OFFICE OF FAITH & NONPROFIT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

September 2026 Newsletter

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

ONE NEW YORK: FROM DIALOGUE TO ACTION

The September 2026 Newsletter celebrates “One New York: Faith in Action” by reflecting on the landmark One New York: Interfaith Summit at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. Thuia month highlights how hundreds of faith, nonprofit and government leaders came together across traditions and regions to exchange solutions, strengthen partnerships and reaffirm their shared commitment to serving New Yorkers. It recaps powerful conversations on mental health and food security, recognizes faith leaders honored for their resilience, healing, cultural influence, community impact and bridge-building, and underscores Governor Kathy Hochul’s continued commitment to New York’s diverse interfaith community.

Building on the summit’s momentum, the newsletter connects faith-based and nonprofit organizations with timely funding, training and practical resources designed to strengthen their capacity and expand their impact. It announces the recipients of the $1.2 million Technical Assistance Grant: CABS Health Network and the New York Council of Nonprofits; while also sharing statewide updates, upcoming opportunities and important September interfaith observances. Together, these features demonstrate that One New York is more than a summit theme; it is an ongoing commitment to bringing government and communities together so every New Yorker can thrive.

THANK YOU

To all of our partners who joined us at our One New York Interfaith Summit, Thank you for your presence, your partnership, and your continued commitment to the communities we collectively serve. Your work extends far beyond a single event or gathering. Every day, you help strengthen neighborhoods, support families, connect people to critical resources, and ensure that New Yorkers know they are seen, valued, and supported.

We are especially grateful for your continued support of the Office of Faith and Nonprofit Development Services and for the trust you place in this partnership. The success of this work depends on relationships like these; relationships built on collaboration, communication, and a shared commitment to serving the people of New York.
We look forward to continuing this work together and building on the momentum created through our summit and reception

Food Insecurities Panel

Food as Dignity, Faith, and Infrastructure: How New York's Faith Communities Can Help Move from Emergency Feeding to Long-Term Food Security.

Moderated by Rachel Sabella, Director of No Kid Hungry New York (Share Our Strength), the Food Security Panel explored how New York's faith communities can help move families beyond emergency feeding toward long-term food security. Panelists emphasized that access to food is fundamentally about dignity, highlighting the importance of culturally appropriate options, including Kosher and Halal foods, client choice, language access, and trusted relationships with immigrant communities. The discussion also examined how programs such as SNAP, Summer EBT, Nourish New York, universal free school meals, and food-rescue initiatives can strengthen the work already being led by houses of worship.

Panelists encouraged faith leaders to choose practical actions that match the capacity of their congregations; whether partnering with a food bank, hosting a benefits-enrollment table, supporting Summer EBT outreach, organizing a culturally responsive food drive, volunteering with an existing pantry, or serving as a trusted community referral site. The panel's central message was clear: food ministry is not one-size-fits-all. When approached collaboratively and compassionately, it can do more than provide meals- it can build trust, promote health, strengthen communities, and restore hope.

Mental Health Panel

Faith in Action: How Mental Health Impacts Faith-Based Communities

At the One New York: Interfaith Summit, the panel “Faith in Action: How Mental Health Impacts Faith-Based Communities” explored the essential role houses of worship can play in promoting emotional wellness and connecting New Yorkers with care. Moderated by Reverend Qalvy Grainzvolt, the conversation featured Dr. Miriam Tepper of the New York State Office of Mental Health, Dr. Kim Murray Cruse of Steadfast Women in Ministry, Rev. A.R. Bernard of Christian Cultural Center, Carolynn Sozen of R.A.H.A.M.A., and Bishop Raymond Rivera of the Latino Pastoral Action Center. Together, they offered clinical, pastoral and community-based perspectives on reducing stigma and creating culturally responsive support.

Panelists encouraged faith leaders to recognize warning signs, protect confidentiality, maintain healthy pastoral boundaries and make warm referrals to qualified professionals; without feeling that clergy must become clinicians. The discussion also emphasized addressing the broader conditions that affect mental health, including trauma, violence, poverty and housing insecurity, while strengthening support for young people, women, immigrants, families and survivors. Guided by the call to “Recognize. Respond. Refer. (Re)Build,” faith communities were challenged to take at least one concrete step toward making mental-health resources and faith-affirming care more accessible to those they serve.

