

# office of faith-based and community initiatives

## '07 annual report



**Sarah Palin**  
governor

**Sean Parnell**  
lieutenant governor

**Karleen Jackson**  
commissioner

### our mission

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

- Fostering Partnerships
- Building Capacity
- 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 a Governor's Advisory Council.

In September 2004, Administrative Order 221 was issued to create this Office and Council. After barely one year of existence of its FBCI effort, Alaska was commended by the White House as a "role-model State." Alaska continues to lead among states.

### progress

#### January 2005

Office of FBCI and Advisory Council established by Administrative Order 221

#### January 2005

Executive Director appointed

#### April 2005

FBCI Advisory Council appointed

#### June 2005

Advisory Council completed first year of service and established five committees:

- Office Support
- Legislative
- Education
- Rural
- Special Initiatives

#### August 2006

Office of FBCI fully staffed

#### October 2006

Office of FBCI awarded \$500,000 grant from Compassion Capital Fund.

## We believe...

- That Alaskans are historically generous in assisting with their neighbors in need.
- That Alaskans must tap additional resources to address the unacceptable levels of human need in our communities.
- That fostering partnerships between and among faith-based and community organizations and government will contribute new resources and enable more efficient delivery in addressing these needs.
- That public funds can be well leveraged through efficient, collaborative partnerships between government and private groups.
- That some faith-based and community groups continue to be disadvantaged in efforts to partner with State government.

## We are...

- Strengthening and expanding the resources contributed by faith-based and community initiatives.
- Fostering partnerships between and among government, faith and community groups.
- Building capacity in faith-based and community organizations.
- Educating the government, faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) and the public about the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiative's (OFBCI) contributions, opportunities and issues.

### FEDERAL FBCI INITIATIVE IN ACTION

The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (FBCI) and 11 Agency Centers were created to lead a determined attack on need by strengthening and expanding the role of Faith-Based and Community Organizations in providing social services. The federal government has worked to accomplish this mission through an array of regulatory and policy reforms, legislative efforts, and public outreach to FBCOs. Additionally, by making information about federal grants more accessible and the application process less burdensome, the Initiative has empowered FBCOs to compete more effectively for funds. The ultimate beneficiaries are those in need, who are best served when the federal government's partners are the providers most capable of meeting their needs.

### FEDERAL AGENCIES WITH CENTERS OF FBCI

In 2006 the White House Office of FBCI provided training, legal and technical assistance to more than 5,500 new and potential grantees. Since 2002 the Office has hosted 28 conferences and trained more than 26,000 people.

Agency for International Development  
Department of Agriculture  
Department of Commerce  
Department of Education  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Department of Homeland Security  
Dept of Housing and Urban Development  
Department of Justice  
Department of Labor  
Small Business Administration  
Department of Veterans Affairs

Competitive federal grants to faith-based organizations increased for the third straight year in FY05. \$2.1 billion in grants were awarded to FBOs by seven federal agencies in FY05.

### STATE FBCI PRIORITIES

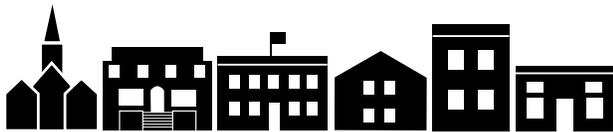
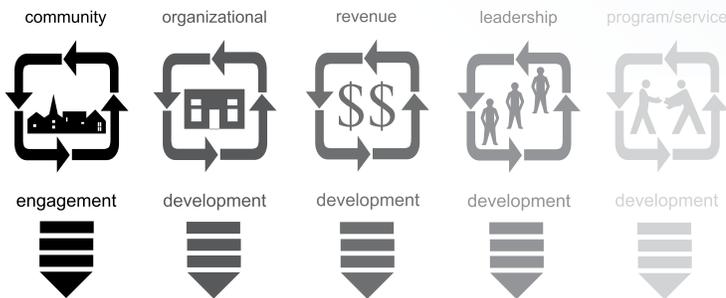
- At-Risk Youth
- Domestic and Societal Violence
- Ex-Offenders Re-entering Society
- Healthy Marriage Initiative
- HIV/AIDS
- Housing and Homelessness
- Hunger and Poverty
- Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery
- Substance Abuse
- Suicide Prevention
- Welfare to Work (*new in '07*)
- Combat Veterans (*new in '07*)



**"TO IMPROVE THE WELL BEING OF ALASKANS BY STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES"**

provides **capacity building** through ↘

**Capacity building** refers to activities that improve an organization's ability to achieve its mission effectively and to sustain itself over the long term.



