

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to statewide intermediary assistance for  
 3           faith-based and community-based organizations; providing  
 4           legislative findings; designating the Florida Faith-Based  
 5           Association as a statewide intermediary organization for  
 6           certain purposes; providing duties of the association;  
 7           requiring a report; providing appropriations; providing  
 8           duties of the Chief Financial Officer; providing an  
 9           effective date.

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11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13           Section 1. Statewide intermediary organization for faith-  
 14 based and community-based collaboration and assistance.--

15           (1) FINDINGS.--The Legislature determines that developing  
 16 a faith-based initiative would be in the best interest of the  
 17 citizens of this state. The Legislature acknowledges the  
 18 tremendous pool of human resources within the "armies of  
 19 compassion" in this state, recognizes the need to recruit,  
 20 organize, mobilize, educate, train, and provide leadership for  
 21 this vast army, and recognizes the need for a statewide  
 22 intermediary organization to provide these necessary  
 23 administrative services.

24           (2) DESIGNATION.--The Florida Faith-Based Association,  
 25 which was incorporated in this state in August 2001 and  
 26 qualified for nonprofit status under s. 501(c)(3) of the United  
 27 States Internal Revenue Code in April 2003, is designated as a  
 28 statewide intermediary organization to provide assistance to  
 29 faith-based organizations that are interested in providing

HB 0665

2004

30 social services. The association is not a government agency and  
 31 no member of the board of directors may be a state officer. For  
 32 purposes of this act, an "intermediary organization" is an  
 33 organization that is familiar with the faith community, with the  
 34 programs of government social service agencies, and with  
 35 successful faith-based programs that serve as examples of best  
 36 practices, is not a local congregation or a traditional social  
 37 service provider, but is an organization that exists between  
 38 those entities and has the purpose of helping them work together  
 39 to reach the poor and needy.

40 (3) DUTIES.--To function as a statewide intermediary  
 41 organization, the Florida Faith-Based Association shall:

42 (a) Convene a minimum of two meetings of stakeholders in  
 43 each of the six regions of this state defined by the  
 44 intermediary organization to identify regional needs and develop  
 45 a plan to meet those needs.

46 (b) Provide at least six regional training conferences for  
 47 faith-based and community-based organizations. These training  
 48 conferences shall focus on issues such as capacity development,  
 49 best practices, effective collaboration with government and  
 50 community-based organizations, measuring and documenting  
 51 outcomes, and fund development as well as other needs identified  
 52 by the regional faith-based and community-based leaders and  
 53 their governmental liaisons.

54 (c) Improve collaboration between public and private  
 55 agencies, helping them focus on their shared objectives.

56 (d) Work with local, state, and federal agency liaisons to  
 57 comprehensively assess the human needs in communities in this  
 58 state and recruit and train faith-based organizations to meet

HB 0665

2004

59 those needs.

60 (e) Within 18 months after July 1, 2004, publish a  
61 detailed report of the needs assessment results and provide a  
62 copy of the report to the Governor, the President of the Senate,  
63 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

64 (f) Convene annual statewide summits of faith-based and  
65 community-based leaders as well as representatives of  
66 appropriate local, state, and federal agencies.

67 (g)1. Use the current statewide database of over 20,000  
68 faith-based organizations in this state to analyze the  
69 strategies and programs currently being used.

70 2. Continue to update and keep current the statewide  
71 database of over 20,000 faith-based organizations in this state.

72 (h) Identify best practices among faith-based and  
73 community-based organizations and develop and publish a list of  
74 those programs.

75 (i) Offer best-practices training in the area of service  
76 delivery, as well as capacity building statewide.

77 (j) Develop and implement annual strategic plans.

78 (k) Produce annual printed and online faith-based  
79 resources directories.

80 (l) Create a board of directors of no less than 12 and no  
81 more than 18 members that would represent each of the six  
82 regions of this state.

83 (m) Develop three advisory committees, one each in the  
84 areas of spiritual leadership, capacity development, and  
85 advocacy.

86 (n) Develop six regional intermediary organizations and,  
87 if necessary, develop local intermediary organizations.

HB 0665

2004

88 (o) Examine barriers to state-funded or federally funded  
 89 provision of services by faith-based organizations.

90 (p) Serve as fiscal intermediary for state or federal  
 91 grants directed to faith-based organizations and community-based  
 92 organizations.

93 (q) Develop private matching funds to the extent that the  
 94 association would be able to demonstrate total sustainability  
 95 within 36 months after July 1, 2004.

96 (r) Develop specific outcome measures for the quantity and  
 97 quality of services delivered to the state and the cost-  
 98 effectiveness of those services.

99 (s) Function as a liaison to work in partnership with the  
 100 White House Office of Faith and Community Initiatives.

101 (4) REPORT.--By January 1 of each year, the Florida Faith-  
 102 Based Association shall submit to the Governor, the President of  
 103 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives an  
 104 annual audited report which shall describe the activities of the  
 105 association in fulfilling its duties as a statewide faith-based  
 106 organization, account for expenditures by the association of  
 107 funds distributed by the Chief Financial Officer to the  
 108 association for purposes of implementing this act, and recommend  
 109 to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
 110 Representatives changes to the laws of this state necessary to  
 111 fulfill the association's purposes and duties.

112 Section 2. Notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292,  
 113 Florida Statutes, and pursuant to s. 216.351, Florida Statutes,  
 114 the following sums are appropriated from the General Revenue  
 115 Fund to the Department of Financial Services for distribution to  
 116 the Florida Faith-Based Association for purposes of development

HB 0665

2004

117 as a statewide intermediary organization: \$700,000 for fiscal  
118 year 2004-2005, \$600,000 for fiscal year 2005-2006, and \$500,000  
119 for fiscal year 2006-2007. The Chief Financial Officer shall  
120 distribute such moneys to the association each year for which an  
121 appropriation is made for purposes of implementing this act. The  
122 association shall document receipt and uses of such moneys for  
123 the purposes specified in this act and shall include such  
124 documentation in the report required under section 1.

125 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.