



FaithWorks CT

Compassion in Action

On October 24, 2003 Governor Rowland signed Executive Order no. 31 establishing the Governor's Faith-Based Council. By this act our Governor has committed to an enhanced collaboration between government and faith-based organizations for the provision of social services. On that day, Governor Rowland spoke of the significance of faith in changing people's lives when he said:

"In my years of public service I have seen government accomplish great things, but I have also become acutely aware of its limitation. Sometimes the best leadership government can show is to enlist the leadership of others – to tap new resources and create new partnerships. This faith-based initiative promises to bring about a new energy and creativity to the way we address our most pressing social issues."

Governor Rowland's vision is that faith and spiritual support in the delivery of social services will be more broadly respected, that the energy, compassion and creativity of the faith community will be tapped in new and expanded ways through collaborations with government, and that greater choice will be provided to those who are relying on services—choice of providers and choice of approaches.

Activities of Connecticut's FaithWorks Council

- Identify opportunities for the involvement of the faith community to provide services;
- Identify obstacles to efficient collaboration;
- Provide capacity building and technical assistance to improve participation;
- Make recommendations, including proposed legislation, that would result in more successful collaborations;
- Assure a single point of contact within the member-agencies for faith-based organizations.

The FaithWorks Council serves as a resource to the faith community exploring opportunities to partner and searching for ways to assist in capacity building. The Council is comprised of representatives from faith-based organizations as well as eight state agencies. Member agencies include:

- The Department of Children and Families
- The Department of Correction
- The Department of Education
- The Department of Labor
- The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- The Office of Policy and Management
- The Department of Public Health
- The Department of Social Services

The Council will focus its efforts on the following areas and stands ready to support organizations that serve people in need.

- Mentoring
- Prisoner re-entry
- Substance abuse / mental health
- Health and Aging
- Employment
- Childhood Development

Visit our website, www.opm.state.ct.us/pdpd1/faith/works.htm, for state contact information.