



OFFICE OF FAITH & NONPROFIT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

May 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.

Faith and Fiscal Responsibility: FY 2025 Budget Delivers Relief for Families and Compassion for Communities



Governor Hochul Celebrates Huge Budget Win to Put Nearly \$5,000 Back in Pockets of Working Families



Governor Hochul convened a conversation with mothers at Fox's Deli in Rochester to highlight her 2025 State of the State affordability agenda.

The New York State Office of Faith and Non-Profit Services Development is honored to share the unveiling of Governor Kathy Hochul's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, a comprehensive and people-centered financial plan that places affordability at the core of its mission. This year's budget reflects a deep understanding of the everyday challenges faced by working families, seniors, and underserved communities—groups that our faith leaders and non-profit partners uplift and serve each day with grace and dedication.

Governor Hochul's budget provides historic relief in the form of a \$1 billion tax cut targeted at middle- and low-income New Yorkers, lowering tax rates to levels not seen in nearly 70 years. This measure is more than a fiscal adjustment—it is a reaffirmation of the State's commitment to easing financial burdens and helping individuals and families retain more of their hard-earned income. This action resonates deeply with faith and community leaders who have long advocated for policies that promote economic dignity.

To further support families, the budget introduces a sweeping expansion of the Child Tax Credit, providing up to \$1,000 for each child under the age of four and \$500 for children between the ages of four and sixteen. This investment effectively doubles the benefit for the average household and marks a significant step toward combating child poverty, a cause that remains at the forefront of many congregational and community-based missions.



(CONT'D) Faith and Fiscal Responsibility: FY 2025 Budget Delivers Relief for Families and Compassion for Communities



Governor Kathy Hochul visits a childcare center to announce FY26 Budget investments in middle-class families.



As her third proposal for the 2025 State of the State, Governor Hochul announced new efforts to make childcare more accessible and affordable in New York.

Childcare access—an issue that intersects both economic and educational opportunity will receive a bold investment of \$2.2 billion statewide. Within that, \$350 million is dedicated to preserving childcare subsidies for tens of thousands of New York City families. By making childcare more accessible and sustainable, Governor Hochul focuses this budget to empower our caregivers, particularly women, to pursue employment and education with the peace of mind that their children are in safe and promising environments.

For the first time in our state's history, New York will issue Inflation Refund checks, a \$2 billion initiative that will provide direct payments of up to \$400 to more than 8 million New Yorkers. These funds are designed to deliver immediate financial relief as families continue to recover from rising costs. At a time when many are choosing between rent, groceries, and medical care, this measure offers not only economic support but also a tangible message of care from the State to its people.

Governor Hochul's budget also addresses the importance of daily needs with a \$340 million investment to provide universal free breakfast and lunch for all K-12 students in New York. This policy is expected to save families an average of \$1,600 per child each year and eliminate hunger as a barrier to learning. Faith communities have long stood in the gap where hunger persists, and this measure complements their tireless work by institutionalizing access to nutritious meals for every child.

Safety and mental health remain essential pillars of a thriving and just society. With \$357 million allocated to gun violence prevention programs and investments in mental health care—including \$16.5 million for Assisted Outpatient Treatment and \$2 million for Office of Mental Health staffing—the budget upholds a public safety model rooted in both protection and compassion. Faith leaders who walk alongside victims, mediate conflict, and provide care for the mentally ill will find these resources an essential partner in their mission.

As trusted voices within every corner of our state, faith leaders and non-profit stewards are vital partners in implementing this vision for an affordable, equitable, and inclusive New York. The Office of Faith and Non-Profit Services Development invites you to study this year's Executive Budget and consider how its investments can be activated in your communities. Together, we can ensure that every New Yorker—not just the fortunate few—benefits from a future where affordability is not a privilege, but a right.



Fighting for Families: Governor Hochul Secures Major Budget Wins To Make New York More Affordable and Safer

Governor Hochul is steadfast in her commitment to making higher education more affordable and building the workforce that New York needs. The FY 2025 Enacted Budget included an historic expansion of the Tuition Assistance Program to help more New Yorkers cover the cost of college. Additionally, the Governor has continued to expand workforce development, apprenticeship, and micro credential programs to prepare New Yorkers for in-demand jobs. The Governor’s free community college proposal, NYS Opportunity Promise, is the next level of this commitment by making an associate degree more affordable and obtainable.

