

Faith and Community Based Liaison & Interagency Coordinating Group

Aggregated Annual Report

Report Compiled by:
OneStar Foundation



This is an aggregate of appointed state agency faith and community based liaison reports.

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

House Bill 492 passed during the Regular Session of the 81st Texas Legislature (HB 492 (81R)), upon which several activities have occurred with the intention of strengthening partnerships with state governmental entities and nonprofits (faith and community based organizations). One mandated activity was the appointment of faith and community based liaisons (FBC-Liaisons) from the State Commission on National and Community Service (OneStar Foundation) and fourteen (14) state agencies. FBC-Liaisons were appointed to serve as the liaison within each agency and to serve as a member of the Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG). Per HB 492 (81R), the ICG is presided over by the appointed FBC-Liaison of Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

During 2010, the first task for each FBC-Liaison was the completion of an internal barrier assessment. Each FBC-Liaison was responsible for completing this assessment to identify challenges and opportunities to partnerships between state governmental entities and faith and community based organizations (FBCOs). This assessment was the first step in the process for liaisons to examine internal practices and develop action plans within their respective agencies; it was also the first step for the ICG as a whole to review aggregate findings from which to base an action plan moving forward.

State agencies examined eligibility requirements for grants, contracting requirements, marketing strategies, programmatic requirements, etc. This process was significant as FBC-Liaisons worked together on the ICG to determine across agency activities to address inter-agency barrier assessment findings.

Per HB 492 (81R), completed assessments were submitted to OneStar Foundation (OneStar) for compilation. Each of the fourteen state agencies complied with completion of the barrier assessment. Aggregated findings may be found in the Appendix.

The next reporting requirement of FBC-Liaisons, due to OneStar, was an annual report that identifies activities specific to FBC-Liaison and ICG roles and responsibilities. Each of the fourteen (14) state agencies submitted annual reports and as evidenced by the information provided, several state agencies began activities in 2010 and plan to continue efforts during 2011. While other state agencies plan to move forward with development and implementation of activities during 2011. Aggregated findings are highlighted throughout this document.

Due to the uniqueness of each state agency, variations on progress toward activities may exist. Individual state agency reports, submitted to OneStar, are available upon request.

This is an aggregate of appointed state agency faith and community based liaison reports.

II. OVERVIEW OF HOUSE BILL 492 (81R)

Renewing Our Communities is an initiative highlighted through the passage of House Bill 492 during the Regular Session of the 81st Texas Legislature (HB 492 (81R)). This groundbreaking bill is designed to strengthen the capacity of faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) and the overall capacity of the nonprofit sector-by developing stronger partnerships between FBCOs and governmental entities. These stronger partnerships will in turn allow the nonprofit sector to more effectively provide social services to Texans.

One of the initiatives of HB 492 (81R) is to strengthen partnerships with state governmental entities and nonprofits (faith and community based organizations). HB 492 (81R) requires an Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) comprised of appointed Faith and Community Based Liaisons (FBC-Liaisons).

The State Commission on National and Community Service (also known as OneStar Foundation) serves as an appointed FBC-Liaison in addition to the following state agencies:

- Health and Human Services Commission (*HHSC*)
- Department of Aging and Disability Services (*DADS*)
- Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (*DARS*)
- Department of Family and Protective Services (*DFPS*)
- Department of State Health Services (*DSHS*)
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (*TCEQ*)
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice (*TDCJ*)
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (*TDHCA*)
- Texas Department of Rural Affairs (*TDRA*)
- Texas Education Agency (*TEA*)
- Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (*TJPC*)
- Texas Veterans Commission (*TVC*)
- Texas Workforce Commission (*TWC*)
- Texas Youth Commission (*TYC*)

III. FBC-LIAISON AND ICG ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

HB 492 (81R) defines the general duties of FBC-Liaisons, ICG members, and specific reporting requirements for each. The legislation also identifies the presiding officer of the ICG as the appointed Health and Human Services Commission's FBC-Liaison. The duties and reporting requirements are outlined below:

FBC-Liaison Duties

- *Sec. 535.052. (a)(1) – Identify and remove unnecessary barriers to partnerships between the state agency the liaison represents and faith- and community-based organizations.*

- *Sec. 535.052. (a)(2) – Provide information and training, if necessary, for employees of the state agency the liaison represents regarding equal opportunity standards for faith- and community-based organizations seeking to partner with state government.*
- *Sec. 535.052. (a)(3) – Facilitate the identification of practices with demonstrated effectiveness for faith- and community-based organizations that partner with the state agency the liaison represents.*
- *Sec. 535.052. (a)(4) – Work with the appropriate departments and programs of the state agency the liaison represents to conduct outreach efforts to inform and welcome faith and community-based organizations that have not traditionally formed partnerships with the agency.*
- *Sec. 535.052. (a)(5) – Coordinate all efforts with the governor’s office of faith-based and community initiatives and provide information, support, and assistance to that office as requested to the extent permitted by law and as feasible.*
- *Sec. 535.052. (a)(6) – Attend conferences sponsored by federal agencies and offices and other relevant entities to become and remain informed of issues and developments regarding faith- and community-based initiatives.*

ICG Duties

- *Sec. 535.053. (c)(1) – Meet periodically at the call of the presiding officer*
- *Sec. 535.053. (c)(2) – Work across state agencies and with State Commission on National and Community Service to facilitate the removal of unnecessary interagency barriers to partnerships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations.*
- *Sec. 535.053. (c)(3) – Operate in a manner that promotes effective partnerships between those agencies and organizations to serve residents of this state who need assistance.*

Reporting Duties

- *Sec. 535.054. (a)(1) – Provide periodic reports to the executive commissioner or other chief executive officer who designated the liaison, as applicable, on a schedule determined by the person who designated the liaison.*
- *Sec. 535.054. (a)(2) – Report annually to the Governor’s Office of Faith and Community Based Initiatives and as necessary to the State Commission on National and Community Service regarding the Liaison’s efforts to comply with the duties imposed under Sections 535.052 and 535.053.*
- *Sec. 535.054. (b) – Each report made under Subsection (a) (2) must be made available to the public through posting on the office of the governor’s Internet website, and the reports may be aggregated into a single report for that purpose.*

IV. State Agency Barrier Assessment

Each FBC-Liaison was responsible for completing an internal barrier assessment questionnaire with the purpose of looking within program requirements, such as authorizing statutes, eligibility criteria, and other procurement processes, to determine existing barriers and opportunities for partnering with faith and community based organizations. A detailed report of findings may be found in the Appendix.

The barrier assessment was the initial step in the process for FBC-Liaisons to identify current practices, what is working well and opportunities for improvement and training. Upon completion of the barrier assessment and developing consensus among FBC-Liaisons on thematic barriers across agencies, ICG members developed next steps to address identified themes, both across agencies and within each liaison's respective agency.

