

STATE OF INDIANA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS

05-16

EXECUTIVE ORDER

FOR: CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS.

WHEREAS, Hoosiers are a dedicated and selfless people who have a long and proud tradition of helping their neighbors and those less fortunate than themselves;

WHEREAS, committed volunteers in faith-based and community-based organizations bring unique skills, services, and resources to bear on the struggles faced by Hoosier families;

WHEREAS, there are many opportunities for faith-based and community-based organizations to partner with government entities to deliver services more effectively than either can do alone;

WHEREAS, these opportunities represent an avenue toward addressing many of the State's unmet educational, human, public safety, and environmental needs and expanding the options available for enhancing the quality of life for all Hoosiers;

WHEREAS, many beneficial opportunities may be lost if faith-based and community-based groups are not aware of opportunities to participate with state government in serving Hoosiers, or are not equipped to participate on a level playing field, to the fullest extent permitted by law, in partnering or contracting with government entities for the delivery of services that serve a valid government purpose;

WHEREAS, similarly, many beneficial opportunities may be lost if state government does not make efforts to reach out and share information about opportunities to faith-based and community-based providers or to secure and direct federal and state funding to them or assist them in identifying and applying for discretionary federal and state grants;

WHEREAS, government may neither advance nor inhibit religious expression, nor endorse any particular type of religion over non-religion, but must not discriminate against the provision of services by faith-based or community-based providers who are otherwise qualified to provide services;

WHEREAS, it is beneficial to encourage communication between state government and faith-based and community-based organizations, recognizing the importance of sharing information about and encouraging the best practices of successful faith-based and community-based programs;

WHEREAS, the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (the "Act") calls for the support and collaboration of federal, state, and local programs and agencies to build on existing organizational structures and expand full-time and part-time service opportunities for all citizens, and makes federal funding available under the National and Community Service State Grant Program;

WHEREAS, Hoosiers can benefit from a comprehensive and coordinated effort to improve and strengthen the State's volunteerism and community service infrastructure, maximize the utilization of available resources, and cultivate volunteer service opportunities that address the State's pressing needs; and

WHEREAS, this effort should be facilitated by a program having a position of prominence in direct relationship to the Office of the Governor;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby order that:

1. The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI) is hereby created.
2. The OFBCI shall have a Director, who shall be appointed by the Governor and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
3. The OFBCI shall have a direct relationship to the Office of the Governor. The Director of the OFBCI shall be authorized and directed to organize the OFBCI in such manner as the Director deems necessary or appropriate to achieve the objectives set forth in this Executive Order.

4. The OFBCI shall:

- a. apply for funding to the Corporation for National and Community Service and other entities that administer federal grants to support the objectives established by OFBCI for faith-based and community-based programs;
- b. provide to all applicants under the National and Community Service State Grant Program and other federal programs the services required by, and select grantees under, such guidelines as may be specified by those federal programs and applicable law;
- c. work closely with faith-based and community-based groups, charitable organizations, private charities, voluntary associations, educational entities, and other nonprofit service organizations to promote volunteerism and community service and to assist them in identifying and applying for discretionary federal grants;
- d. provide technical assistance, education, information, and other support to such groups and organizations to improve and strengthen the State's volunteerism and community service infrastructure;
- e. promote innovative and model programs and initiatives and share best practices among such groups and organizations; and
- f. coordinate OFBCI activities with those of any federally administered service programs to ensure that services are not duplicated.

5. The Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism (ICCSV) is continued. The existing programs of both the ICCSV and FaithWorks Indiana, which were formerly affiliated with the Department of Workforce Development and the Division of Family and Children of the Family and Social Services Administration, respectively, will be transferred to the OFBCI. The staff and resources of the ICCSV and FaithWorks Office will also be transferred to the OFBCI.



Todd Rokita

ATTEST: Todd Rokita
Secretary of State

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Indiana on this 11th day of January, 2005.

M. Daniels, Jr.
Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor of Indiana