



OFFICE OF FAITH & NON-PROFIT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

January 2025 Newsletter

Greetings and welcome back! Please use this newsletter for information on upcoming events, funding opportunities, and resources to ensure your organizations can thrive.

2025 State of the State: Looking at the Year Ahead



Governor Kathy Hochul delivered her 2025 State of the State address, including [more than 200 initiatives](#) that will put money back in people's pockets, keep New Yorkers safe and ensure the future of New York is a place where all families can thrive. Her priorities include:

- Making new york more affordable by cutting taxes for more than 8.3 million middle class new yorkers, sending inflation refund checks, and expanding child tax credit
- Updating involuntary commitment law and strengthening kendra's law to ensure new yorkers with severe mental illness are connected with the care they need
- Prioritizing subway safety by partnering with new york city to increase nypd presence on platforms and trains; investing in safety upgrades
- Strengthening state's response capabilities to fight transnational criminal networks operating along northern border
- Supporting new york kids by launching 'unplug and play' to help them get off of their phones and stay active
- Tackling the housing crisis by taking on corporate forces that raise home prices and rents, building on last year's transformative housing deal
- To build the workforce of tomorrow, new york will offer free suny and cuny community college for adult students pursuing in-demand careers
- 201 transformative proposals to put money in new yorker's pockets, make new york more affordable and make our streets and subways safer

Executive Committee Spotlight

Meet fourth-generation leader of faith and social justice, Jennifer Jones Austin.

Q. What led you to become a faith-based leader?

While I am not a formally licensed faith-leader, I am a

leader of faith and my faith deeply informs, guides and drives my work. My father, grandfather and great-grandfather were faith leaders who lived and preached the social gospel. I learned from them that Kingdom work is the best work.

In 1992, when a law student at the Fordham University School of Law and contemplating a career in Corporate Law, I heard The Lord speak to me and say,

“I want you to work on behalf of my children who are vulnerable.” From that day forward, I have sought to do just that – serve, protect and lift up God’s children—young and old—who’ve been made vulnerable due to societal injustice and structural and systemic inequities.

Q: Looking ahead, what are your aspirations for the interfaith community in New York State, and how do you see the Executive Committee contributing to the realization of these goals?

I hope and pray that the interfaith community will sincerely unite and put our collective, not individual interests, first. The Executive Committee is a critical leader in this work, as it has the power and potential to mirror best practices in communication, creating shared space and ownership of challenges and solutions, and bridge building.





Executive Committee Spotlight Continued

***Meet fourth-generation leader of faith
and social justice, Jennifer Jones Austin.***

Q: Are you focused on any particular issue area right now?

In my daily work I am focused on ending intentional, willful and structural economic deprivation, which is the root cause of so many societal challenges that pit individuals, different faith communities and other institutions against each other and prevent communal abundance as God desires. I am presently working with faith communities to advance the first ever, national true cost of economic security that helps community leaders and government policy makers and influencers appreciate what people of low and middle income need to get by, get ahead and stay ahead, and live with dignity.

Q. What are you most proud of in terms of the work you and your organization have done?

I am most proud of the “Jesus was a Revolutionary” spirit which we embrace at the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies. Since our founding in 1922 as a nonprofit, social policy and advocacy organization speaking up and moving on behalf of people of color for whom social services were not equitably provided, FPWA has been a voice for the voiceless. We continue to be this voice today, as we work feverishly to dismantle poverty-perpetuating policies and replaced them with policies aimed at ensuring economic security for all of God’s children.



Restaurant Meal Program Statewide Rollout Webinar



Restaurant Meal Program Statewide Rollout Webinar

The Restaurant Meal Program allows some SNAP recipients to use their benefits at participating restaurants. On Monday, February 10th at 11 am., NYS Office of Temporary And Disability Assistance (OTDA), NYS Department of State(DOS) and the USDA will be hosting an updated webinar for restaurants to promote this program to faith-based constituents. However, all establishments are welcome to join.

The Restaurant Meal Program would like to be inclusive of all dietary needs. We invite you to share this invitation with restaurants that prepare foods meeting the cultural needs of your community.

The program has been a success in California, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, and Rhode Island, and is finally launching Statewide in New York State after a successful RMP Pilot in NYC and Monroe (Rochester) County. We look forward to sharing information about the program and answering your questions about how restaurants can participate.

R.S.V.P. for this event by completing this form: <https://forms.office.com/g/yf7cm1hshW> An invite with a link to access the webinar will be sent prior to the event.

Please be sure to share with your favorite restaurants. If you are planning to attend, please hold Monday, February 10th at 11:00 am on your calendar.



NEW YORK STATES GRANT INFO – UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

US Department of Energy

Renew America’s Nonprofits Grant Program

Do you represent a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in New York?

Do you own the building you use to provide services and need energy conservation improvements?

Sustainable Westchester is one of the nine nonprofits selected by the US Department of Energy to be awarded with the Renew America’s Nonprofit grant to help implement energy efficiency building upgrades for other nonprofit organizations in New York.

Buildings owned and operated by nonprofit organizations in New York will be eligible to receive grant funds to support projects that reduce energy use and costs. The program will support energy efficiency upgrades in buildings owned by nonprofits across New York State with subrecipient grants available of up to \$200,000 per nonprofit and is limited to a single building per grant award.

