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## Faith-Based Organizations: Government Funding for Religious Programs

Imagine ~~there was~~ an organization whose goal was to help disadvantaged teenagers ~~who~~ struggled with drug addictions. The organization would help the teens fight their addictions and ~~help them~~ find support and love through God's love. The organization ~~was~~ helping many teens overcome drug addictions, but they did not have the money to keep the organization running. What would they do? Could they go to the government for help, or would that violate the establishment clause? ~~This is a problem many faith-based organizations face.~~ A faith-based organization is ~~normally~~ a non-profit or charity program run by a religious group. ~~There are~~ numerous faith-based organizations that strengthen the nation in many areas such as working with the elderly, fighting against drugs, and providing care in emergencies. Some of these organizations can be funded by private donations, but ~~some~~ need help.

*(AU: Explain the order)* In December 2002, President George W. Bush gave an order that provided a way for faith-based organizations to have more access to federal funding (Williams, 2006, p. 64). Even before President Bush pushed for government funding, former President Clinton relaxed the laws that were associated with faith-based organizations. Even with these laws passed, it is difficult for a religious organization to receive money. They have to establish a way for the aid to be provided in a secular way. It is easier for the government to fund faith-based organizations that hand out clothes and water after an emergency compared to religious organizations that help people overcome addictions. An organization is able to hand out food without involving religion and this will not cause a blending of church and state. It becomes difficult when organizations start involving faith and religion to help fight drug addictions. Faith-based organizations that help people overcome addictions and teach good habits should be able to receive funding from the government because these types of organizations provide excellent help, they are more

~~effective for people who want religion to be part of their recovery, and the participants will be stronger and healthier after they complete the program.~~

Faith-based organizations are often funded by private donations from the members of the community and run by volunteers. This is the easiest way for organizations to receive money because it doesn't matter how they spend the money. If the private donations stop coming, the organizations are not going to have money to run their program. This is becoming a problem as there are more organizations and not enough people to help fund them. Receiving money from the government can become a big problem because of the restrictions that are placed to keep the barrier between church and state strong. The government has to make sure that the organization is going to use the money to help people, not use the money to promote their religion. If money was handed out freely, it could cause the problem of religion competing for government funding in order to sponsor their church and proselytize to others.

In order to protect faith-based organizations from spending the government's money in the wrong way, the government has made it difficult for organizations to receive the funding. These organizations can receive money from block grants, which is money that is given to the state. The state then has the decision of how to spend the money (Kramer, et al., 2005, p. 24). This could cause problems if the state decides that the money should be spent on other things and that faith-based organizations should get nothing. The other types of federal aid that is available for faith-based organizations are harder to use because they are given for a specific purpose (Kramer, et al., 2005, p. 24). The government will give this kind of funding but because it is for a specific purpose it becomes more difficult for the faith-based organizations to use this money without involving religion.



The government ~~is willing to~~ give money to organizations that help people, but they have <sup>willingly / s</sup> high standards for the non government programs that they ~~give to~~. A study conducted for the <sup>= / fund</sup> Urban Society showed that, "meeting government standards was a particular challenge in the <sup>Institute / s</sup> substance abuse field" (Kramer, et al., 2005, p. 44). The Urban Institute is an organizations who <sup>s / se</sup> mission is ~~to~~ "to promote sound social policy and public debate on national priorities, the Urban <sup>as follows: / set</sup> Institute gathers and analyzes data, conducts policy research, evaluates programs and services, and educates Americans on critical issues and trends" (The Urban Institute, 2006, ¶1). The standards were not put in place to keep out the faith-based organizations; they were put there in order to assure that the participants ~~were getting~~, at least, the minimum standards of service and <sup>received / s</sup> help (Kramer, et al., 2005, p. 44). ~~Receiving funding may be difficult for these organizations~~ <sup>Knowing Faith-based organizations are doing a good job & has been proven necessary.</sup> ~~because it is necessary to make sure that faith-based organizations are doing a good job.~~ The government wants to make sure that ~~the~~ participants are receiving the kind of aid and help that <sup>s / s</sup> will effectively help them overcome their addictions. This is another reason why, in some cases, private donations don't provide enough money. In order ~~for organizations~~ <sup>s</sup> to provide the best form of assistance, ~~they~~ need to teach their volunteers or employees how to effectively help the <sup>these organizations</sup> participants. While meeting the standards are hard, some organizations ~~meet them~~ and are proven <sup>succeed</sup> to do a good job of helping people. These are the types of organizations that should receive <sup>s / arguably,</sup> funding ~~from~~ the government. <sup>(Fr)</sup>