Interagency thematic findings from the barrier assessment included:

- **Additional training and outreach to enhance collaboration, streamline access, strengthen government and FBCO partnerships, and develop new partnerships.** There was consensus across state agencies regarding a desire to increase opportunities for partnerships with FBCOs and due to a lack of perceived restrictions that might hinder partnerships, opportunities may be explored addressing this need. Across agencies, the following example was identified as one way to address the need for additional training and outreach: develop a system whereby more experienced FBCOs would mentor less experienced FBCOs on partnering with state governmental entities.
- **Funding and sustainability concerns.** There was consensus across state agencies regarding the need for increased funding to assist with strengthening partnerships as well as a need to increase publicizing funding opportunities to FBCOs, particularly FBCOs in underserved portions of the state. Across state agencies, consensus was also formed on the need for increased awareness of the costs associated with running a nonprofit and recognition that legislative efforts would be needed to increase agency funding in an effort to increase partnerships and address costs associated with running a nonprofit.
- **Inconsistencies were found across agencies regarding understanding of Equal Opportunity treatment and where to get related information.** Across state agencies, additional information and training is needed to ensure accurate information is provided in a consistent and reliable manner to state agency personnel.

Based on the above inter-agency consensus findings, ICG members determined three (3) key areas of focus during 2011:

- Enhance Training
- Share Information and Resources
- Remove Barriers

V. Annual Reporting of FBC-Liaison and ICG Duties

FBC-Liaisons are required to submit an annual report to OneStar on activities associated with FBC-Liaison duties within their respective state agencies and ICG duties across agencies. This report is the first of its kind and is an aggregated summary of activities provided from FBC-Liaisons to OneStar. Results are based on reports submitted from fourteen (14) state agencies.

FBC-Liaison Duties

- Sec. 535.052. (a)(1) – Identify and remove unnecessary barriers to partnerships between the state agency the liaison represents and faith- and community-based organizations.
 - 14 out of 14 state agencies conducted an internal barrier assessment (aggregated findings may be found in the Appendix).
 - 5 out of 14 state agencies indicated completion of activities to address and remove barriers during December 1, 2009 – December 1, 2010 (*DFPS; DSHS; TDCJ; TDHCA; TVC*).
 - 14 out of 14 projected that future steps will be taken in 2011 to remove unnecessary barriers to partnerships.

Examples:

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

- *Identified limited availability of meeting and classroom space for volunteer led programs and seminars.*
- *Addressed barrier through the Capital Improvement Review Committee that partners with nonprofit organizations and volunteer groups to assist in constructing multi-purpose space. Windham School District classrooms are also made available for some volunteer programs.*

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

- *Identified two divisions/programs within TDHCA that have funding restrictions which prohibit contracting with FBCOs.*
- *Addressed barrier through authorizing programs' sub recipients the ability to contract with FBCOs.*

Texas Department of State Health Services

- *Identified technical assistance needs to be provided to FBCOs on areas specific to contract management, fiscal accountability, electronic technology, application and/or proposals for funding completion and submission, and organizational management.*
- *Addressed by providing technical assistance as needed such as conference calls, emails, and site visits.*

- Sec. 535.052. (a)(2) – Provide information and training, if necessary, for employees of the state agency the liaison represents regarding equal opportunity standards for faith- and community-based organizations seeking to partner with state government.
 - 7 out of 14 state agencies reported to have provided trainings or information on Equal Opportunity Standards to state agency personnel during December 1, 2009 – December 1, 2010 (*TCEQ; TDCJ; TDRA; TEA; TVC; TWC; TYC*).

- 14 out of 14 state agencies projected training and informational efforts to occur in 2011.

Examples:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

- *Provided state agency staff with training on Equal Treatment Regulations and Faith and Community Based Initiatives.*

Texas Youth Commission

- *Provided annual EEOC training with a legal emphasis to all agency staff in addition to several other trainings focused on enhancing effective relationships between faith based volunteers and juvenile corrections facilities.*

- Sec. 535.052. (a)(3) – Facilitate the identification of practices with demonstrated effectiveness for faith- and community-based organizations that partner with the state agency the liaison represents.

- 13 out of 14 state agencies reported to have best practices for partnering with FBCOs during December 1, 2009 – December 1, 2010 (*HHSC; DADS; DARS; DFPS; DSHS; TCEQ; TDHCA; TDCJ; TDRA; TEA; TVC; TWC; TYC*).
- 14 out of 14 state agencies projected future best practices to be identified in 2011.

Examples:

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

- *Initiated an internal survey to identify best practices for nonprofits to follow when partnering with HHSC to which collaboration, specific knowledge and training, and outreach were identified as the most prominent themes. Future efforts to determine best practices will focus on coordination across HHSC program areas, FBCOs currently partnering with HHSC, and developing outreach messages in the regions to inform FBCOs of best practices when partnering with HHSC.*

Texas Workforce Commission

- *Initiated and will continue to maintain a “Sharing Best Practices” segment on the Charitable Choice website in an effort to facilitate identification of effective practices of FBCOs that partner with TWC.*

- Sec. 535.052. (a)(4) – Work with the appropriate departments and programs of the state agency the liaison represents to conduct outreach efforts to inform and welcome faith and community-based organizations that have not traditionally formed partnerships with the agency.

- 12 out of 14 state agencies reported to have conducted outreach during December 1, 2009 – December 1, 2010 to FBCOs (*HHSC; DADS; DARS; DFPS; DSHS; TCEQ; TDHCA; TDCJ; TEA; TVC; TWC; TYC*).
- 14 out of 14 state agencies projected future outreach efforts to occur in 2011.

Examples:

Texas Youth Commission

- *Participated on the State Community Resource Coordination Workgroup with several other state agencies to work together on developing and providing state agencies with a community based*

approach to provide better coordination of services for children, youth, and adults with complex multi-agency needs.

- Sec. 535.052. (a)(5) – Coordinate all efforts with the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and provide information, support, and assistance to that office as requested to the extent permitted by law and as feasible.
 - All 14 state agencies complied with completion and submission of an internal barrier assessment to OneStar.
 - All 14 state agencies complied with completion and submission of an annual FBC-Liaison and ICG report to OneStar.
- Sec. 535.052. (a)(6) – Attend conferences sponsored by federal agencies and offices and other relevant entities to become and remain informed of issues and developments regarding faith- and community-based initiatives.
 - 10 out of 14 state agencies reported to have attended conferences during 2010 to become and remain informed of issues and developments regarding FBCOs (*HHSC; DADS; DSHS; TDHCA; TDCJ; TDRA; TEA; TVC; TWC; TYC*).
 - 14 out of 14 state agencies projected attendance at conferences during 2011.