FOOD SECURITY

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Local Emergency Food Relief Equipment Grants

Application Deadline: January 31st, 2025, 3:00pm EST

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is pleased to announce funding for projects that will provide funding for equipment to local emergency food relief organizations.

NEW AMERICANS

NYS Office for New Americans (ONA)

Office for New Americans ONA Opportunity Center Grant

Application Deadline: February 9th, 2022

The New York State Office for New Americans (ONA) was launched in 2012 to assist newcomers to the State who are eager to contribute to our economy and become part of the family of New York State. As part of this work, ONA supports a network of neighborhood-based “ONA Opportunity Centers” across New York State to offer programming to help interested eligible new Americans through the naturalization application process, provide citizenship classes, provide community workshops on relevant topics to the immigrant communities being serviced, and host free legal consultations in conjunction with an Immigration Attorney, the ONA Legal Counsel.



NEW YORK STATES GRANT INFO – UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH)

Supports for Unhoused Individuals – Mobile Shower Units

Application Deadline: March 3rd, 2025, at 2:00pm EST

Mobile Shower Units (Statewide): Providing access to sanitation facilities can build confidence and offer comfort to unhoused individuals. By meeting their basic hygiene needs, people are more likely to engage and participate in services such as:

- mental Health and/or Substance Use Disorder treatment
- housing readiness and navigation
- employment support

Mobile Shower Units also create a trusted location where people can easily get referrals to services. The Office of Mental Health has funding available for the one-time purchase and modification of a Mobile Shower Unit.

NYS Office of Victim's Services (OVS)

2025 VOCA Victim Assistance Grant Program

Application Deadline: March 19th, 2025 at 5:00pm EST

The primary purpose of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Grant Program is to provide direct services and assistance to victims of crime. Direct assistance to crime victims includes crisis counseling, telephone and onsite information and referrals, criminal justice support and advocacy, shelter, therapy, and additional assistance. Funds may also be used to develop new programs that address emerging needs, gaps in services, and training of victim service advocates.



NEW YORK STATES GRANT INFO – UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

ENVIRONMENTAL

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Community Environmental Education Centers

Application Deadline: January 22nd, 2025, 3:00pm EST

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is pleased to announce funding for projects that will implement the support of new construction or renovation of a facility to create a Community Environmental education Center (Center). The Center should inspire exploration, discovery, and learning about the community's environment.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Disadvantaged Community Air Pollution Mitigation Opportunity

Application Deadline: January 29th, 2025, 3:00pm EST

The Disadvantaged Community Air Pollution Mitigation Grant is being offered to support effective action to reduce air pollution and exposure within Disadvantaged and Environmental Justice Communities. Air Pollution mitigation projects and exposure within Disadvantaged Communities throughout New York. Projections should be designed to reduce or mitigate emissions or pollution in areas that have a record of poor ambient air quality. Mitigation techniques can be varied, and multiple techniques can be implemented.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

2024 Community Reforestation (CoRe) Grant

Application Deadline: March 12th, 2025, 2:00pm EST

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is pleased to announce the first round of the Community Reforestation (CoRe) Grant program. The purpose of this grant is to develop, expand, and restore healthy forested natural areas in or near urban communities across New York State.

NYS Grants - Getting Started Webinar: Please join us on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 from 1:00 PM- 2:30 PM for an introductory presentation on NYS grants, hosted by the NYS Department of State (DOS) and NYS Grants Management. Please see below for Webex login details. This presentation will provide a general overview on how to get started with the NYS grant process. The topics to be covered include registering in the Statewide Financial System, the NYS Prequalification process, and searching for NYS grants. Time for questions and answers will be provided. This is a great opportunity for smaller organizations who are new to NYS grantmaking and are interested in learning about how to be prepared for any future grant solicitations.

Meeting Details: <https://meetny-qov.webex.com/meetny-qov/j.php?MTID=m4e0bf789b13041b5ff96a0ce39d8ad7e>, 1-415-527-5035



Upcoming Events

Unity Day Trip to Museum of Natural History

When: January 18, 2025

Where: Museum of Natural History

What: Encouragement and Enrichment Motivational Services Nonprofit Organization is seeing sponsors to help bring 56 students from Albany to experience the beauty of the Museum of Natural History located in the heart of NYC. To give to this amazing event you can donate on our website encouragementandenrichment.com.

If you are part of a faith based or nonprofit organization, please fill out [THIS FORM](#).

Connect with us!

Important Interfaith Dates This Month

- * January 6 – Epiphany
- * January 7 – Coptic Orthodox Christmas
- * January 14 – Pongal
- * January 14 – Mahayana New Year
- * January 17 – Guru Gobind Singh Gurburab

Does your organization have public events coming up? Fill out [THIS FORM](#) to have it included in our next newsletter.

Please fill out [THIS FORM](#) to be added to our **database of faith leaders**.



NYC
HEALTH +
HOSPITALS

FAITH BASED
INITIATIVES



WE WANT YOU for our Introduction to Hospital Chaplaincy Internship

Join Our Team
and Gain Experience in
Hospital-Based Ministry

**AS A CHAPLAIN INTERN
YOU WILL:**

- Learn directly from seasoned spiritual care leaders
- Offer spiritual and emotional support to those in crisis
- Minister to diverse populations and religious beliefs
- Cultivate healing relationships with multi-faith communities

All faith traditions are welcome!

Internship Opportunities are
available in all 5 boroughs!



For more information contact us:

NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS

Faith Based Initiatives

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