One New York: Interfaith Reception

Governor Kathy Hochul's One New York: Interfaith Summit brought together faith leaders from across the state to celebrate the extraordinary role faith communities play in strengthening and uniting New York. During the gathering, Governor Hochul honored Rabbi Binyamin Krauss with the Resilience and Recovery Award; Bhai Gian Singh of the Sikh Association of the Capital Region with the Cultural Impact Award; Pastor Michael A. Walrond Jr. with the Healing Hearts and Communities Award; and Reverend James Giles with the Community Impact Award. Mohammad Razvi and Reverend Terry Troia each received a regional Bridge Builder Award for convening diverse constituencies and advancing unity through interfaith partnership. Together, the honorees exemplify how faith leadership can promote healing, preserve culture, improve public safety, confront poverty and violence, and guide communities through times of crisis.

Governor Hochul also reaffirmed her continued commitment to New Yorkers and the interfaith community by pairing recognition with meaningful investment. Through the Department of State's Office of Faith and Nonprofit Development Services, New York announced the recipients of a $1.2 million Technical Assistance Grant: CABS Health Network will receive $660,000 to serve Downstate organizations, while the New York Council of Nonprofits will receive $540,000 to serve Upstate communities. The funding will provide free assistance in grant development, financial infrastructure, compliance and organizational capacity; equipping hundreds of faith-based and nonprofit organizations with the tools needed to secure resources, expand their impact and continue serving New Yorkers in every region of the state

Awardees of our One New York: Interfaith Center

Presented by Governor Kathy Hochul

Rabbi Binyamin Krauss

Resilience and Recovery Award

Recognizing faith leaders who have led their communities through moments of crisis.

Bhai Gian (Gee-yaan) Singh

Cultural Impact Award

Recognizing faith contributions to arts, culture, and community identity that strengthen New York's diverse communities.

Awardees of our One New York: Interfaith Center

Presented by Governor Kathy Hochul

Pastor
Michael Walrond

Healing Hearts & Communities Award

Honoring for their work in the space of Mental Health

Reverend
James Giles

Community Impact Award

Recognizing faith contributions to arts, culture, and community identity that strengthen New York's diverse communities.

Awardees of our One New York: Interfaith Center

Presented by Governor Kathy Hochul

Mohammad Razvi

Bridge Builder Award

Honoring the convener of interfaith and diverse constituencies towards a unified New York. Recognizing creative programs that address complex challenges through interfaith partnership.

Reverend Terry Troia

Bridge Builder Award

Honoring the convener of interfaith and diverse constituencies towards a unified NY. Recognizing creative programs that address complex challenges through interfaith partnership.

Thank you to our New York State Partners for Joining us

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S OFFICE OF FAITH AND NONPROFIT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE $1.2 MILLION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Two Nonprofit Organizations Will Get Resources to Provide Technical Assistance to Support Capacity Building in Nonprofit Organizations Throughout the State

Grant is Divided between One Upstate and One Downstate Nonprofit and Will Help Serve Thousands of New Yorkers

Secretary Mosley said: "The winners of this $1.2 million grant will be able to strengthen the operational effectiveness of their organizations to improve resources so that they may continue to offer access to programs and services in the neighborhoods they serve."

New York Secretary of State Walter T. Mosley today announced the winners of the $1.2 million grant to provide statewide Technical Assistance (TA) to strengthen the nonprofit sector's organizational capacity, sustainability, and access to opportunities. Two nonprofit organizations – one from Upstate, one from Downstate – will receive grants to provide free technical assistance to nonprofits across New York State that will support their operational effectiveness to carry their vital work in their communities.

"Nonprofit organizations are the eyes and hears in the communities they serve and partner with the Department of State to offer the resources necessary to improve the lives of thousands of New Yorkers," **said Secretary of State Walter T. Mosley**. "The winners of these $1.2 million grants will be able to strengthen the operational effectiveness of many nonprofit organizations so that they may continue to offer access to programs and services in the neighborhoods they serve."

The grant winners are:

Region A: Downstate

CABS Health Network: $660,000. This nonprofit will operate as the lead coalition partner in providing technical assistance for nonprofits in the downstate region. They will assist with grant resource development, financial infrastructure and organizational compliance.