Across New York State, there are more than four million working-age adults who do not have a college degree or credential. The Governor’s proposal would cover tuition, fees, and books at any SUNY or CUNY community college for these adult learners who have never earned a degree and are pursuing an associate degree in a high demand field, including nursing, teaching, technology, and engineering.

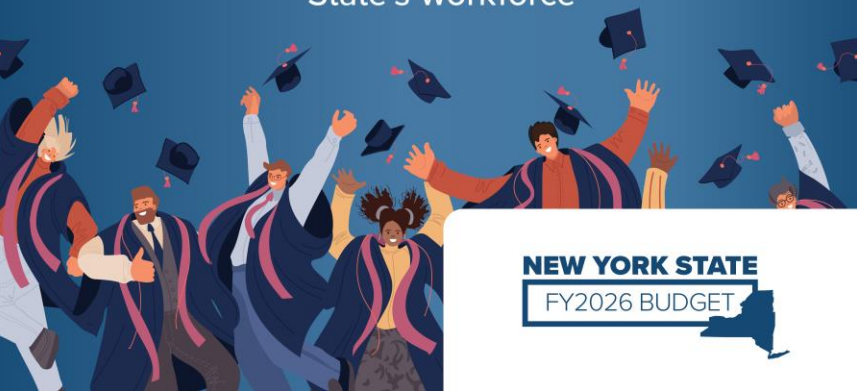
FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WHO: New Yorkers aged 25-55 studying high-demand fields

WHAT: Free tuition, fees, and books

WHERE: Any SUNY or CUNY community college campus

WHY: To make higher education more affordable and bolster New York State's workforce





Governor Hochul Building a Safer and Stronger State: Prioritizing our Safety

The New York State Office of Faith and Non-Profit Development Services proudly highlights Governor Kathy Hochul’s Fiscal Year 2025 Executive Budget—a forward-looking and people-centered plan that places public safety and affordability at its core. This budget reflects a deep commitment to protecting New Yorkers while ensuring that vital services remain accessible and equitable for all.

To strengthen safety in New York’s transit system, the budget allocates \$77 million to partner with the NYPD for a six-month surge in police presence across platforms and trains. An additional \$45 million will support the National Guard’s Empire Shield mission to deter threats and protect key commuter hubs throughout the city.



INVESTING IN A SAFER NEW YORK

- ➔ \$357 million for gun violence prevention programs
- ➔ \$8 million to increase safety along our border with Canada
- ➔ \$35 million to protect places of worship and other vulnerable locations





(CONT'D) Governor Hochul Building a Safer and Stronger State: Prioritizing our Safety

Understanding the urgent link between public safety and mental health, the Executive Budget expands Safe Options Support (SOS) teams, which have already helped over 700 chronically homeless New Yorkers move toward permanent housing. In partnership with the NYC Department of Homeless Services, the State will also enhance 24/7 Welcome Centers and increase the reach of Subway Co-Response Outreach Teams (SCOUT), offering compassionate care for those experiencing mental health crises underground.

The FY25 budget also makes unprecedented investments in infrastructure, fully funding the MTA's \$68.4 billion 2025–2029 Capital Plan—the largest in state history. These resources will support the development of the Interborough Express, install protective barriers and LED lighting in all stations, and introduce advanced fare gate systems at more than 150 locations to improve access and curb fare evasion.

Our office continues its work across the state, we applaud this vision for a safer, more affordable New York. We look forward to engaging our partners and faith leaders in advancing these priorities, ensuring that all communities—especially the most vulnerable—are protected, supported, and empowered.