**FIVE WAYS FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IMPROVE SERVICE IMPACT ON ALASKANS IN NEED.**

1. broaden local awareness and support
2. foster organizational stability and sustainability
3. diversify funding sources
4. develop strong and strategic leadership
5. increase quality programming and enhance service delivery skills

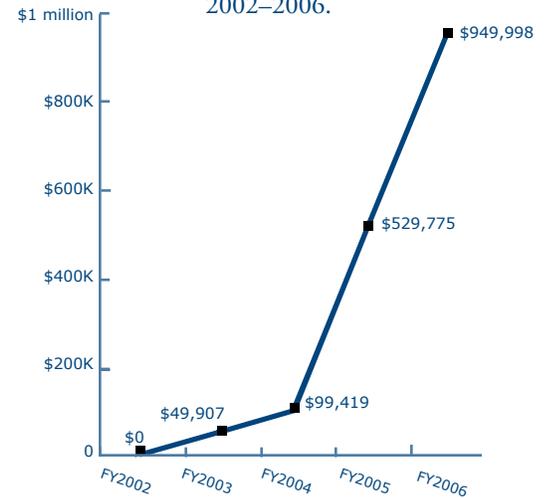


## COMPASSION CAPITAL FUND (CCF)

Since its inception in 2002, \$206 million has been given to more than 4,300 organizations, including sub-awards from intermediary grantees.

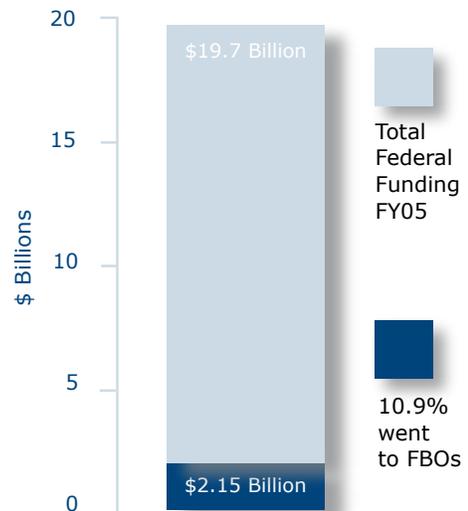
### CCF Dollars to Alaska

This data represents the increase in CCF funding to Alaska from 2002–2006.



### FY05 Federal Service Funding

This data represents the total amount granted by HHS, HUD, USAAID, USDA, DOJ, DOL and ED (combined) in FY05 and the percentage that went to faith-based organizations



“ Because one of the deepest values of our country is compassion, we must never turn away from any citizen who feels isolated from the opportunities of America.”

-President George W. Bush 2005

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

## objective one

Provide contacts for faith-based, community and grassroots organizations in Alaska to receive information, assistance and referrals.

### actions

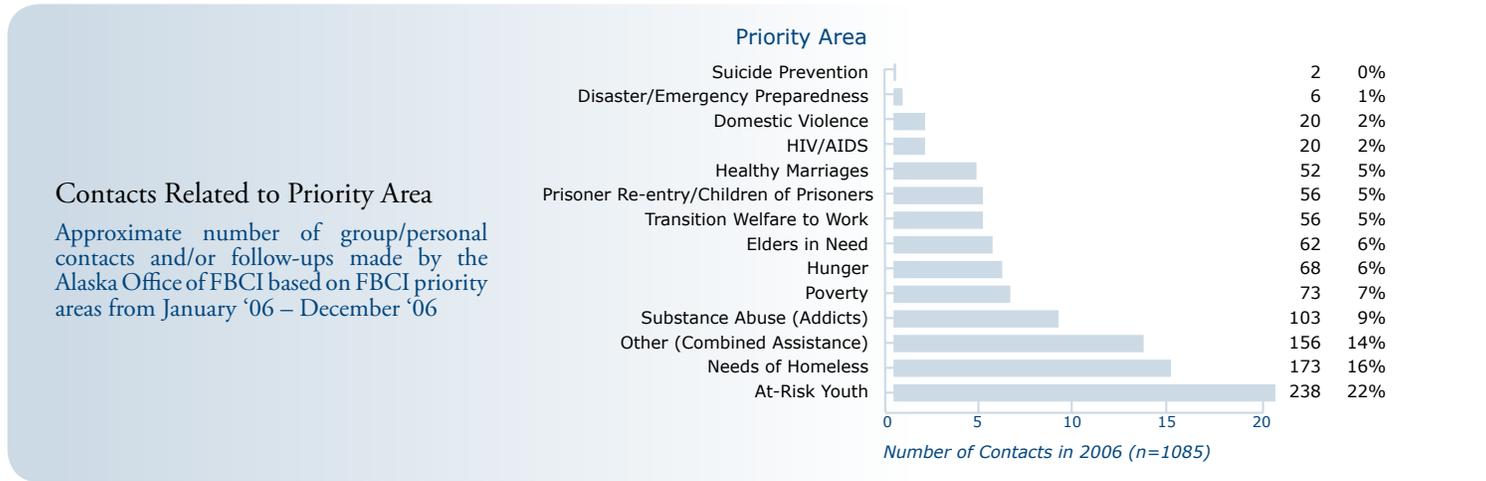
- Updated and maintained a statewide faith-based directory.
- Updated and maintained a resource library.
- Updated and maintained an informational website.
- Utilized an interim “Report of Contact” instrument to continuously measure office contact, support, and follow-up activities.

