

**Region IX Federal Regional Council
Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (FBCI) Committee
CY 2008 Accomplishments**

The Region IX Federal Regional Council (FRC) is comprised of 19 separate federal Departments and Agencies representing nearly 30 different program offices in Region IX (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau). The goal of the FRC is to work in a coordinated manner to make federal programs more effective and efficient in Region IX. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Regional Director, Thomas Lorentzen, serves as the FRC Chair. Emory Lee, Executive Officer, HHS Regional Director's Office, serves as the FRC Secretariat. The FRC website can be viewed at www.frc9.us.

The Council has six committees focused on national initiatives, broad geographic areas and/or special populations. Executive Orders or Administration Initiatives serve as the underlying bases in guiding the work of the committees. The six committees are:

- Border Committee
- Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (FBCI) Committee
- Homelessness Committee (Regional Interagency Council on Homelessness)
- Outer Pacific Committee
- San Joaquin Valley Committee/Taskforce
- Tribal Affairs Committee

The FBCI Committee was established in 2006. The purposes of the Committee are:

- To provide a forum that includes Federal, State and local officials, as well as faith-based and community organizations to discuss and exchange information regarding program initiatives that are a priority to faith-based and community organizations in Region IX.
- To maximize limited resources via coordination, inter-agency collaborations, and partnerships at the Federal, State and local levels of government.

The Committee is comprised of representatives from HHS, Internal Revenue Service, Small Business Administration, Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Labor, and Department of Veterans Affairs.

During 2006 and 2007, the Committee focused on working with Region IX States to build faith-based and community programs and services. It worked with Arizona and Hawaii, both of which have FBCI State liaisons. The Committee was not able to generate interest from California and Nevada. In 2008, besides continuing to work with Arizona, the Committee concentrated on effective local faith-based and community programs (e.g., Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County and Glide Foundation) to collaborate on partnerships which respond to the growing

numbers of poor children, families and adults. The Committee continues to partner with other FRC Committees (e.g., Homelessness) to support homeless veterans by conducting a year long clothing drive that rotates among Federal agencies on a monthly basis. For 2009, the Committee will continue to grow partnerships that address poverty at the community level by outreaching to faith-based and community organizations, and by facilitating collaboration among its Federal members.

Administration for Children and Families/HHS Regional Administrator, Sharon Fujii, serves as the Chair of the FBCI Committee. Committee meetings are held bimonthly. Additional information about the FBCI Committee is available at www.frc9.us/committee/Faith/faith.asp. Inquiries should be directed to Emily Hughes, FBCI Committee Coordinator, at emily.hughes@acf.hhs.gov.

Goal	Strategy	Accomplishments
<p>Continue partnerships with Region IX States that have FBCI Contacts, such as Hawaii and Arizona.</p> <p>Continue to engage with California and Nevada State officials to explore FBCI partnerships.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to partner with Arizona and Hawaii FBCI work groups to understand best practices and assist with their continued development. 2. Continue outreach to California to discuss the State’s interest in securing Federal funds to support the establishment of a faith-based office and the creation of a State anti-gang coordinator. 3. Utilize the guide for States interested in establishing a faith-based office to continue outreach to Nevada including State administration. 	<p>Rebecca Flanagan, Director, and Kenneth Einbinder, Operations Specialist, HUD Phoenix Field Office, have continued their successful efforts to encourage community and faith-based organizations to respond to the housing needs of homeless women and children in Phoenix. United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM) has expanded its shelter program and the State continues to fund shelter programs for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.</p> <p>Committee members continued to conduct outreach and tried to engage with the Hawaii FBCI work group, but due to lack of support and other demands on Federal staff time, the work group is no longer active.</p> <p>The Committee’s outreach efforts to California and Nevada were stalled due to the HHS FBCI Office’s delayed release of the FBCI State Guide: “Partnering with Faith-Based and Community Organizations: A Guide for State and Local Officials Administering Federal Block and Formula Grant Funds” in November 2008 (the Guide was expected to be released by the White House in February 2008). HHS Regional Director, Thomas Lorentzen, sent copies of the Guide on behalf of the Committee to the Region IX State and Flag Territories’ Governor’s Offices and to the Arizona and Hawaii FBCI Liaisons. Outreach to the Region IX States and additional distribution of the Guide to faith-based and community partners will be included in the Committee’s 2009 work plan.</p>

