate FBCI related training and programming among executive branch departments.

- a. Executive Director became Homelessness Ends in Alaska Advisory Team Chair.
- b. Executive Director appointed to Alaska Work Force Investment Board.
- c. Executive Director appointed to Ready to Read, Ready to Learn Task Force.
- d. Associate Coordinator became coordinator of Children's Policy Team.
- e. Associate Coordinator became grant manager for 14 Healthy Marriage Initiative grantees.

III. Identify opportunities for expanded partnerships between faith, community and government.

- a. Attended multiple faith, community and governmental meetings aimed at identifying service needs, gaps and solutions.

IV. Work to remove barriers that hinder effective faith, community and governmental partnerships.

- a. Educated Department personnel on FBCI issues and opportunities.
- b. Educated faith, community and grassroots groups on FBCI issues and opportunities.
- c. Facilitated increased trust and understanding between multiple FBCI organizations and governmental agencies.

FBCI priorities

At-Risk Youth
Ex-Offenders
Healthy Marriage Initiatives
HIV/AIDS
Housing & Homelessness
Hunger
Substance Abuse
Suicide Prevention
Welfare to Work

federal FBCI

President Bush established the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives as well as Centers in 10 Federal agencies in order to strengthen and expand the role of faith-based and community organizations in providing social services.

Federal agencies have successfully undertaken a variety of measures designed to promote competition in their grant-making processes.

These measures include:

- 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
- Eliminating preferential treatment for existing and former grantees

key objective #2

Build capacity in faith-based and community organizations.

performance measures

I. Maintain a current knowledge-base of FBCI issues, resources and regulations.

actions

- a. Participated in national FBCI teleconferences: federal (monthly), regional (bi-monthly).
- b. Attended national FBCI conferences.
- c. Networked with 6 other state FBCI Offices/Liaisons.
- d. Conducted on-going research and identification of best-practices in FBCI.

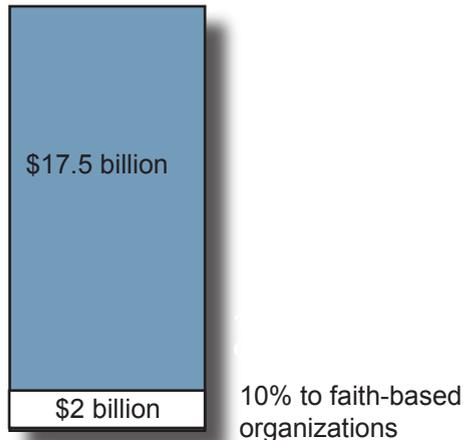
II. Provide training and technical assistance to faith-based, community and grassroots organizations.

- a. Held community funding forums in Palmer (42 participants) and Kenai (65 participants).
- b. Collaborated hosting of grant-writing trainings.
- c. Hosted Federal grants.gov guidance training.
- d. Held pre-proposal teleconferences.
- e. Provided referral to appropriate resource options.
- f. Provided guidance on grant writing and proposal development.
- g. Provided training on outcome measures and logic models to 14 Healthy Marriage grantees.

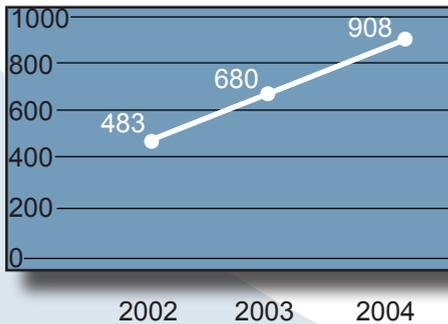
III. Seek financing to support FBCI programs and services.

- a. Planned and developed Compassion Capital Fund proposal for Administration for Children and Families which funds intermediary organizations.
- b. Provided technical assistance to faith and community groups that competed for Compassion Capital Fund Targeted Capacity Building program.
- c. Provided guidance to faith and community groups that competed for the Points of Light & FASTEN Partners in Transformation Award Contest. Covenant House of Alaska was awarded \$5000.
- d. Sought FBCI funding through legislature.

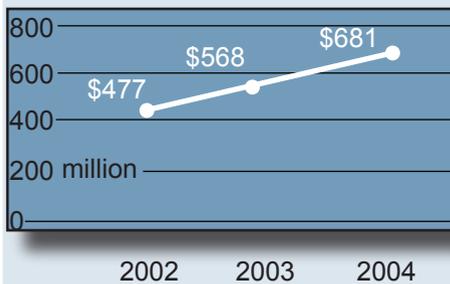
FY04 Federal Service Funding
(HHS, HUD, DOJ, DOL, ED,
USAID, USDA)



Federal Grants to FBOs-88% Increase
(‘02-‘04)



Federal Dollars to FBOs-43% Increase
(‘02-‘04)



key objective #3

Educate the government, organizations, and the public about FBCI contributions, opportunities and issues.

performance measures

I. Convene a statewide conference on faith-based and community initiatives

actions

- a. Office staff and council are partnering with Alaska Community Service Commission to hold a joint Volunteerism and FBCI Conference in April 2006.

II. Communicate and collaborate with related state boards and councils.

- a. Council interviewed multiple state boards and councils to open lines of communication and identify areas of need, overlap and potential collaboration.
- b. Office staff and council members attend related statewide board meetings to continue support and informative dialogue between boards and councils.
- c. Continued dialogue has occurred between office staff and specific boards to identify areas of possible collaboration. (Specifically SSPC & CDSE).

