

Faith Based Organizations and Community Development

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Building a Vision of Success

Create an environment where people from all over the community can come for training, educational empowerment, life skills enhancement and human service programming. Help faith based organizations to **maximize local resources**.

Faith-Based Economic Development:

A church's economic salvation is essential to change the conditions and surroundings of people in need who live in its community. The goal of utilizing its land for housing or other types of development will allow a church to begin to more fully address the needs of an expanding and more diversified, urbanized community.

- Develop urban faith-based housing and land-use collaborations programs and partnerships, and community-based partnerships as well as a resource database for continued use.
- Develop proactive development strategy to insure increased income and member church funding by utilizing church resources, property, and human capital.
- Develop workshops for community collaborations with individual churches on development work plan, project approach, project schedule and management, financial infrastructure development, development permitting process, marketing strategies, etc.
- Develop strategies and processes to be utilized by community faith-based organizations for new initiatives that utilize faith as a cornerstone for neighborhood economic development and family development programming as well as affordable housing development initiatives.
- Develop or improve collaborative relationships with community-based community development councils where applicable in the utilization of federal HOME and other applicable state or local funding.

- Prepare background informational materials on development projects that may be coming online for public attention and keep these materials updated with sound, verifiable, and supportable facts.
- Develop database and timeline on all major urban clergy development program initiatives, partnerships, and workshops of which community churches should be aware or may be interested in participating.

Faith-Based Community Human Service Programming:

Ministries must be assisted in developing *service or program capacity* in their individual faith-based organizations and within the community or target program or service area they serve. This must involve assisting each church or creating an area or citywide member organization to help the ministry in reaching its full capacity for program and growth. This will also call for developing and following sound business supportive services (plans) for each program or project. This very crucial phase will create faith-based *successes* as well as develop faith-based ministry networks that can assist smaller, medium and large faith-based ministries in their spiritual and program and service delivery growth and prosperousness.

Goals:

- Give leadership opportunity to community residents, and establish program relationships with public school based tutoring and mentorship programs to interact with membership.
- Open up communication with community-based businesses to provide an opportunity for them to work with and economically support clergy and lay people to strengthen human service programming that fosters closeness.
- Develop pilot "**Life Learning Internet-based Service Centers**" where families, parents with at-risk youth, or public agencies can assist and interact with community residents via the Internet.
- Create models of faith-based programming that focuses on effectiveness and documented solutions.
- Create training modules to assist clergy and lay leaders in developing skills in managing organizational, economic, and community life programs so that

churches become "**Embassies of Care**" -- an alternative to "salvation by state."

This will reflect a transition from trusting in bureaucracy to trusting in God.

- Help create faith-based business incubators. Production of nonprofit organizations programming and for-profit income generating enterprises, charter schools, restaurants, small manufacturing parts enterprises, etc.
- Help faith-based organizations to become high tech to help them improve their service delivery system, self-evaluation tools and diagnostic capability vis-à-vis computers, bandwidth, worship center computer networking, distance learning, e-mail newsletters, etc. driving and promoting technology at the grass roots

End Result:

- Equip people to BE proactive, BE empowered, BE responsible and to DO respond rather than react, to serve, to lead, to manage, to communicate, and to collaborate.
- Build and attract new community leadership which will develop character and competence, inspire new ministries within the community, and generate economic and inspirational empowerment for:
- Personal & family development, organizational infrastructure development, economic development and community development

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