INVESTING IN A SAFER NEW YORK

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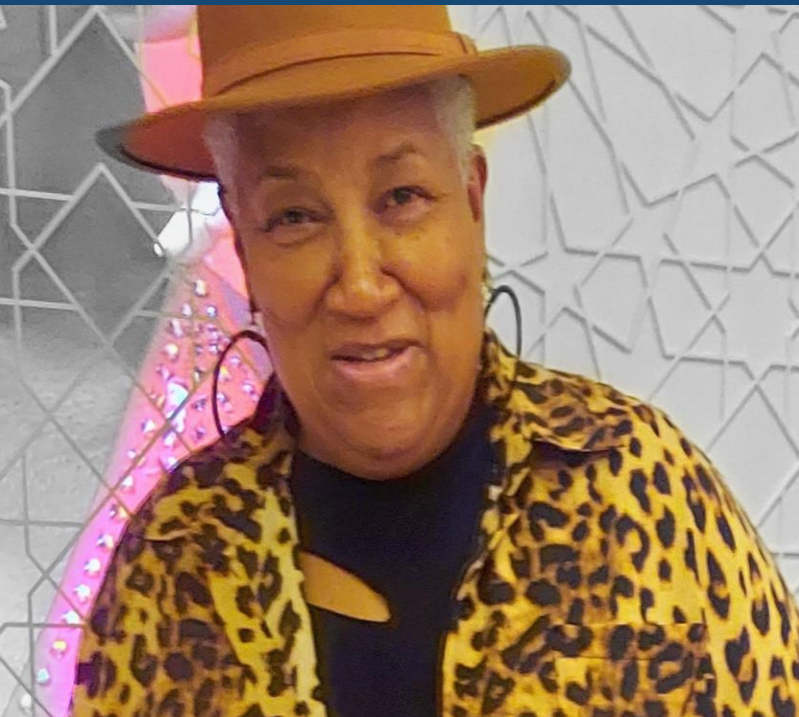


OFFICE OF FAITH & NONPROFIT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Faith Leader's of New York Spotlight Monthly Feature

MAY 2025

Patricia White – MPA Community Consultant



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

A: Proverbs 11:25 says, "Whoever brings blessings will be enriched, and the one who waters will himself be watered." Living intentionally for Christ means making choices that align with God's will.

My spiritual journey began in childhood through Sunday School and church, where I developed a strong foundation in faith. My family has always valued the role of the Black Church and the deep importance of spirituality.

As the Convener of the Faith Based Mental Health Initiative, established in 2020 during COVID, I collaborate with faith communities on suicide prevention and mental health issues. -This work with faith leaders allows us to improve our ability to recognize and manage mental health needs within their communities.

The Soul Shop Curriculum offers a valuable resource for faith institutions, serving as an initial step in reducing the stigma associated with mental health and suicide. Faith leaders in the Soul Shop Movement are trusted supporters who can bridge resource gaps. They have established networks to champion suicide prevention and address feelings of hopelessness and isolation.

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

A: My aspiration for the interfaith community is to foster a culture where mental health is openly discussed and prioritized across all faith traditions. I envision a future where every congregation feels equipped and empowered to support mental wellness and prevent suicide. The NYS Interfaith Council is critical in achieving this vision by offering a unified platform for sharing best practices and educational resources and strengthening collaboration across diverse faith groups to drive meaningful change.



(CONT'D) Faith Leader's of New York Spotlight Monthly Feature

Patricia White – MPA Community Consultant

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

A: I'm incredibly proud of the partnerships and progress achieved through the Westchester County Faith-Based Mental Health Initiative. Collaborating with organizations such as the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, NAMI Westchester, the Department of Community Mental Health, and the Soul Shop Movement has allowed us to create impactful, lasting programs for the faith leaders and the wider community. .

A major milestone was the creation of the **2022/23 Faith Affirming Mental Health Directory** in partnership with Dr. Kimberly Murray Cruse (Grace Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon), Reverend Daphne Swinton (Union Baptist Church, White Plains) and Commissioner Michael Orth (Department of Community Mental Health) — with Steadfast Women in Ministry set to manage the next edition in 2025. (The directory can be downloaded at www.swimforwellness.org)

• **Q: Are you currently focused on a specific issue?**

A: Yes. After nearly five years of consistent work, I recently authored the **Westchester County Faith-Based Mental Health Initiative: “Building Bridges Between Faith and Mental Health – A Five-Year Report.”** The report outlines our journey, the initiative’s origin, challenges, successes, and the vision ahead.

The report reinforces the need for ongoing mental health training and awareness. It also reflects the power of collaboration—our initiative continues to grow, especially with new partners from the health and insurance sectors who recognize the value of engaging faith communities.

Looking forward, we’re planning a 2025–2026 Faith-Based Mental Health Summit, which will provide a platform for faith leaders with their Health and Wellness Ministry to showcase their progress and inspire further collaboration. For more information, please feel free to email me directly. pwhite1220@gmail.com



Faith Leader's of New York Spotlight Monthly Feature

Patrick Young



Q: What led you to become a Faith Based Leader?