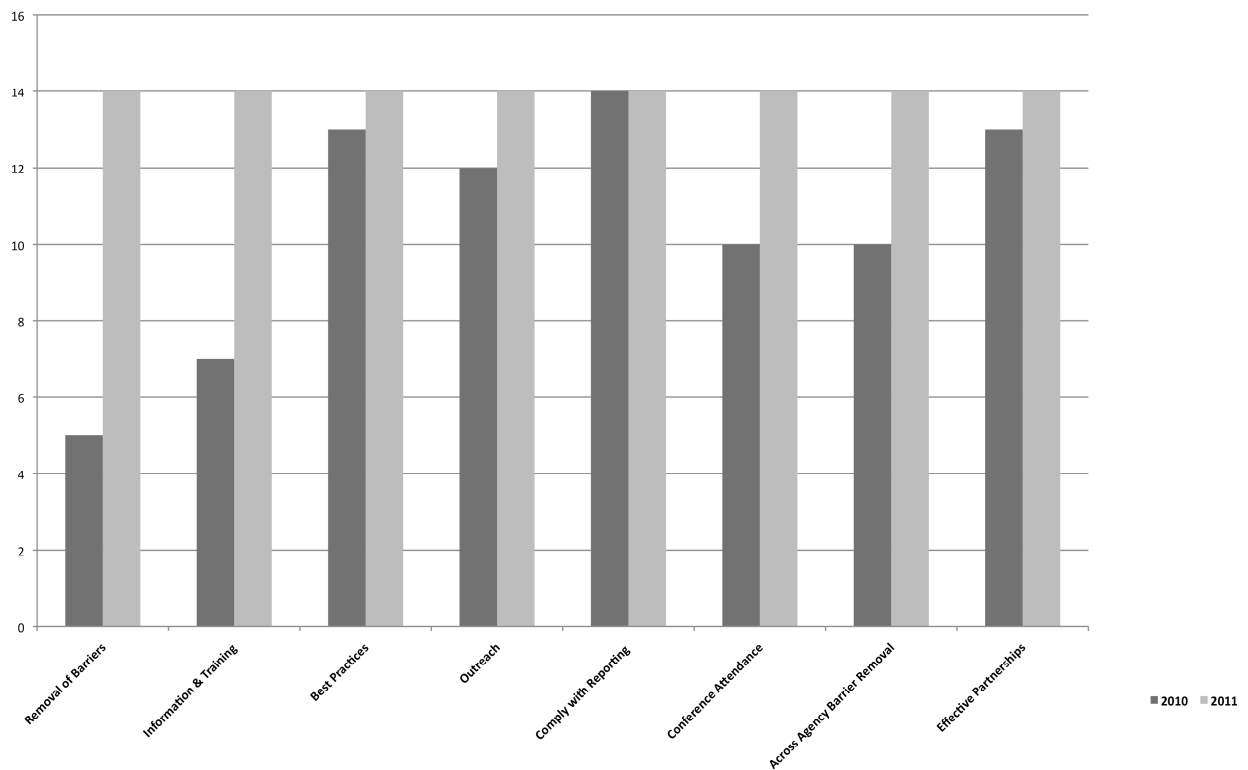
ICG Duties

- Sec. 535.053. (c)(1) – Meet periodically at the call of the presiding officer.
 - Four ICG meetings were held throughout 2010. Based on submitted reports, the following agencies were in attendance:
 - January 29, 2010: (*HHSC; DADS; DARS; DFPS; DSHS; TCEQ; TDHCA; TDRA; TJPC; TEA; TWC; TYC*).
 - August 18, 2010: (*HHSC; DADS; DARS; DFPS; DSHS; TCEQ; TDHCA; TDCJ; TDRA; TWC; TYC*).
 - October 1, 2010: (*HHSC; DADS; DARS; DFPS; DSHS; TCEQ; TDCJ; TDHCA; TDRA; TWC; TYC*).
 - November 5, 2010: (*HHSC; DARS; DSHS; TDCJ; TDHCA; TDRA; TJPC; TWC; TYC*).
- Sec. 535.053. (c)(2) – Work across state agencies and with State Commission on National and Community Service to facilitate the removal of unnecessary interagency barriers to partnerships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations.
 - 10 out of 14 state agencies reported to have worked across state agencies to facilitate the removal of interagency barriers during December 1, 2009 – December 1, 2010 (*HHSC; DADS; DARS; TCEQ; TDHCA; TDCJ; TDRA; TVC; TWC; TYC*).

- 14 out of 14 state agencies projected future plans to work across state agencies during 2011.
- Sec. 535.053. (c)(3) – Operate in a manner that promotes effective partnerships between those agencies and organizations to serve residents of this state who need assistance.
 - 13 out of 14 state agencies reported to have operated in a manner that promotes effective partnerships during December 1, 2009 – December 1, 2010 (*HHSC; DADS; DARS; DFPS; DSHS; TCEQ; TDHCA; TDCJ; TDRA; TEA; TVC; TWC; TYC*).
 - 14 out of 14 state agencies projected future plans to promote effective partnerships in 2011.

The table below depicts reported activities associated with each duty that occurred during 2010 and projected efforts reported to occur in 2011. While activity levels varied in 2010, all agencies projected future activities during 2011.

2010 Activities and 2011 Projected Activities



VI. Recommended and Requested Additional ICG Members

ICG members recommended additional FBC-Liaison appointments from three state offices and for these liaisons to participate as members of the ICG. The Governor's Office will be notifying the following agencies of appointments to be designated in 2011:

- Texas Secretary of State's Office
- Texas Comptroller's Office
- Texas Department of Information Resources

VII. Next Steps for 2011

As a direct result from barrier assessment findings, ICG members have determined three key areas of focus, both internally within their respective state agencies and across state agencies. These areas are:

- Enhance Training
- Share Information and Resources
- Remove Barriers

Workgroups specific to these three areas have been developed and will be a key focus of the ICG during 2011.

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the expansion of faith- and community-based health and
3 human services and social services initiatives.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. (a) Subtitle I, Title 4, Government Code, is
6 amended by adding Chapter 535 to read as follows:

7 CHAPTER 535. PROVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES AND OTHER
8 SOCIAL SERVICES THROUGH FAITH- AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

9 SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

10 Sec. 535.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

11 (1) "Community-based initiative" includes a social,
12 health, human services, or volunteer income tax assistance
13 initiative operated by a community-based organization.

14 (2) "Community-based organization" means a nonprofit
15 corporation or association that is located in close proximity to
16 the population the organization serves.

17 (3) "Faith-based initiative" means a social, health,
18 or human services initiative operated by a faith-based
19 organization.

20 (4) "Faith-based organization" means a nonprofit
21 corporation or association that:

22 (A) is operated through a religious or
23 denominational organization, including an organization that is
24 operated for religious, educational, or charitable purposes and

1 that is operated, supervised, or controlled, wholly or partly, by
2 or in connection with a religious organization; or

3 (B) clearly demonstrates through the
4 organization's mission statement, policies, or practices that the
5 organization is guided or motivated by religion.

6 (5) "State Commission on National and Community
7 Service" means the entity used as authorized by 42 U.S.C. Section
8 12638(a) to carry out the duties of a state commission under the
9 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12501
10 et seq.).

11 Sec. 535.002. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to
12 strengthen the capacity of faith- and community-based
13 organizations and to forge stronger partnerships between those
14 organizations and state government for the legitimate public
15 purpose of providing charitable and social services to persons in
16 this state.

17 Sec. 535.003. CONSTRUCTION. This chapter may not be
18 construed to:

19 (1) exempt a faith- or community-based organization
20 from any applicable state or federal law; or

21 (2) be an endorsement or sponsorship by this state of
22 the religious character, expression, beliefs, doctrines, or
23 practices of a faith-based organization.

24 Sec. 535.004. APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAW. A
25 power authorized or duty imposed under this chapter must be
26 performed in a manner that is consistent with 42 U.S.C. Section
27 604a.

1 [Sections 535.005-535.050 reserved for expansion]

2 SUBCHAPTER B. GOVERNMENTAL LIAISONS FOR FAITH- AND

3 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

4 Sec. 535.051. DESIGNATION OF FAITH- AND COMMUNITY-BASED
5 LIAISONS. (a) The executive commissioner, in consultation with
6 the governor, shall designate one employee from the commission and
7 from each health and human services agency to serve as a liaison for
8 faith- and community-based organizations.