## objective two

Respond to Alaska's specific faith-based and community organizations’ inquiries and needs.

### actions

- Provided supportive technical assistance—anything that could be addressed within a 24-hour period to help FBCOs seeking guidance.
- Coordinated FBCI educational workshops and inter-agency funding forums.



## objective three

Research, identify and respond to requests and opportunities for expanded partnerships between and among faith-based and community organizations and government.

### actions

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

## objective four

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

### actions

- Educated Department and inter-agency personnel on FBCI issues and opportunities.
- Facilitated an increased trust and understanding between multiple, FBCI organizations and governmental agencies.

## objective one

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

Alaska is the only state in region X that has an Office of FBCI and is often relied on to communicate national information at regional monthly teleconferences.

### actions

- Participated in monthly teleconferences with the White House Office of FBCI to discuss national and local issues.
- Participated in bi-monthly teleconferences with regional FBCI partners including federal and State government liaisons.
- Conducted on-going research and identification of promising-practices or evidence-based practices in FBCI

## objective two

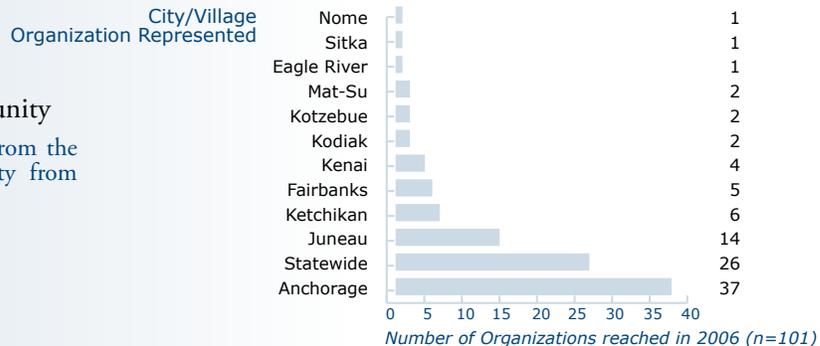
Provide training and technical assistance to faith-based, community and grass roots organizations.

### actions

- Partnered with federal, State and community agencies, to hold two community funding forums in Anchorage (30 participants) and Kotzebue (45 participants).
- Promoted two grant writing trainings held by HUD (92 participants) and Institute for Youth Development (more than 70 participants).
- Provided guidance on grant writing and proposal development to numerous faith based and community organizations (state-wide).
- Provided technical assistance to 14 Healthy Marriage Initiative grantees during individual site visits in 2006.
- Supplied information and provided referral to appropriate capacity building resources relative to organizational needs.
- Disseminated information on funding opportunities, trainings and conferences impacting FBCOs serving Alaskans in need.

### Organizations Reached by Community

Organizations that received assistance from the Alaska Offices of FBCI by community from January '06 – December '06



## objective three

Seek financing to support FBCI programs and services.

### actions

- Applied and received \$500,000 from the 2006 Compassion Capital Fund to provide sub-awards, training and technical assistance dedicated to building capacity in Alaska's faith-based and community organizations.
- Provided technical assistance to faith and community groups that competed for the 2006 Compassion Capital Fund Targeted Capacity Building program and the Communities Empowering Youth program.
- Sought funding through the Legislature.
- Partnered with GrantStation to provide weekly resources and information about funding opportunities to more than 800 members on the FBCI list-serve.

# goal three

Educate the government, organizations and the public about faith-based and community contributions, opportunities and issues that impact Alaskans in need.

## objective one

Convene a statewide conference on faith-based and community initiatives



### actions

- Partnered with Alaska State Community Service Commission (ASCSC) to hold the first joint Volunteerism and FBCI Conference.

## objective two

Communicate faith-based and community opportunities, resources and issues.

The OFBCI list serve expanded from 300 members in 2005 to over 800 statewide in 2006. Projected growth was the impetus for transitioning to a more efficient and user-friendly list-serve host.