<p>Continue to strengthen communication among Federal agencies with respect to FBCI programs and initiatives.</p> <p>Explore and establish an approach that identifies committee outcomes and how to measure their achievement.</p> <p>Explore connections with other FRC committees to identify how the FBCI can be supportive.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to communicate with partners to ensure that relevant announcements are shared. 2. Continue to work with Federal FBCI Center Directors and the White House Office of FBCI to share information about FBCI programs and events. 3. Assist with the promotion and planning of the White House Office of FBCI conference in Sacramento, California on August 18, 2008. 4. Share information about best practices, model programs, etc. 5. Continue the FRC FBCI clothing drive for Veterans. HHS, USDA/FNS, HUD, DOL, FDIC, SSA, DHS/USICS, SBA, and EPA will host drives in 2008. 	<p>Representatives from Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program Community Foundation (DOL FBCI grantee), Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County (HHS/ACF FBCI grantee), Glide Memorial United Methodist Church and Glide Foundation (DOL grantee) presented information about their programs and services during the Committee's monthly meetings. Possible outreach activities by the Committee members were identified during all three presentations.</p> <p>The Committee assisted in the planning of and promoted the White House FBCI Summit which was held in Sacramento, California on August 18, 2008. Nearly 1,000 public and private sector representatives were in attendance. At the conference, Committee members conducted workshops and sponsored an exhibit table. Outreach materials from HHS/ACF, HHS/CMS, FDIC, SBA, and HUD were displayed including an FRC FBCI Committee fact sheet.</p> <p>Continued to update the electronic mailing list of Committee members.</p> <p>Provided information on FBCI funding opportunities to existing and prospective FBCI grantees.</p> <p>Continued the FRC FBCI Clothing Drive to benefit homeless Veterans in the San Francisco Bay Area served by the VA's Downtown Clinic located in San Francisco. Initiated in June 2007, to date over 400 bags of new and used clothing, countless toiletries, dozens of food gift cards, and 13 new tents have been donated by Federal employees from HHS, USDA/FNS, HUD, DOL, SSA, EPA, SBA, FDIC, and DHS/USCIS. Testimonials from the VA have expressed the appreciation of the homeless Veterans who have benefited from the donations.</p>
<p>Exchange and disseminate information to faith-based and community partners, and State and local officials about programs, funding</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use all forms of communication to maximize inter-agency exchange and dissemination of information. 2. Distribute to faith-based and community partners, and State and local officials, a guide for 	<p>Updated the FRC FBCI website at http://www.frc9.us/committee/faith.asp.</p> <p>Shared information through Committee Member networks about the 2008 Stimulus Payment, HUD sponsored grant writing workshops, WHFBCI sponsored trainings and conferences, HHS/CMS outreach and training opportunities, and HUD's Hope for Homeowners Program and the Neighborhood Stabilization (NSP) Program.</p>

<p>opportunities, conferences and workshops.</p>	<p>States interested in a establishing a faith-based office. The guide is expected to be released by the White House FBCI in early 2008.</p> <p>3. Post timely and relevant information on the FRC’s FBCI website, www.frc9.us/committee/faith.asp, and educate partners to visit the website to access current announcements and program information.</p> <p>4. Continue to work with the San Francisco Faith Based Coalition (http://www.faithbasedcoalition.org/) and the “City Serve Faith Communities United in Jesus” coalition (http://www.cityserveonline.org/) to share information and to learn about faith-based events in the San Francisco, Fremont, Newark and Union City communities.</p>	<p>Distribution of the FBCI State Guide: “Partnering with Faith-Based and Community Organizations: A Guide for State and Local Officials Administering Federal Block and Formula Grant Funds” to community partners, and State and local officials will be conducted in 2009.</p> <p>The Committee Coordinator attended the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Center for FBCI "Partnerships in Emergency Preparedness: A Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Preparedness Training Workshop" in Pasadena, California on September 29, 2008. The purpose of the workshop was to engage Homeland Security stakeholders, including the private sector, governmental agencies, non-profit groups such as non-governmental organizations and faith-based groups in a strategic partnership to develop a national culture of preparedness and foster local partnerships. Committee members will explore the possibility of conducting a similar workshop in partnership with DHS in the Bay Area in 2009.</p> <p>Continued to share information about FBCI funding opportunities and activities with the San Francisco Faith Based Coalition (http://www.faithbasedcoalition.org/) and the “City Serve Faith Communities United in Jesus” coalition (http://www.cityserveonline.org/). Committee Members attended the San Francisco Faith Based Coalition meeting on January 31, 2008, to present information on the work of the Region IX FRC, Federal FBCI funding opportunities, and to discuss the possibility of conducting a Bay Area FBCI outreach event. The San Francisco Faith Based Coalition is an all-denominational, inter-racial, non partisan political coalition of churches, ministries, community based organizations, governmental agencies, businesses and concerned individuals working together to serve the people of the San Francisco Bay Area in the areas of housing, education, Veteran affairs, drug abuse, crime and violence prevention, labor relations, environment, health, voter education, small business advocacy and economic development. “City Serve Faith and Communities United in Jesus” Coalition includes 70 congregations located in the cities of Fremont, Newark, and Union City. The purpose of the Coalition is to form a volunteer network of support to address community needs.</p>
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