9 (b) The chief administrative officer of each of the
10 following state agencies, in consultation with the governor, shall
11 designate one employee from the agency to serve as a liaison for
12 faith- and community-based organizations:

- 13 (1) the Office of Rural Community Affairs;
14 (2) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
15 (3) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
16 (4) the Texas Department of Housing and Community
17 Affairs;
18 (5) the Texas Education Agency;
19 (6) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission;
20 (7) the Texas Veterans Commission;
21 (8) the Texas Workforce Commission;
22 (9) the Texas Youth Commission; and
23 (10) other state agencies as determined by the
24 governor.

25 Sec. 535.052. GENERAL DUTIES OF LIAISONS. (a) A faith- and
26 community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 shall:

- 27 (1) identify and remove unnecessary barriers to

1 partnerships between the state agency the liaison represents and
2 faith- and community-based organizations;

3 (2) provide information and training, if necessary,
4 for employees of the state agency the liaison represents regarding
5 equal opportunity standards for faith- and community-based
6 organizations seeking to partner with state government;

7 (3) facilitate the identification of practices with
8 demonstrated effectiveness for faith- and community-based
9 organizations that partner with the state agency the liaison
10 represents;

11 (4) work with the appropriate departments and programs
12 of the state agency the liaison represents to conduct outreach
13 efforts to inform and welcome faith- and community-based
14 organizations that have not traditionally formed partnerships with
15 the agency;

16 (5) coordinate all efforts with the governor's office
17 of faith-based and community initiatives and provide information,
18 support, and assistance to that office as requested to the extent
19 permitted by law and as feasible; and

20 (6) attend conferences sponsored by federal agencies
21 and offices and other relevant entities to become and remain
22 informed of issues and developments regarding faith- and
23 community-based initiatives.

24 (b) A faith- and community-based liaison designated under
25 Section 535.051 may coordinate and interact with statewide
26 organizations that represent faith- or community-based
27 organizations as necessary to accomplish the purposes of this

1 chapter.

2 Sec. 535.053. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING GROUP. (a) The
3 interagency coordinating group for faith- and community-based
4 initiatives is composed of each faith- and community-based liaison
5 designated under Section 535.051 and a liaison from the State
6 Commission on National and Community Service.

7 (b) The commission employee designated as a liaison under
8 Section 535.051 is the presiding officer of the interagency
9 coordinating group.

10 (c) The interagency coordinating group shall:

11 (1) meet periodically at the call of the presiding
12 officer;

13 (2) work across state agencies and with the State
14 Commission on National and Community Service to facilitate the
15 removal of unnecessary interagency barriers to partnerships
16 between state agencies and faith- and community-based
17 organizations; and

18 (3) operate in a manner that promotes effective
19 partnerships between those agencies and organizations to serve
20 residents of this state who need assistance.

21 Sec. 535.054. REPORTS. (a) A liaison designated under
22 Section 535.051 shall:

23 (1) provide periodic reports to the executive
24 commissioner or other chief executive officer who designated the
25 liaison, as applicable, on a schedule determined by the person who
26 designated the liaison; and

27 (2) report annually to the governor's office of

1 faith- and community-based initiatives and as necessary to the
2 State Commission on National and Community Service regarding the
3 liaison's efforts to comply with the duties imposed under Sections
4 535.052 and 535.053.

5 (b) Each report made under Subsection (a)(2) must be made
6 available to the public through posting on the office of the
7 governor's Internet website, and the reports may be aggregated into
8 a single report for that purpose.

9 [Sections 535.055-535.100 reserved for expansion]

10 SUBCHAPTER C. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT

11 Sec. 535.101. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "account"
12 means the renewing our communities account.

13 Sec. 535.102. PURPOSES OF SUBCHAPTER. Recognizing that
14 faith- and community-based organizations provide a range of vital
15 charitable services to persons in this state, the purposes of this
16 subchapter are to:

17 (1) increase the impact and effectiveness of those
18 organizations;

19 (2) forge stronger partnerships between those
20 organizations and state government so that communities are
21 empowered to serve persons in need and community capacity for
22 providing services is strengthened; and

23 (3) create a funding mechanism that builds on the
24 established efforts of those organizations and operates to create
25 new partnerships in local communities for the benefit of this
26 state.

27 Sec. 535.103. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT. (a) The

1 renewing our communities account is an account in the general
2 revenue fund that may be appropriated only to the commission for the
3 purposes and activities authorized by this subchapter and for
4 reasonable administrative expenses under this subchapter.

5 (b) The account consists of:

6 (1) all money appropriated for the purposes of this
7 subchapter;

8 (2) any gifts, grants, or donations received for the
9 purposes of this subchapter; and

10 (3) interest earned on money in the account.

11 (c) The account is exempt from the application of Section
12 403.095.

13 (d) The purposes of the account are to:

14 (1) increase the capacity of faith- and
15 community-based organizations to provide charitable services and
16 to manage human resources and funds;

17 (2) assist local governmental entities in
18 establishing local offices to promote faith- and community-based
19 initiatives; and

20 (3) foster better partnerships between state
21 government and faith- and community-based organizations.

22 Sec. 535.104. POWERS AND DUTIES REGARDING ACCOUNT. (a) The
23 commission shall:

24 (1) contract with the State Commission on National and
25 Community Service to administer funds appropriated from the account
26 in a manner that:

27 (A) consolidates the capacity of and strengthens

1 national service and community and faith- and community-based
2 initiatives; and

3 (B) leverages public and private funds to benefit
4 this state;

5 (2) develop a competitive process to be used in
6 awarding grants from account funds that is consistent with state
7 law and includes objective selection criteria;

8 (3) oversee the delivery of training and other
9 assistance activities under this subchapter;

10 (4) develop criteria limiting awards of grants under
11 Section 535.105(1)(A) to small and medium-sized faith- and
12 community-based organizations that provide charitable services to
13 persons in this state;

14 (5) establish general state priorities for the
15 account;

16 (6) establish and monitor performance and outcome
17 measures for persons to whom grants are awarded under this
18 subchapter; and

19 (7) establish policies and procedures to ensure that
20 any money appropriated from the account to the commission that is
21 allocated to build the capacity of a faith-based organization or
22 for a faith-based initiative, including money allocated for the
23 establishment of the advisory committee under Section 535.108, is
24 not used to advance a sectarian purpose or to engage in any form of
25 proselytization.

26 (b) Instead of contracting with the State Commission on
27 National and Community Service under Subsection (a)(1), the

1 commission may award account funds appropriated to the commission
2 to the State Commission on National and Community Service in the
3 form of a grant.

4 (c) Any funds awarded to the State Commission on National
5 and Community Service under a contract or through a grant under this
6 section must be administered in the manner required by this
7 subchapter, including Subsection (a)(1).

