

ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are provided to address requirements outlined in Florida Statute 14.31.

- 1. How faith-based and community-based organizations can best compete with other organizations for the delivery of state services, regardless of an organization's orientation, whether faith-based or secular.**

Faith and community-based organizations who desire to compete for the delivery of state services must have the organizational capacity to meet and/or exceed operational and administrative expectations set by the state. Faith and community-based organizations are encouraged to register with the MyFlorida Marketplace to submit information/proposals for opportunities to deliver state services, and to sign up for agency notifications to know when opportunities become available. Beyond current mechanisms of state agencies to provide public notice of such opportunities, agencies are encouraged to communicate opportunities with the Advisory Council to assist in disseminating information to create broader awareness of opportunities for faith and community-based organizations to compete for the delivery of state services.

- 2. How best to develop and coordinate activities of faith-based and community-based programs and initiatives, enhance such efforts in communities, and seek such resources, legislation, and regulatory relief as may be necessary to accomplish these objectives.**

Dedicated staffing and agency collaboration are needed to support the development and inventory of programs and initiatives in order to have greater coordination of efforts. Agencies are encouraged to communicate with the Advisory Council on key initiatives to enable the Council to disseminate information and identify faith and community-based organizations who are providing services and supports within communities. It is important for each appointment authority to fill open seats with individuals who have multiple talents, networks and are strategically positioned throughout the state, so there is representation in at least each judicial circuit of Florida who can share what programs and initiatives are taking place.

- 3. How best to ensure that state policy decisions take into account the capacity of faith-based and other community-based initiatives to assist in the achievement of state priorities.**

It is important for faith-based and other community-based organizations to engage their local and state elected officials to express their desire to support or oppose policies that may, or may not, limit their ability to be included. Strategies include holding in-person listening sessions or by using a public facing survey to request feedback from citizens. This approach would provide a framework for improved understanding of the differences in service activities that highlight the unique capacities of faith and community-based organizations. The state should consider expressing its support of faith and other community organizations' involvement to achieve state priorities- this messaging can encourage these organizations to be more involved in state policy decisions.

4. How best to identify and promote best practices across state government relating to the delivery of services by faith-based and other community-based organizations.

State agencies and entities, along with their contractors and providers, should consider inviting faith and community-based organizations to showcase their programs and services during functions (e.g., conferences, regional gatherings, etc.) that have demonstrated effectiveness and have advanced state efforts. Encouraging decision makers at the local, regional and state levels to visit/tour programs and observe services being delivered can increase awareness and support for initiatives. Recognition of faith and community-based organizations during public awareness events and functions furthers opportunities to increase awareness of and promote best practice approaches for replication/duplication in other parts of the state.

5. How best to coordinate public awareness of faith-based and community nonprofit initiatives, such as demonstration pilot programs or projects, public-private partnerships, volunteerism, and special projects.

Faith-based and other community organizations should utilize all traditional media sources (i.e., TV, radio, newspaper, billboards, etc.) and expand their use of social media to create interest and awareness of their initiatives. State agencies and entities are encouraged to highlight faith-based and community non-profit initiatives during functions ((e.g., conferences, regional gatherings, etc.) that have demonstrated effectiveness and have advanced state efforts. Agencies and entities should also establish criteria to enable these organizations to submit information in order to be recognized for their efforts and utilize their communications offices to share this throughout the state.

6. How best to encourage private charitable giving to support faith-based and community-based initiatives.

The state should consider offering additional tax incentives/benefits to individuals and organizations who contribute towards initiatives that have demonstrated their ability to achieve performance-based outcomes. Similar to #5, organizations should utilize all traditional media and social media, and for state agencies/entities to recognize such efforts, to create awareness of the positive impact on the target populations being served to build community support and charitable giving.

7. How best to bring concerns, ideas, and policy options to the Governor and Legislature for assisting, strengthening, and replicating successful faith-based and other community-based programs.

The Governor's Office and Legislature are encouraged to promote existing/establish mechanisms and procedures to submit concerns, ideas and policy options and identify staff/program offices to follow up on each respective submission. State agencies are also encouraged to establish similar mechanisms/procedures that can enable direct response and recommendations to be shared with the Governor and Legislature. These entities are encouraged to invite the Advisory Council to participate in discussions to offer insight and perspectives that can assist, strengthen and replicate successful faith-based and other community-based programs.

8. How best to develop and implement strategic initiatives to strengthen the institutions of families and communities in this state.

The state should increase its collaboration with city and county governments to assess community norms and resources to support the strengthening of such institutions. This is a key component of state agency efforts to prevent involvement in state systems and promote the health, safety and well-being for all Floridians. Through this collaboration of government entities, a coordinated marketing strategy should be implemented to define positive community norms that encourages changes in thinking to change behavior. The state should also increase availability of community education to improve understanding of healthy child and family development to empower action and limit the need for state/government involvement.

9. How best to showcase and herald innovative grassroots nonprofit organizations and civic initiatives.

State agencies and entities, along with their contractors and providers, should consider inviting innovative grassroots non-profit organizations and civic initiatives to showcase their efforts during functions (e.g., conferences, regional gatherings, etc.) that have demonstrated effectiveness and have advanced state efforts. Recognition of such efforts during public awareness events and functions furthers opportunities to increase awareness of and promote best practice approaches for replication/duplication in other parts of the state.

10. How best to eliminate unnecessary legislative, regulatory, and other bureaucratic barriers that impede effective faith-based and other community-based efforts to address social problems.

Legislative and regulatory intent should be clearly stated, and efforts to offer technical assistance and monitoring should occur to eliminate barriers (real and perceived) that may impede efforts to address social problems. It is important for faith-based and other community-based organizations to engage their local and state elected officials to express their voice on legislative, regulatory and other bureaucratic barriers that may impeded their efforts. State agencies should consider how they may capture perspectives from faith-based and community-based organizations during functions ((e.g., conferences, regional gatherings, etc.) that bring these groups to the table. Also encourage state agencies to take additional steps to make the public aware of rule and program changes to enable organizations to share their concerns and feedback.

11. How best to monitor implementation of state policy affecting faith-based and other community-based organizations.

State agencies are encouraged to provide self-assessment tools to be completed by organizations before any monitoring visit. This can allow agencies to see how implementation is occurring and identify additional assets and resources not known. Conduct site visits and client/customer reviews to get real perspectives and have other organizations share their experiences and strategies to implement/embed the requirements into their daily practice.

12. How best to ensure that the efforts of faith-based and other community-based organizations meet objective criteria for performance and accountability.

The state should develop criteria that is clear and concise and have organizations define their accountability methods as part of plans or proposals submitted. Identify reliable and trusted data sources to minimize manipulation of data and results. Provide ongoing training and technical

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assistance to organizations to establish objectives and use data to improve efforts. Encourage organizations to record training, certifications and licenses that can assist in meeting objective criteria.

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