### actions

- Maintained an educational website and quarterly newsletter to inform the government, private sector and public on relevant FBCI issues, needs and resources.
- Collaborated with DHSS Public Information Team to provide media releases when events impacting FBCOs occurred.

## objective three

Increase OFBCI & Advisory Council visibility and participation in solution-oriented action addressing unmet needs and social concerns.

### actions

- Office staff participated in community planning events such as:

Anchorage Caring and Emergency Social Services: Social Ministry Blessing  
Community-Based Action for a Safer Society Town Hall meeting  
Faith Information Day  
Helping Us Give School Supplies  
Anchorage Thanksgiving Blessing  
United Way Community Assessment Project  
Alaska 211  
Greater Anchorage Agency Partnership  
Red Ribbon Coalition  
Combat Veterans Outreach  
Anchorage Food Coalition  
Alaska Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster

- Office staff served on boards & coalitions including:

Homelessness Ends in Alaska Advisory Team  
Coalition for Prisoner Re-Entry  
Alaska Workforce Investment Board  
Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness  
Love INC Anchorage  
Salvation Army McKinnell Shelter Advisory Council  
Ready-to-Read-Ready-to-Learn Task Force  
Anchorage Coalition on Homelessness Oversight Board

- Advisory Council provided support and recommendations to the Gang Task-Force.
- In 2006 Office efforts were highlighted in the DHSS Quarterly Report, Anchorage Daily News, K-LOVE News and the National Journal.

## Continuing what works...

- The OFBCI continues to hold community presentations on FBCI contributions, opportunities and issues.
- The OFBCI continues to partner with federal, State and local funding entities to hold community funding forums around the state.
- The OFBCI has continued its partnership with GrantStation, providing weekly funding information and resources to the FBCI list.
- The OFBCI provides free resources to individuals, government agencies and FBCOs on church/state separation, federal guidelines for government, faith-based, community and grassroots partnerships; program capacity and sustainability as well as handbooks for ministry leaders considering applying for and receiving funding from the government.

## Next steps...

- Semi-monthly informational brown-bag sessions open to FBCOs and government agencies on issues impacting our most vulnerable populations (ie: children, At-Risk youth, homeless, elderly, prisoners re-entering the community).
- More targeted information brokering through the statewide list-serve addressing most common needs of Alaskan FBCOs (ie: model FBCO practices, funding diversification, grant opportunities and training).

2006 FBCI Quarter In Focus survey showed the top three most useful resources received through OFBCI electronic communication were:

1. GrantStation Insider
2. Funding Opportunities
3. Capacity Building Links and Resources

- Integrate web-based training, tools and capacity-building resources into OFBCI website.
- In partnership with Alaska State Community Service Commission, convene 2007 Conference on Community and Faith-Based Service targeting FBCOs, grassroots boards, volunteers and national service members. Conference will include a track dedicated to organizational capacity building.
- Develop a more structured OFBCI service flowchart to increase efficiency, effectiveness and promote more proactive impact on FBCOs.
- Develop statewide strategy to educate further about constitutional/ethical uses of government funding in faith-based and community organizations.
- Play a more active role in the coordination of disaster preparedness, response and relief efforts in the State of Alaska.
- Advocate for the inclusion of provisions regarding the use and maintenance of FBCO information on Alaska 211 in State of Alaska Grant Agreements.
- Through Alaska's CCF Program Compassion Alaska, the Office of FBCI will provide funding in the form of sub-awards, training and technical assistance as well as regional workshops to FBCOs for the purpose of building capacity.
- Reduced cost memberships offered by GrantStation to grantees of the Compassion Alaska sub-awards.
- Actively participate in the DHSS Grants Management Project in partnership with the Rasmuson Foundation.

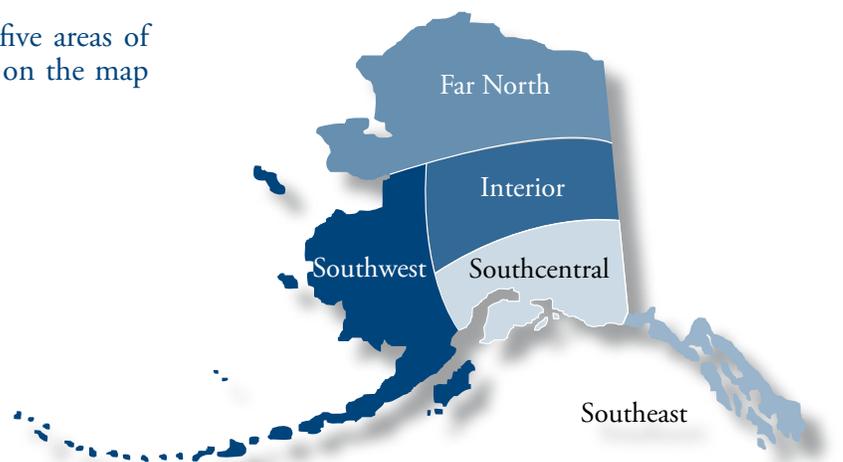


faith-based and community organizations spanning five regions across Alaska to help enhance their ability to serve those in need.