8 (d) The commission or the State Commission on National and
9 Community Service, in accordance with the terms of the contract or
10 grant, as applicable, may:

11 (1) directly, or through agreements with one or more
12 entities that serve faith- and community-based organizations that
13 provide charitable services to persons in this state:

14 (A) assist faith- and community-based
15 organizations with:

16 (i) writing or managing grants through
17 workshops or other forms of guidance;

18 (ii) obtaining legal assistance related to
19 forming a corporation or obtaining an exemption from taxation under
20 the Internal Revenue Code; and

21 (iii) obtaining information about or
22 referrals to entities that provide expertise in accounting, legal,
23 or tax issues, program development matters, or other organizational
24 topics;

25 (B) provide information or assistance to
26 faith- and community-based organizations related to building the
27 organizations' capacity for providing services;

1 (C) facilitate the formation of networks, the
2 coordination of services, and the sharing of resources among
3 faith- and community-based organizations;

4 (D) in cooperation with existing efforts, if
5 possible, conduct needs assessments to identify gaps in services in
6 a community that present a need for developing or expanding
7 services;

8 (E) work with faith- and community-based
9 organizations to identify the organizations' needs for
10 improvements in their internal capacity for providing services;

11 (F) provide faith- and community-based
12 organizations with information on and assistance in identifying or
13 using practices with demonstrated effectiveness for delivering
14 charitable services to persons, families, and communities and in
15 replicating charitable services programs that have demonstrated
16 effectiveness; and

17 (G) encourage research into the impact of
18 organizational capacity on program delivery for faith- and
19 community-based organizations;

20 (2) assist a local governmental entity in creating a
21 better partnership between government and faith- and
22 community-based organizations to provide charitable services to
23 persons in this state; and

24 (3) use funds appropriated from the account to provide
25 matching money for federal or private grant programs that further
26 the purposes of the account as described by Section 535.103(d).

27 (e) The commission shall monitor the use of the funds

1 administered by the State Commission on National and Community
2 Service under a contract or through a grant under this section to
3 ensure that the funds are used in a manner consistent with the
4 requirements of this subchapter. Records relating to the award of a
5 contract or grant to the State Commission on National and Community
6 Service, or to grants awarded by that entity, and records relating
7 to other uses of the funds are public information subject to Chapter
8 552.

9 (f) If the commission contracts with or awards a grant to
10 the State Commission on National and Community Service under this
11 section, this subchapter may not be construed to:

12 (1) release that entity from any regulations or
13 reporting or other requirements applicable to a contractor or
14 grantee of the commission;

15 (2) impose regulations or reporting or other
16 requirements on that entity that do not apply to other contractors
17 or grantees of the commission solely because of the entity's
18 status;

19 (3) alter the nonprofit status of that entity or the
20 requirements for maintaining that status; or

21 (4) convert that entity into a governmental entity
22 because of the receipt of account funds through the contract or
23 grant.

24 Sec. 535.105. ADMINISTRATION OF ACCOUNT FUNDS. If under
25 Section 535.104 the commission contracts with or awards a grant to
26 the State Commission on National and Community Service, that
27 entity:

1 (1) may award grants from funds appropriated from the
2 account to:

3 (A) faith- and community-based organizations
4 that provide charitable services to persons in this state for
5 capacity-building purposes; and

6 (B) local governmental entities to provide seed
7 money for local offices for faith- and community-based initiatives;
8 and

9 (2) shall monitor performance and outcome measures for
10 persons to whom that entity awards grants using the measures
11 established by the commission under Section 535.104(a)(6).

12 Sec. 535.106. REPORTS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION. (a) The
13 commission shall provide a link on the commission's Internet
14 website to the Internet website of the State Commission on National
15 and Community Service if the commission contracts with or awards a
16 grant to that entity under Section 535.104. The entity's Internet
17 website must provide:

18 (1) a list of the names of each person to whom the
19 entity awarded a grant from money appropriated from the account and
20 the amount and purpose of the grant; and

21 (2) information regarding the methods by which the
22 public may request information about those grants.

23 (b) If awarded a contract or grant under Section 535.104,
24 the State Commission on National and Community Service must provide
25 to the commission periodic reports on a schedule determined by the
26 executive commissioner. The schedule of periodic reports must
27 include an annual report that includes:

1 (1) a specific accounting with respect to the use by
2 that entity of money appropriated from the account, including the
3 names of persons to whom grants have been awarded and the purposes
4 of those grants; and

5 (2) a summary of the efforts of the faith- and
6 community-based liaisons designated under Section 535.051 to
7 comply with the duties imposed by and the purposes of Sections
8 535.052 and 535.053.

9 (c) The commission shall post the annual report made under
10 Subsection (b) on the commission's Internet website and shall
11 provide copies of the report to the governor, the lieutenant
12 governor, and the members of the legislature.

13 Sec. 535.107. TASK FORCE ON STRENGTHENING NONPROFIT
14 CAPACITY. (a) The executive commissioner, in consultation with
15 the governor, shall establish a task force to make recommendations
16 for strengthening the capacity of faith- and community-based
17 organizations for managing human resources and funds and providing
18 services. The members of the task force must include:

19 (1) representatives from state agencies, nonprofit
20 organizations, the academic community, and the foundation
21 community; and

22 (2) other individuals who have expertise that would be
23 valuable to the task force.

24 (b) Using money appropriated from the account, the task
25 force shall hold at least three public hearings in various
26 geographic areas of this state, at least one of which must be
27 outside of Central Texas. The task force shall hear testimony at

1 the hearings regarding strengthening the capacity of faith- and
2 community-based organizations to manage human resources and funds
3 and provide services.

4 (c) The task force is not required to hold a public hearing
5 if the remaining money appropriated from the account to the
6 commission for the state fiscal biennium is insufficient for the
7 performance of the duties or activities under this subchapter.

8 (d) The task force shall present a report and legislative
9 recommendations to the House Committee on Human Services or its
10 successor, the House Committee on Public Health or its successor,
11 and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee or its successor
12 not later than September 1, 2010, regarding its recommendations.

13 (e) This section expires September 1, 2011.

14 Sec. 535.108. RENEWING OUR COMMUNITIES ACCOUNT ADVISORY
15 COMMITTEE. (a) The executive commissioner shall appoint leaders
16 of faith- and community-based organizations in this state to serve
17 on the renewing our communities account advisory committee. The
18 advisory committee members must be representative of the religious,
19 cultural, and geographic diversity of this state and the diversity
20 of organization types and sizes in this state.

21 (b) The advisory committee shall make recommendations to
22 the executive commissioner regarding the powers and duties with
23 respect to the account as described by Section 535.104.

24 (c) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the
25 advisory committee shall meet at least twice each calendar year.
26 The advisory committee is not required to meet if the remaining
27 amount appropriated from the account to the commission for the

1 state fiscal biennium is insufficient for the performance of any
2 duties or activities under this subchapter.

3 (d) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the advisory committee.

4 (e) The advisory committee is subject to Chapter 551.

5 (b) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human
6 Services Commission and the chief executive officers of the Office
7 of Rural Community Affairs, the Texas Commission on Environmental
8 Quality, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the Texas
9 Department of Housing and Community Affairs, the Texas Education
10 Agency, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, the Texas Veterans
11 Commission, the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Youth
12 Commission, and any other state agency as determined by the
13 governor shall designate the liaisons for faith- and
14 community-based initiatives as required under Section 535.051,
15 Government Code, as added by this section, not later than December
16 1, 2009.