(CONT'D) NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S OFFICE OF FAITH AND NONPROFIT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE $1.2 MILLION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Region B: Upstate

New York Council of Nonprofits: **$540,000**. This nonprofit organization is a leading voice for the nonprofit sector in policy and advocacy, representing organizations that serve every New York Community. With more than 119,000 nonprofit organizations statewide, the nonprofit sector employs over 1.3 million New Yorkers. As a trusted partner, NYCON provides nonprofits with the tools, training, and support they need to thrive.

This grant will be administered by the New York Office of Faith and Nonprofit Development Services. This new state grant seeks to build organizational capacity, improve nonprofits' ability to maximize funding opportunities, expand programmatic impact, and promote their ability to meet and exceed applicable compliance standards. Providing this technical assistance will assist nonprofits to apply for resources at a faster pace, perform the associated administrative requirements that come with additional resources, and unify efforts to be ready to provide services.

Caura Richardson, Director of the Office of Faith and Nonprofit Development Services said, "Today, we are turning commitment into capacity. This $1.2 million investment in two trusted organizations will provide critical technical assistance to help faith-based and nonprofit organizations strengthen their operations, expand their impact, and better serve communities across New York State. We are not simply providing funding—we are investing in the infrastructure, expertise, and sustainability that allow organizations on the front lines to thrive. When we strengthen the organizations that strengthen our communities, all of New York wins."

CABS Executive Director Sheryl Demosthenes-Atkinson said, "We are honored that New York State Governor has entrusted CABS Health Network to lead this initiative. With our partners, we will help hundreds of nonprofits and faith-based organizations across the region build the financial, compliance, and grant capacity they need to compete for government funding and better serve their communities."

New York Council of Nonprofits (NYCON) CEO Megan Allen said, "We look forward to partnering with New York State on this new project to support nonprofits across the state. Strengthening nonprofits — including in fiscal, compliance and grants areas — is more critical than ever as organizations deal with an increasing number of challenges, and we are excited to provide NYCON expertise to help."

This funding will help these two organizations develop and implement programs to provide free technical assistance to hundreds of nonprofits across New York State to build organizational capacity, improve nonprofits' ability to maximize funding opportunities, expand programmatic impact, and enhance their administrative capacity, which in turn will improve the quality of life of many New Yorkers.

Link to official press release: https://dos.ny.gov/news/office-faith-and-nonprofit-services-announces-winners-technical-assistance

GRANT INFORMATION

All of our grant information and grant application assistance information can be accessed by visiting our website.

Please click HERE for more OR visit https://dos.ny.gov/ofnds

Book a 1:1 with our Grant Program Manager Xamayla Rose to enroll in SFS:

CLICK HERE TO BOOK

If you or someone you know is impacted by federal changes to Temporary Protected Status (TPS), you should only seek legal advice and updates from trusted sources.

The Office for New Americans Hotline 1-800-566-7636 can help connect you to a free immigration legal consultation with a qualified provider. Also, visit https://dos.ny.gov/know-your-rights for more information and resources.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS:
ENTER TO WIN!

Create this season's poster for the Gottesman Rink at the Davis Center by capturing the joy of skating and the spirit of Harlem in your original design.

The winning artwork will appear across the city—and the artist will receive a $5,000 prize.

Submit your artwork by September 20.

Scan for full submission details or visit:
centralparknyc.org/poster-contest

CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY

Recent Highlights

Connect with us!

Important Interfaith Dates in September

- **Paryushana** (Jainism): September 8 – 15
- **Rosh Hashanah** (Judaism): Evening of September 11 – September 13, 2026.
- **Ganesh Chaturthi** (Hinduism): September 14, 2026.
- **Yom Kippur** (Judaism): Evening of September 20 – September 21, 2026.
- **Nativity of the Theotokos** (Eastern Orthodox Christian): September 21, 2026.
- **Mabon / Autumn Equinox** (Wicca / Pagan): September 22, 2026
- **Sukkot** (Judaism): Evening of September 25 – October 2, 2026

Does your organization have public events coming up?

Fill out our form to have your event included in our next newsletter.

Need to be added to our database of Faith Leaders?

Please fill out this form.