A: I believe the question begs the answer of what draws me to have a mindset of ministry that reaches into the heart of the community and cares for the needs of the community by which I serve. While attending Bishop College in Dallas, TX, I was apart of a congregation and leadership who nurtured me in understanding Ministry serves people. While attending Friendship West Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III, it afforded me the ability to exercise ministry that met the needs of congregation and community. Henceforth, it has been the motivating factor in building a Faith Based Ministry that cares for the Community and Congregation in every Pastoral Assignment.

Q: Looking ahead, what are your aspirations oft the interfaith Community in New York State, and how do you see the NYS Interfaith Council contributing to the realization of those goals?

A: The greatest aspiration is that the interfaith Community to be a mouthpiece of Hope in the desperate and divisive environment that so many people of our various communities are living through We must build solidarity to help every New Yorker, Community for every person God has given the right to live in Freedom, Justice, Equality and Harmony.

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

A: Currently focus on aid to those who are in need of mental health support. Providing basic service to families who are without food, clothes and health services.

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

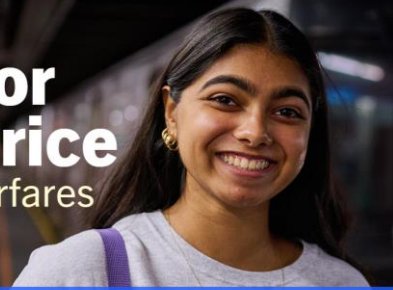
A: I am appreciative of the work our First Baptist Church Outreach Team does to provide much needed services to Vulnerable families and Children who are dealing with food insecurity and lock of health care, Also, the opening of the Hope and Grace Wellness Center in partnership with Northwell Health Management. We are able to provide 12 weeks of Free therapy session for those who are in need of mental health assistance



Department of State
Office of Faith & Nonprofit
Development Services

Highlights across the City and Beyond.

**Ride for
Half Price**
nyc.gov/fairfares



Office of the New York State Attorney General Letitia James



Protecting the People

Join us for a community impact hearing

**Thursday
May 8, 2025
6-8 p.m.**

**SUNY Westchester
Community College**

Location will be provided after registration. Guests can start entering at 5 p.m.

Seating is limited. Event registration is first-come, first-served.



**New York Attorney General
Letitia James**



**California Attorney General
Rob Bonta**



**Illinois Attorney General
Kwame Raoul**



**Minnesota Attorney General
Keith Ellison**



**New Jersey Attorney General
Matthew Platkin**



Register to attend:
ag.ny.gov/community-impact-hearing

New York Attorney General Letitia James is hosting a community impact hearing to hear from New Yorkers about the impact the Trump administration's policies are having on their lives.

Joined by California Attorney General Rob Bonta, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, and New Jersey Attorney General Matt Platkin, Attorney General James will provide an update on her office's work to protect New Yorkers' rights and uphold the rule of law.

If you require an accommodation to participate in a program, service, or activity of our office, please contact our ADA Administrator at ADA.administrator@ag.ny.gov, preferably 48 hours before the event.

From our partners at NYC Public Schools:

Wanted to share updated information for families regarding the newly expanded income eligibility for Fair Fares.

As of January 7th, 2025, the income eligibility for Fair Fares has increased! The new Fair Fares income limits can be found [here](#). With Fair Fares NYC, eligible New York City residents receive a 50% discount on subway and eligible bus fares. Pay-per-Ride, weekly unlimited, and monthly unlimited options are all available. Fair Fares can also provide 50% off MTA Access-A-Ride paratransit trips.

Learn more, check your eligibility, and apply online at the [Fair Fares Website](#).

LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE!



FBSS

FAITH-BASED SUPPORT SPECIALIST TRAINING in NEW YORK CITY

WHO: LEADERS OF ALL FAITHS
WHEN: JUNE 27, 2025 (FRIDAY)
TIME: 8:00AM - 4:00PM
WHERE: OASIS BY WORKVILLE
315 W. 35TH ST. FLOOR 12, NEW YORK, NY 10001



MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION AT:

(256) 789-5585. FBSS.ASAPREV.COM ASAPFBSS@GMAIL.COM

The Faith-Based Support Specialist (FBSS) Training is coming to New York City to equip leaders of all faiths with tools to address substance misuse and mental health challenges in their communities. Supported by the Alabama Department of Mental Health and the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE, based in New York), this one-day conference offers practical strategies and resources for faith-based intervention. Limited seating is available—join us on June 27, 2025, and be part of a powerful movement for healing and hope.