Compassion Alaska will target the following five areas of capacity building in the five regions depicted on the map to the right.

- Leadership Development
- Organizational Development
- Program/Service Development
- Revenue Development
- Community Engagement

Compassion Alaska is a program made possible by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families-Compassion Capital Fund (CCF). Alaska's OFBCI was one of ten awardees to receive the CCF-Demonstration Grant in 2006. These funds will be dedicated to providing capacity building tools and funding to grassroots,





## COMPASSION AT WORK Model Faith-Based, Community & Government Collaborations

### FBCI Advisory Council Members

#### CO-CHAIRS

Scott Merriner, *Co-Chair*  
Lt. Governor Sean Parnell, *Co-Chair*  
Former Lt. Governor Loren Leman  
(*Co-Chair until December 2006*)

#### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Mike Enschede – *Department of Corrections*  
Gracie Jackson – *Department of Labor*

#### MEMBERS

Nancy Campbell – *Palmer*  
Cindy Cashen – *Juneau*  
Glenn Clary – *Anchorage*  
Robert Flint – *Anchorage*  
Judy Fulp – *Kodiak*  
Jeanie Greene – *Anchorage*  
Keith Hamilton – *Kenai*  
Lucy Hansen – *Anchorage*  
Eugene Harnett – *Eagle River*  
Diane Johnson – *Anchorage*  
Allen Levy – *Anchorage*  
Julie Morris – *Juneau*  
Kim Patterson – *Anchorage*  
Ryan Ray – *Palmer*  
Kathleen Svenson – *Ketchikan*  
Gloria Tokar – *Palmer*  
June Ulz – *Fairbanks*

#### STAFF

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Michael Curran – *Program Coordinator*  
Tara Horton – *Associate Coordinator*

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Program Coordinator 907-465-6817

[www.hss.state.ak.us/fbci](http://www.hss.state.ak.us/fbci)

### Rural: Hooper Bay Fire Response

The Yupik Eskimo community of Hooper Bay, population of 1133, was declared a disaster by former Governor Frank Murkowski, and later by President George Bush after a fire destroyed 35 structures, including 14 homes, the school, a teachers' housing complex, grocery store, and many small structures. At least 71 people (16 percent of the community's population) lost everything and were left homeless.

Relief efforts were led by the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Churches, faith-based and community organizations, tribal leaders, Alaska Native Regional Corporations, businesses and individuals from around Alaska and the country united to collect, donate, ship, store, organize and disseminate supplies and financial contributions. State and federal assistance was also granted. Samaritan's Purse donated \$1 million in aid to the community, including several replacement houses. Alaska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), Red Cross, Salvation Army, Food Bank of Alaska, Hooper Bay Covenant Church, Evangelical Covenant Church, Adventists Community Services, Northern Air Cargo and Alaska National Guard each played an invaluable role in the Hooper Bay relief efforts.

### Urban: Anchorage Thanksgiving Blessing

The Anchorage Thanksgiving Blessing project began in 2004 and is led by the Food Bank of Alaska in collaboration with local churches, faith-based organizations and State representatives desiring to meet the tangible needs of Anchorage residents.

Based on the recognition that low income families often do not have the resources available to cover an entire Thanksgiving dinner and the belief that no one should have to go without this meal, project participants united to address this issue. Contributing churches represent a variety of denominations and are located throughout the Anchorage bowl. Distribution sites and supporting churches raise financial and food resources to provide for a portion of the total need. The total cost for this project is \$85,000. With significant contributions from the State of Alaska, Grace Alaska, local businesses, individuals and many distribution sites, this project is a model of faith-based, community and government collaboration in Alaska.

2006: 3,897 meals served at 8 sites with 33 organizations involved

2005: 3,638 meals served at 6 sites with 27 organizations involved

2004: 2,794 meals served at 5 sites with 19 organizations involved

“The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government.” *Thomas Jefferson*

This publication is released by the Alaska Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives through the Department of Health and Social Services and is intended to provide data and information to the public about the Alaska Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives. It was produced at a cost of \$0.00 per copy and printed in Anchorage, Alaska.