17 (c) The interagency coordinating group established under
18 Section 535.053, Government Code, as added by this section, shall
19 hold its first meeting not later than February 1, 2010.

20 SECTION 2. This Act does not make an appropriation. A
21 provision in this Act that creates a new governmental program,
22 creates a new entitlement, or imposes a new duty on a governmental
23 entity is not mandatory during a fiscal period for which the
24 legislature has not made a specific appropriation to implement the
25 provision.

26 SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act
27 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a

1 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
2 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
3 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
4 waiver or authorization is granted.

5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 492 was passed by the House on April 24, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 119, Nays 15, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 492 on May 18, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 492 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 14, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor

Faith- and Community-Based Liaisons
Contact Information
As of November 2010

Health and Human Services Commission (Chair):

Liz Garbutt, Director, Office of Community Access

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State Commission on National and Community Service:

Elizabeth Darling, CEO, OneStar Foundation

- E-mail: liz@onestarfoundation.org
- Phone: 512.287.2062

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Kristi Jordan, Director, Center for Consumer and External Affairs

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Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services:

Glenn Neal, Director, Program and External Relations

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Department of Family and Protective Services:

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Department of State Health Services:

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Department of Rural Affairs

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Texas Department of Criminal Justice:

Marvin Dunbar, Rehabilitation Programs

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- Phone: 512.463.9734

Texas Juvenile Probation Commission:

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Texas Veterans Commission:

David Nobles, Grants Coordinator

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- Phone: 512.463.6380

Texas Workforce Commission:

Janie Young, Program Administrator, Workforce Development Division

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Texas Youth Commission:

John Stutz, Manager, Faith-Based Services

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**State Agency
Internal Barrier Assessment**

Aggregate Report of Findings

August 18, 2010

Report Compiled by:

OneStar Foundation



Building Better Nonprofits for a Better Texas

This is an aggregate of assessments submitted by appointed state agency faith and community based liaisons.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Interagency Coordinating Group, comprised of fourteen state agency Faith and Community Based Liaisons (FCB-Liaisons) and OneStar Foundation, also known as the Governor’s Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives, completed an internal barrier assessment questionnaire with the purpose of looking within program requirements, such as authorizing statutes, eligibility criteria, and other request for proposal processes to determine existing barriers and opportunities for partnering with faith and community based organizations.

Recommendations were provided by OneStar in an effort to assist agency programs in completing the assessment. Recommendations included an examination of programs under major funding streams with an emphasis on examining request for proposals and contractual requirements, in addition to any statutory or programmatic requirements. For agencies with a multitude of programs, it was recommended that these agencies select a sample of programs that could be a representative snapshot of other programs, and to assess those that have newly released requests for proposals.

As subject matter experts for their respective agencies, liaisons were tasked with determining eligible programs to complete the assessment.

II. METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

The findings below are provided by responses to an internal barrier assessment and are based on answers from 107 state agency programs that completed the state agency barrier assessment in its entirety. One state agency indicated that FBCOs are ineligible partners and therefore, the assessment was not completed past the first section, in compliance with stated instructions.

In addition to findings from state agency programs, supplemental information has been provided from public hearings of the Task Force for Strengthening Nonprofit Capacity. Recommendations from national resources are also included.

Findings are based on response counts to questions and a content analysis of the information provided. Both quantitative and qualitative information were analyzed. Footnotes are embedded throughout the document to provide metrics associated with the language provided.

Findings are placed under barrier assessment category headers in an effort to organize the depth of information provided.

III. FINDINGS

Basic Information

- Survey responses indicate a large number of state agency programs include FBCOs as eligible partners¹ (1.8)
- Survey responses show partnerships with FBCOs are primarily through contracts, followed by grants, other formal agreements (MOUs, MOAs, etc.), other (varied by agency), and informal agreements with no money rendered for services (1.8a)
- Survey responses show a small number of programs that allow for subgrants, subcontracts, or subawards and FBCOs are ineligible to receive such awards² (1.9)

Eligible Partners

- Majority of state agencies are not limited by statutes, rules, or regulations that limit partnerships with FBCOs³ (2.1)
- State agency programs did not identify any programmatic restrictions for partnering with FBCOs⁴ (2.2)
- Two state agencies indicated a court opinion, legal memo or court ruling that restricts or limits the ability to partner with FBCOs (2.3)
- Several state agencies offered recommendations on training needs for FBCOs (*examples provided below*)
 - “Training on eligibility requirements”
 - “How to partner with the state agencies including contract procurement, language and terminology used, and recommendations for services”
 - “Provide training to school districts on how to collaborate and partner with FBCOs”

Current Involvement with FBCOs

- Survey findings indicate a number of state agencies have FBCOs involved with or supported by their programs⁵ (3.1)
- Opportunities to expand partnerships and current initiatives were identified for several of state agency programs⁶ (3.2a) (*examples provided below*)
 - “Continue contracts with organizations that can provide capacity building training to FBCOs”

¹ Large number in this case refers to 86%

² Small number in this case refers to 20%

³ Majority in this case refers to 89%

⁴ 100% of respondents responded the same way

⁵ Number of in this case refers to over six

⁶ Several in this case refers to at least six

- “Enhance FBCOs public awareness and knowledge of services and programs provided by state agencies”
- “Expand partnership with FBCOs including providing funding opportunities for which FBCOs can apply”
- “Strengthen community partnerships at the grassroots level”
- Survey responses show varying levels of program funding going to FBCOs through grants, vouchers, etc., ranging from 0-100% (3.3)
- Some agencies use informal agreements with FBCOs and if entered into, these agreements do not involve funding⁷ (1.8a) (3.4)
- Several state agencies offered best practices related to their current involvement of FBCOs (3.5) (examples below)
 - “Connecting with underserved populations by partnering with FBCOs in the community”
 - “Ensuring training and technical assistance is available, especially financial training and assistance”
 - “Having a centralized project management location whereby the office manager facilitates the collaboration process by drafting memorandums of understanding, conducting implementation meetings, analyzing the impact of partnerships, and evaluating the process”
 - “Providing professional development on how school districts can partner with FBCOs”
- Several state agencies offered recommendations for trainings and outreach for FBCOs (examples below)
 - “Encourage FBCOs to learn from each other, create a mentoring relationship with other more experienced FBCOs”
 - “FBCOs perceived to be technology challenged with some not knowing how to use a computer; therefore, technology training was identified”
 - “How to expand marketing procurements to ensure FBCOs are receiving updates and notices of contracts and other agency initiatives and outreach to continue efforts to involve FBCOs”
 - “How to maintain fiscally responsible business practices, highlight exemplars of nonprofit partnerships in workshops, panel discussions, roundtables”
 - “How to partner and collaborate”