III. Participate in relevant community events in order to educate on FBCI contributions, opportunities and issues.

- a. A few examples of the Office’s efforts include participation in events held by:
 1. Anchorage Caring & Emergency Social Services (ACCESS)
 2. Community-Based Action for a Safer Society (CBASS)
 3. Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
 4. Prisoner Re-Entry Coalition

IV. Conduct community presentations on FBCI contributions, opportunities and issues.

- a. The Office made numerous presentations to community organizations, such as:
 1. LoveINC-Eagle River
 2. HUD Grant-writing workshop
 3. Interfaith Council of Anchorage
 4. Alaskans for Separation of Church & State

alaska FBCI

In 2005, the Office provided technical assistance to over 60 fbcI organizations representing 15 communities.

**These numbers represent documented cases and do not account for unscheduled drop-ins or informal phone calls/emails recieved by the office.*

Alaska was one of the top Compassion Capital Fund recipients with 11 organizations winning Targeted Capacity Building grant awards.

“..I wanted to let you know that we recieved the Compassion Capital Fund award. I believe the technical writing training hosted by your office made all the difference. Thank You!”

-Kacy Telfer Exec. Director
Mary Magdalene Home

In collaboration with Grant Station, the Office provided weekly information on funding programs, upcoming grant opportunities, conferences and trainings to roughly 300 FBCI list-serve subscribers around the state.

looking ahead...

Fostering Partnerships

PRIORITY DELIVERABLES

- Implement usage of Report of Contact tool FY07.
- Develop and implement an Action Plan for monitoring efforts by Alaska state government agencies to identify and remove barriers to faith, community and governmental partnerships.
- Hire additional staff member that will coordinate Alaska Partnership for Healthy Communities program.
- Focus efforts on areas of greatest need identified by FBCI Task Force needs assessment.

Building Capacity

PRIORITY DELIVERABLES

- Plan and submit Administration for Children and Families: Compassion Capital Fund proposal FY07.
- Hold community funding forums in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Kotzebue in FY07.
- Develop and post online trainings:
 - How to Find Funding
 - Proposal Writing
 - Outcome Measures & Evaluation
- Provide continued training and technical assistance to 14 Healthy Marriage Initiative grantees that the Office of FBCI directly manages.

Expanding Awareness

PRIORITY DELIVERABLES

- Conduct a successful FY07 conference, implementing evaluation feedback from FY06 conference
- Develop a strategic education plan
- Develop a packaged outreach presentation to support continued community presentations on FBCI contributions, opportunities and issues.
- Develop a yearly performance measure checklist for Advisory Council responsibilities.



ADVISORY COUNCIL

Co-Chairs

Lt. Governor Leman
Scott Merriner

Members

Nancy Campbell
Cindy Cashen
Glenn Clary
Judy Fulp
Jeanie Greene
Keith Hamilton
Eugene Harnett
Fred Jenkins
Diane Johnson
Allen Levy
Julie Morris
Kim Patterson
Ryan Ray
Kathleen Svenson
Gloria Tokar
June Ulz

Ex-Officio Members

Gracie Jackson-DOL
Mike Enschede-DOC
Frank Peratrovich-DHSS

STAFF

Stephanie Wheeler-Exec. Director
Tara Horton-Assoc. Coordinator

Office of FBCI
3601 C St. (902)
Anchorage, AK 99503

www.hss.state.ak.us/fbci

907-269-8019 Exec. Director
907-269-8021 Assoc. Coordinator

a partnership for life !

Alaska's suicide rate remains one of the highest in the country, driven by a rural suicide rate nearly double that of urban areas. Multiple efforts are being made to address this high-priority issue in our rural communities, with governmental and private organizations working together in innovative ways. Although faith-based organizations have a significant presence in rural Alaska and a passion to help prevent suicides, they have largely remained outside government-led initiatives.

In 2005 the Alaska Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council began an effort to more effectively involve faith-based organizations in Alaska's suicide prevention efforts. As a result, Arctic Barnabas Ministries is now collaborating with Life! Promotions and Alaska Community Services-Elder Mentor Program to provide suicide prevention events and follow-up services for rural Alaskan youth.

A pilot program was conducted in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region. Hooper Bay, Mekoryuk, Scammon Bay, Mountain Village and Kalskag were among the communities that received the message of "value, courage and respect" offered through school assemblies. The program forged new partnerships between local churches and school district counselors who are continuing to work together to support and engage the youth in their communities.

"The message was loud and clear. It was something they needed to hear. It was well received by both the community and the school." –Mike Cornelius, Scammon Bay School Counselor

"I had never seen anything like that program and how it touched not just the kids, but families"-Roger Franklin, Mountain Village School Counselor

Future prevention efforts will involve follow-up by Alaska Community Services Elder Mentor program. Local elders provide in-school mentoring of youth, and will remain engaged year-round in schools, after school programs, community and tribal centers echoing the principles of "value, courage and respect" taught through Arctic Barnabas and Life! Promotions.

“ Our effort is not to subsidize religion, but to support programs that work. The undeniable fact is that faith-based and grassroots organizations are amazingly effective in helping hurting people and their families climb from dependency and despair to a path of hope and healing. ”

Tommy G. Thompson