Mental Health Awareness Month



Soul Shop™ for Black Churches



Saturday, May 10th
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Calvary Baptist Church- White Plains
Contact: pwhite1220@gmail.com
Registration is Free BUT
Required:



www.afsp.org/hudsonvalley

Specifically designed for pastors, church staff, faith-based clinicians and other lay leaders in black churches; Soul Shop™ for Black Churches focuses on:

- the role of societal discrimination in suicide rates among black and brown young people
- the prominent role of the church in black communities and how that can be leveraged towards public health
- statistics, trends and rates of suicide among people of color
- challenges of and ideas for engaging issues of mental health and suicide in black churches

This program equips leaders who are on the front lines of community mental health crises to minister to those impacted by all the faces of suicide.



SoulShopMovement.org

Christian Counseling Services

Nurturing Minds, Healing Hearts

OUR SERVICES:

- ✓ Individual counseling
- ✓ Youth counseling
- ✓ Family counseling
- ✓ Group counseling

All provided by NYS licensed clinicians

Find Us:
315-868-1000
www.hart2heartny.com



Mental Health Matters: Free Mental Health Resources Offered by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Mental Health Matters provides an overview of the mission of NAMI NYS, their advocacy and education initiatives within the community, and the free mental health services available to New Yorkers..

Date: Thursday, May 22nd at 11am

Register Here: [Registration Link](#)

Presenter Bio: Nathan McLaughlin joined NAMI in 2025 as the Executive Director after many years in the human services and arts sectors, having spent more than 15 years in the spiritually based Camphill communities living and working with people of all abilities. The work done at NAMI lives close to Nathan's heart based on his own family life and biography, the mission aligns closely with his belief in the power of community and connecting with others. Most recently he worked in healthcare access and saw firsthand the difficulties of navigating systems and how mental health support and resources can transform a person's life. He currently serves on the board of the CREATE Council on the Arts and the Columbia County Community Services Board.



Pathways to Homeownership: An Introduction to the State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA) Programs



Pathways to Homeownership: An Introduction to the State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA) Programs

Discover how SONYMA can make homeownership affordable and accessible. Join us for a general information session about the State of New York Mortgage Agency's lending program for first-time homebuyers. Learn how homebuyers can benefit from program offerings such as down payment assistance, no minimum credit score, and low fees.

Date: Tuesday, June 10th at 11am

Register Here: [Registration Link](#)

Presenter Bio: Darrelle Forde is the Senior Vice President of the State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA), Single Family Program. SONYMA is a New York State public-benefit corporation which provides affordable homeownership opportunities to low- and moderate-income New Yorkers. Darrelle joined the agency in 2019, after working in the real estate finance for over 20 years in a variety of roles. These include AVP Credit Quality at Bank of America; AVP Fannie Mae Multifamily DUS Lending at Washington Mutual Bank, MBS Securities at Nomura Asset Capital and others. As a first generation American, Darrelle personally understands the importance of sustaining our vibrant communities through homeownership, participation and empowerment. She aims to support SONYMA's important mission through meaningful community outreach and fostering dynamic partnerships.



Grant Information – Upcoming Funding Opportunities

STATE GRANTS

Department of Health

Occupational Health Clinic Network

Deadline: June 30, 2025

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Division of Environmental Health Assessment, Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention, is soliciting applications for the operation of an occupational health clinic to participate in a statewide clinic network. Oversight and coordination of the Occupational Health Clinic Network (OHCN) will be provided through the NYSDOH's Division of Environmental Health Assessment (DEHA).

Migrant and Seasonal Workers Program Component 1

Deadline: May 22, 2025

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH or Department), Office of Health Equity and Human Rights (OHEHR) is requesting applications from qualified and experienced service providers with recognized ties to the Migrant and Seasonal Worker population in New York State (NYS). The primary purpose of this Request for Applications is to award grants to public and not-for-profit, community-based health and/or human service organizations to provide access to high quality, culturally and linguistically appropriate health and social support services. The goal is to improve the health status of Migrant and Seasonal Workers (MSW) and their families, defined as individuals who are employed in agriculture or other employment on a seasonal basis that establish a temporary residence for the purpose of such employment.

