



## Toolkit Items

**Tool Name:** Maryland – Interagency Faith-based Effort

**Definition:** This is an example of an effective collaboration plan among state-level agencies. It provides an overview of the policy statement and information on the process of this collaboration in a FAQ format.

**Purpose:** This is a useful example as states are considering leveraging efforts across agencies and programs.



## Maryland's Faith Partnership Initiative Policy Statement

**Mission:** Build on the historical relationship between the State of Maryland and faith-based organizations (FBOs) and encourage their participation in helping the State to provide services to those in need.

To strengthen and revitalize our communities, partnerships with community-based organizations are essential. In many communities, faith-based organizations are the best situated to significantly impact the community's residents. Maryland has a long tradition of partnership between government and faith-based institutions to better serve its citizens. Working together, the State and the Faith Community can be a powerful force for positive change.

Under the leadership of Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Maryland formed the Faith Partnership Initiative. One of the primary components of the Faith Partnership Initiative is to help faith-based organizations develop or improve their capacity to provide critical social services to the citizens of Maryland. By supporting comprehensive, personalized technical training, Maryland can help ensure that faith-based organizations are equipped to provide the highest level of empirically grounded services.

To build further on Maryland's tradition of partnership, a Cabinet Council Workgroup on faith partnerships was formed. This group is working to determine how the State can best expand its relationship with the faith-based community while remaining consistent with its principles and laws. The group shares legal and technical assistance, performance measures, and lessons learned from partnering with the faith community. This focused dialogue has helped maximize the effectiveness of faith partnerships and the ease with which faith-based institutions can link with state agencies. The group has also begun to determine how Maryland should best respond to existing and forthcoming federal mandates.

### Guiding Principles:

- I. Maximize effectiveness of partnership between government and FBOs on a range of issues.
- II. Focus on results.
- III. Maximize collaboration between State, private foundations, and charitable organizations.
- IV. Ensure that partnerships with the faith community respect established constitutional and legal parameters, including protecting Maryland's commitment to non-discrimination.



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## **Cabinet Council On Criminal and Juvenile Justice Faith Partnership Initiative Summary**

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### ***1. What is the mission of the Faith Partnership Initiative?***

The mission of the Faith Partnership Initiative (FPI) of the Cabinet Council on Criminal and Juvenile Justice is to build on Maryland's tradition of partnership with the faith-based community to implement effective projects that promote community well being and quality of life.

### ***2. What will the Faith Partnership Initiative do?***

The FPI will consist of three components:

***a. Training and Technical Assistance*** -- Will provide active and personalized technical assistance to Faith-Based Organization (FBO), including an initial assessment, technical assistance recommendations, regular training and specialized technical assistance.

***b. Interagency Work Group*** -- Representatives of Cabinet Council agencies will meet regularly to review state practices. The Work Group will aim to make information clearer and more accessible, coordinate FBO projects that cross several agencies, and identify training of technical assistance needs for FBO's and government agencies to facilitate partnerships.

***c. Faith Partnership Council*** -- Will engage FBO leaders to gain feedback, concerns and ideas. There will also be regional Faith-Based Advisory Teams, which play a similar role at the regional level.

**3. *How will on-going Training and Technical Assistance be provided?***

- a. Coordinator will create a system where the exchange between training and technical assistance is smooth and efficient;
- b. Training Partners will deliver training based on identified needs which are shared by multiple FBO's;
- c. Training will be delivered through multiple channels such as: conferences, workshops, small groups, Internet, professional exchange, mini-grants and demonstrations;
- d. Training topics might include working with volunteers, board development, effective communication, marketing strategies, fund development, management and accounting, evaluation, etc.; and
- e. Training could be provided by state or local government agencies, private organizations, or members of the faith-based community.

**4. *What will the Faith Partnership Initiative mean to Faith-Based Organizations?***

- a. Easier access to information about partnership opportunities;
- b. Tailored assessment and action plan for partnering with state;
- c. Regular, high quality training;
- d. "No run-around" – clear and responsive communication with state agencies;
- e. Specialized training and technical assistance, including peer technical assistance;
- f. Opportunity to have input into overall state partnerships with faith community.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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