⁷ Some in this case refers to 14%

Partnership Challenges between State Agency Programs and FBCOs

- Survey responses indicate inconsistencies across state agencies regarding whether or not nonprofit status must be demonstrated when partnering with FBCOs⁸ (4.1)
- Survey responses indicate that requirements surrounding demonstration of nonprofit status is not perceived as a barrier for state agency programs to partner with FBCOs⁹(4.1b)
- Majority of state agency programs indicated no requirement for FBCOs to show proof of 501(c) (3) status from IRS¹⁰ and for those that do, a small number require something different from other grantees, contractors, and/or formal and informal partners¹¹(4.2)(4.2a)
- State agencies do not perceive requiring FBCOs to show proof of 501(c) (3) status as a barrier to partnering¹² (4.2c)
- Some state programs subject FBCOs to different defined standards of fiscal accountability than other grantees, contractors, and/or formal and informal partners¹³ (4.3)
- A small number of agency programs perceived fiscal accountability requirements as a barrier to partnering with FBCOs¹⁴ (4.3c)
- Some state programs subject FBCOs to different reporting requirements, assurances, or certification than other grantees, contractors, and/or formal and informal partners¹⁵ (4.4)(4.4a)
- State agencies do not perceive reporting requirements as barriers to partnering with FBCOs¹⁶ (4.4c)
- Some state agency programs subject FBCOs to different performance monitoring standards than other grantees, contractors, and/or formal and informal partners¹⁷ (4.5) (4.5a)
- A small number of state agency programs perceived performance monitoring standards as barriers to partnering with FBCOs¹⁸ (4.5c)
- Some state programs that partner with FBCOs require minimum budget size, years of operation, and/or previous grant management experience¹⁹ (4.6)
- A small number of state agency programs perceive requirements of minimum budget size, number of years of operation, and/or previous grant management experience as barriers to partnering with FBCOs²⁰ (4.6c)

⁸ Inconsistencies in this case refers to 64% responding one way and 37% responding the other way

⁹ 100% responded a particular way

¹⁰ Majority in this case refers to 76%

¹¹ Small number in this case refers to 14%

¹² 100% responded a particular way

¹³ Some in this case refers to 19%

¹⁴ Small number in this case refers to 3%

¹⁵ Some in this case refers to 5%

¹⁶ 100% responded a particular way

¹⁷ Some in this case refers to 5%

¹⁸ Small number refers to 7%

¹⁹ Some in this case refers to 39%

- A large number of state agency programs that award funds do not provide preference to current grantees or re-competing grantees and is not perceived as a barrier to partnering with FBCOs²¹ *(With the exception of any federal programs requiring preference for current grantees or re-competing grantees) (4.7)(4.7b)*
- Some state agencies offered training and outreach recommendations to assist with partnership challenges between state agency programs and FBCOs *(examples below)*
 - “Advocates for nonprofits including associations and foundations could inform nonprofits with expertise in the areas required for various educational and other programs funded through state agencies that they can apply for fund”
 - “Lack of FBCO capacity to administer programs”
 - “Lack of nonprofit service providers in rural communities”
 - “Mentoring model training that pairs nonprofits that are just starting out with nonprofits that have already been successful”
 - “Outreach to FBCOs in rural communities is needed”
 - “Training to FBCOs on fiscal management and monitoring regulations, service authorization process, invoicing process, background check system”
 - “Training to FBCOs on how to report performance measurement data, reporting requirements and service deliverables”

General Obligations of FBCOs that Partner with State Agencies

- State agencies that partner with FBCOs do not restrict partners from using religious language in their official name, mission statement, and/or governing documents and this is not perceived as a barrier to partnerships with FBCOs²² *(5.1)(5.1b)*
- No statutory or other restrictions were identified that would prevent an FBCO from having a religious mission or motivation and this is not perceived as a barrier to partnerships with FBCOs²³ *(5.2)(5.2b)*
- Many agency programs do not subject FBCOs to explicit restrictions against engaging in religious activities or expression²⁴ *(5.3)*
- Some state agencies do not apply the same restrictions for all FBCOs regarding engaging in religious activities or expression²⁵ *(5.3b)*
- Majority of state agencies indicated that programs with restrictions against engaging in religious activities or expression is not perceived as a barrier to partnerships with FBCOs but one state agency did perceive this as a barrier to partnerships²⁶ *(5.3e)*

²⁰ Small number in this case refers to 3%

²¹ Large number refers to 97%

²² 100% of respondents answered this way

²³ 100% of respondents answered this way

²⁴ Many in this case refers to 77%

²⁵ Some in this case refers to 37%

- Most state agencies do not provide information to FBCOs defining what is meant by “inherently religious activities” ²⁷(5.4)
- Distribution methods for providing inherently religious activity information to FBCOs is not perceived across state agencies as a barrier to partnering with FBCOs²⁸ (5.4c)
- Some state agency programs provided recommendations for training and outreach for FBCOs general obligations for partnering with state agencies (*examples below*)
 - “Continue to provide consistent guidance and assurances in grant applications on statutes”
 - “Foundations and nonprofit excellence organizations can help train nonprofits so that they are aware of laws”
 - “Identification and definition of "inherently religious activities" along with other common terminology”
 - “Provide training and resources to state agency staff and FBCOs on common terminology and inherently religious activities during the orientation process”

Service Delivery Obligations of FBCOs

- State agency programs do not restrict FBCO partners from displaying religious symbols or icons in the locations where program-supported services are offered and do not perceive as a barrier²⁹ (6.1) (6.1b)
- Majority of state agencies allow FBCOs to inform program-supported clients of voluntary religious activities³⁰ and is not perceived as a barrier³¹(6.2) (6.2b)
- Most agencies restrict FBCOs from discriminating against program-supported clients based on religious and/or cultural affiliation or beliefs³² and a small number perceive these restrictions as a barrier to partnerships with FBCOs³³ (6.3) (6.3b)
- Of the state agencies that provide direct government funding (contracts, grants, subgrants, subawards, or subcontracts), some do not restrict FBCOs from requiring program supported clients to participate in inherently religious activities³⁴ and a small number perceive these restrictions as a barrier to partnerships with FBCOs³⁵ (6.4) (6.4a) (6.4c)

²⁶ Majority in this case refers to 97%

²⁷ Most in this case refers 85%

²⁸ 100% of respondents answered this way

²⁹ 100% of respondents answered this way

³⁰ Majority in this case refers to 92%

³¹ 100% respondents responded this way

³² Most in this case refers to 82%

³³ Small number in this case refers to 2%

³⁴ Some in this case refers to 49%

³⁵ Small number in this case refers to 5%

- Majority of state agency programs responded non-applicable when asked if their state agency program provides informal government funding (voucher, certificate or through beneficiary-choice contracting)³⁶ (6.5)
- Some state agencies provided training and outreach recommendations related to service delivery obligations of FBCOs when partnering with state agencies (*examples below*)
 - “Explaining statutes and agency policy that would prohibit any form of discrimination based on religion, race, sexual orientation”
 - “FCBOs should be educated about which programs have federal requirements written into their contracts which prohibit their funding from being used in support of any inherently religious activity, including informing program-supported clients of voluntary religious activities or requiring clients to participate in religious activities”
 - “Identify and define what religious activities are considered discriminatory “

Equal Opportunity Obligations of FBCOs

- State agencies do not require FBCOs that partner with agency programs to maintain religious, cultural and/or ethnic representation on their governing body or Board of Directors and is not perceived as a barrier to partnerships with FBCOs³⁷ (7.1) (7.1b)