Office of Mental Health

Deadline: May 28, 2025

HBCI Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

The New York State Office of Mental Health announces the availability of funds for the procurement of pilot Home Based Crisis Intervention (HBCI) teams serving youth with co-occurring Intellectual Disabilities and/or Developmental Disorders throughout New York State, in partnership with the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) and the Office of Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

Adult Assertive Community Treatment

Deadline: June 10th, 2025

The expansion of ACT to underserved communities represents a commitment by the NYS OMH to develop ACT teams that are designed to better meet the needs of specific populations, e.g., increasing access to an evidence-based practice for adults with SMI and high continuous needs that are not met in traditional community-based services.

Enhanced SSSH Young Adults Round 2

Deadline: June 11, 2025

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) is committed to investing in community-based services that will support young adults with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) transitioning from institutional settings, foster care, and homelessness; improve access to behavioral health and community resources; pursue vocational/educational goals; and develop real-world skills that will support them on the path forward as independent adults.



Grants Information Cont.

FEDERAL GRANTS

Department of Health and Human Services

Deadline: June 23, 2025

Advancing Strategies to Support Older Adults with Behavioral Health Conditions in the Senior Nutrition Program Setting

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support a project for behavioral health-focused innovations in the senior nutrition program setting with intentions to 1) learn of existing barriers and facilitators to serving older adults living with behavioral health conditions in the congregate meal setting, 2) develop and implement person-centered, trauma-informed, and appropriate best practices to meet the needs of seniors living with behavioral health conditions in the senior nutrition program setting, and 3) develop and disseminate resources from tested findings and already existing practices; all resources must be Section 508 compliant. Projects proposed under this grant program must have the potential for broad implementation throughout the aging services network and have demonstrated value.

Sustain Evidence-Based Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs to Support Older Adults with Behavioral Health Conditions

Deadline: June 23, 2025

The goal of this funding opportunity is to award a cooperative agreement to up to five entities to develop and implement multi-faceted strategies that support the delivery and sustainability of evidence-based chronic disease self-management education (CDSME) programs for older adults with one or more behavioral health conditions.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

[Community Leaders Grant — Citizens Committee for New York City | 2025 Community Leaders Grant Application](#)

Deadline: July 25th, 2025

A Community Leaders Grant is a microgrant given out to New Yorkers by CitizensNYC. CitizensNYC awards microgrants of up to \$5,000 to community-building projects carried out by resident-led groups to improve neighborhood life, strengthen local leadership, and scale community partnerships.



Candid Funding Database

Candid.



Information and resources Candid provides to small nonprofits to help with fundraising and diversifying their revenue sources. There are 2 ways nonprofits can access our fundraising tool, Foundation Directory, for free:

- Through our Candid Community library partner: They can access the tool for free at most library locations across the country. Here's a map to find one near you:

<https://candid.org/find-us>

- By participating in our Seal of Transparency program: When small nonprofits (revenue/assets under \$1M) get a Gold Seal of Transparency, they will get a coupon code that can be used to claim one year of Foundation Directory subscription for free. To join the program, first they have to register an account with their work email and claim their nonprofit profile (if they haven't already), then they will be prompted to provide essential information like donation address, contact details, mission, etc. Once they fill in these details, they will instantly get a Bronze Seal of Transparency. There are four levels of Seals: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. To get to a higher level, all they need to do is provide more information about their nonprofit (financials, impact, etc.). Learn more about how to join here:

<https://www.guidestar.org/UpdateNonprofitProfile/profile-best-practices/>



STAY CONNECTED!

WE'RE
IN THIS
TOGETHER!

- **Does your organization have public events coming up?**
- [Fill out our form](#) to have your event included in our next newsletter.

Connect with us!

Important Interfaith Dates in May

- May 1: Pagan and Wiccan: Beltane
- May 5: Buddhist: Buddhas Birthday
- May 12: Buddhist: Vesak
- May 16: Jewish: Lag BaOmer
- May 28: Baha'I: Ascension of Baha'u'llah

- **To join our mailing list for faith-based and nonprofit organizations:**

- [CLICK HERE](#)

