

**State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS)
Faith and Community Based Initiatives Agenda**

DHSS Goals:

- Encourage partnerships between DHSS and faith/community based organizations that share the DHSS's mission to promote and protect the health and well being of Alaskans.
- Coordinate with other State of Alaska departments to support inter-departmental partnerships with faith and community based organizations that share the DHSS's mission.
- Identify liaisons within every division of DHSS who will provide technical assistance and support for individual faith and community based organizations seeking partnerships with and/or funding from DHSS.
- Collaborate with other State Departments, federal, local and tribal government agencies, community groups and faith based organizations to identify unmet needs across Alaska and determine the best way to meet those needs.
- Partner with the Office of the Governor/Lt. Governor, other State Departments, federal, local and tribal government agencies, community groups and faith based organizations to develop regional conferences and workshops on producing successful grant applications and achieving effective collaborative projects.

DHSS Achievements:

- Past collaborative efforts with faith/community based organizations include more than 600 grant/contracts for FY03 provided to more than 200 organizations (excluding tribal and local governments, schools and hospitals) funded by the State of Alaska at more than \$109,000,000 which includes funding for more than 1,300 employees of faith/community based organizations.
- Preliminary identification of DHSS employees interested in faith/community based initiative efforts has been accomplished. (Division liaison assignments will be made after July 1st when the reorganized DHSS structure is in place.)
- Identification and coordination of efforts between DHSS and the Department of Corrections (DOC) has begun.
- Regular meetings with representatives from the Alaskan office of the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Municipality of Anchorage, Lt. Governor's office, DHSS, and faith based community groups have occurred since February 2003.

DHSS Efforts in Progress:

- Participation in scoping meetings facilitated by the Lt. Governor in Anchorage (February 2003), Juneau (April 2003) and Fairbanks (May/June 2003)
- Research on best practices in faith and community based initiative efforts throughout the state and the country.
- Identification of barriers/impediments to successful partnerships between faith and community based organizations and the State of Alaska, with preliminary ideas for how to resolve those issues.