Opportunities to Expand Partnerships with FBCOs

- Small number of state agency programs indicated programs would gain in effectiveness or efficiency if it worked more closely and extensively with FBCOs³⁸ (8.1)
- Survey response show opportunities to expand partnerships could be achieved under current legal authority of program and agency³⁹(8.2)
- Survey responses indicate mixed perceptions on whether cooperation and support of other state agencies would be needed to expand partnership opportunities with FBCOs⁴⁰ (8.3)
- A few state agencies provided recommendations for training on opportunities for state agencies to expand partnerships with FBCOs (*examples below*)
 - “Focusing on partnering with organizations in underserved portions of the state”
 - “Increase information dissemination to better publicize funding availability”
 - “Increase technical assistance and training around regulatory requirements”
 - “Technical assistance and training around regulatory requirements, increasing information dissemination to better publicize funding availability, and focusing on partnering with organizations in underserved portions of the state”

³⁶ Majority in this case refers to 73%

³⁷ 100% of respondents responded this way

³⁸ Small number in this case refers to 23%

³⁹ 100% of respondents responded this way

⁴⁰ 52% responded one way and 48% responded another way

- “Training provided to FBCOs concerning each organization's structure and the many ways they can help families in need, which could include major outreach campaigns”

Notable Strengths and Progress

- Several state agencies offered examples of notable strengths and progress between their agency and FBCOs since the 2004-2005 barrier assessment (*examples below*)
 - Developed prevention education kit, marketed, and implemented through FBCOs
 - Developed specific training for nonprofits in fiscal management that has been very successful and well attended annually by grantees
 - Encouraged Boards to appoint members who are specifically familiar with local, grassroots faith-based organizations to work alongside representatives who are familiar with a broad range of other community groups and service providers
 - Increased participation of FBCOs
 - Provided specialized training on religious etiquette
 - Re-Development of Faith Based and Volunteer Services mission, vision, and core values
 - Worked with Boards to create campaigns that will educate appropriate local faith-based and community-based organizations and available grants and opportunities

IV. TASK FORCE HEARING FINDINGS

Information below is taken from testimony provided by FBCOs during public hearings throughout the state.

- Lack of consistent applications to apply for state agency programs
- Need for more capacity building programs in rural areas
- Need for funding for multiple grant year cycles
- Need to fund the full cost of program evaluations to ensure that organizations are able to comply with grant and contract requirements
- Need for more pro-activity in addressing the needs and funding hurdles of rural communities and FBCOs within those communities
- Need for more operational funding
- Need to provide more funding allocated to overhead costs and marketing of FBCOs
- Perception appears to exist among FBCOs that in order to receive state funds, some tenure/experience/minimum budget size/number of years of operation, etc. are needed
- Reported lack of performance measure that assesses effectiveness of FBCO programs and identifies best practices

V. NATIONAL FINDINGS

Information provided below are national findings and recommendations to strengthen partnerships with FBCOs.

GAO Report

- Study examined steps nonprofits take to bridge gaps when reporting gaps between indirect costs incurred and reimbursed. This study found nonprofits often respond by reducing service levels, compromising infrastructure and staff investments, or both, and that these cost-cutting measures can limit nonprofits' ability to build a financial safety net and could lead to:
 - Compromised infrastructure investments (i.e. Many nonprofits compromise vital facilities maintenance and "back-office" support functions, such as information technology systems, to avoid reducing their services)
 - Compromised staff investments
 - Costs of Administering Grants (sometimes the high cost to administer grants deters nonprofits from applying)
 - Limited Ability to Build a Financial Safety Net (Nonprofits' strained resources also limit their ability to build financial reserves for unanticipated expenses)
 - Reduced service levels
 - Untimely Reimbursements from fed, state, and local governments

Nonprofit Starvation Cycle

The Nonprofit Starvation Cycle, published in the *Stanford Social Innovation Review, Fall 2009*, examined the need for nonprofit infrastructure.

"The Starvation Cycle is thought to start with funders' unrealistic expectations about how much running a nonprofit costs, which results in nonprofits' misrepresenting their costs which in turn reinforces funders' skewed beliefs. To break the nonprofit starvation cycle, funders must take the lead." This can be accomplished through:

- "Clear and accurate data are needed so that nonprofit organizations do not report artificially low overhead figures. Without accurate data, funders do not know what overhead rates *should be*."
- "Research suggests that changing funders' unrealistic expectations could be the best way to slow or even stop the cycle but this will require a coordinated, sector-wide effort."

President’s Advisory Council on Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

The President’s Council brought together leaders and experts in fields related to the work of faith-based and neighborhood organizations. This Council is charged with identification of best practices and successful modes of delivering social services, evaluation of the need for improvements in the implementation and coordination of public policies relating to faith-based and other neighborhood organizations, and developing recommendations to the President, for changes in policies, programs, and practices that impact the delivery of services by such organizations.

The following are highlighted recommendations that Texas could consider, at the state level, in an effort to continue state agency efforts to strengthen partnerships with FBCOs:

- “Expand the term “partnership” as it is often understood as being limited to government grants for private voluntary organizations. It should be understood more broadly and should include nonfinancial partnerships with FBCOs.”
- “Reach out religious and cultural groups that traditionally have not been involved in partnerships with government. Government officials should invite representatives from these groups to be among the participants in workshops, trainings, and networking opportunities.”
- “Make strides toward ensuring clearer and more accessible information about programs and partnerships are made available.”

OneStar’s Recommendations

OneStar Foundation emphasizes the recommendations highlighted throughout this section. Also emphasized are the need to:

- Expand opportunities for partnerships with FBCOs that includes both funded and unfunded partnerships.
- Examine outreach opportunities especially in rural and underserved areas of the state.
- Continue investment in building and strengthening the organizational capacity of the nonprofit sector.

Independent Sector

Independent Sector developed a panel of experts that presented recommendations to Congress on oversight and governance of charitable organizations and to ensure accountability and ethics of nonprofit organizations. As a result, the panel developed thirty-three (33) principles focused on good governance and ethics.

OneStar Foundation is leveraging these 33 principles into a statewide regional training curricula targeted to Executive Directors, Presidents/CEOs, Board Members, and other leadership personnel of small to medium sized nonprofits throughout Texas.

Examples from Other States

The following are recommendations from a report developed by Minnesota's Office of Grants Management that was submitted to the Minnesota Legislature. The report provided recommendations on improving collaborative activities between the state, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector. The report was developed by

- Enhance cross-agency collaboration, sharing resources and create best practices, and innovative solutions toward high-priority community issues.
- Improve cross-sector communication which will result in more collaborative opportunities, new partnerships, and increased awareness of public, private, and nonprofit resources that can be leveraged to address high-priority community issues.
- Strategically align public and private investments to improve social outcomes.
- State agencies should become more proactive in efforts to solicit and develop innovative ideas and lessons learned from employees and to also share this information across agencies.

The report also identified efforts made in other states including Texas:

- Texas' OneStar Foundation was referenced as the Governor's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives and also serves as the state's National Service Commission. Passage of House Bill 492 (81R) was noted in the report with specific emphasis on the Task Force for Strengthening Nonprofit Capacity.
- Michigan's Office of the Foundation Liaison was referenced and is a cabinet level position developed to identify opportunities for partnerships between the state and the nonprofit sector.
- Louisiana's Office of Social Entrepreneurship, an office of the lieutenant governor, was referenced and provides seminars on social innovation, workshops for grantors, business planning training, and other educational activities. The Office also implemented a forum for public sector employees to assist state agency employees maximize programmatic social impact.