Equality is an important factor ~~that needs to be remembered when the government gives~~ <sup>s</sup> funding ~~to~~ faith-based organizations. Secular government programs ~~need to still be receiving~~ <sup>s / require</sup> equal amounts of money. ~~Faith-based organizations work for some, but they are not the best choice for others.~~ Daniel J. Rosenthal, a law clerk to Judge Ricardo M. Urbina in the United <sup>s</sup> states District Court for the District of Columbia, said <sup>caps / s</sup> "the push in recent years to include

religious institutions in social service programs is rooted in a desire to supply the community with a religious option in seeking social help programs" (2006, p. 642). If people need help with a problem, they ~~should have~~ the choice of what type of program they want to attend. If they ~~deserve~~ decided that the government will provide the best help for them, then ~~there should be~~ government programs available. If they decided that a faith-based organization ~~would provide~~ the best help, then ~~there should be those organizations~~ available. The government should allow faith-based organizations to receive funding and use it in a way that would make it most effective. They should only give money to the organizations that are proven to be effective.

Faith-based organizations are proven to be more effective for some people. Rosenthal stated that, "it is commonly thought that in seeking social service programs, individuals will feel more comfortable with, and therefore will have greater success in, social service programs supplied by institutions of their faith" (2006, p. 642). Teen Challenge, a faith-based organization that helps teenagers with drug rehabilitation, had a study done by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which is an organization that works on finding ways to stop drug abuse. They found that 86 percent of participants were still drug free seven years later. It compares this to some single digit percents of those still drug free years after participating in government run programs (Sherman, 2003, p. 22). These kinds of organizations are the ones who deserve federal help if they need it. They are proven to have a high percentage of success and are changing the lives of those who participate.

Another organization that is effective is the National Job Partnership. This organization helps people who have received welfare before, and/or have a criminal record, and/or substance abuse problems with job training. It is reported that 83 percent of participants who attended the program are able to keep good jobs. The rate of people who were able to get and keep a job after



they had participated in government welfare training ~~was only~~ about 39 percent (Sherman, 2003, ~~9/ing/ranked~~ p. 21). Training people on how to keep a job is a worthwhile cause. ~~If organizations like the~~ National Job Partnership are producing good results, then they are helping to better the lives of many Americans. When the participants are done with the programs, they will have a greater ~~9/complete these/9~~ opportunity to live a life that is productive and benefits other people. ~~both themselves and~~

What makes these organizations more effective than secular programs? The positive outcomes are ~~most likely~~ tied to the religion factor. Sherman reports that "black kids who live in dysfunctional neighborhoods are less likely to get involved in crime if they go to church" (2003, p. 21). The same study finds that kids who go to church are less likely to take illegal drugs than ~~those who do not go to church~~ ~~It is also shown that going to church helps teens do better in~~ school (Sherman, 2003, p. 21). Religion is able to help in all of these aspects because it gives the kids a group to belong to. They are taught morals and standards and are expected to live up to them. They learn of a high being who loves them and are taught of their purpose here on the earth. Lewis D. Solomon said that "religion is perhaps the one force in American society that will help promote a cultural renewal" (2003, p. 19). Religion has the ability to change lives ~~because it changes people~~. They are taught to live in an honorable way. ~~It can give people a~~ feeling of hope and love because they learn about a higher being that is there for them. ~~If people become involved in a religion, they will do better in society and are able to~~ ~~"help promote a cultural renewal"~~ (Solomon, 2003, p. 19). Faith-based organizations can not only ~~make a renewal in~~ a person, but they can cause a cultural renewal. They can change the world for the better because they are able to help people change, which could cause a chain reaction. Sherman says faith-based organizations work because they "get people 'right with God' = and this aids in producing positive social outcomes" (2003, p. 22). If people are able to feel that

14: Possibly  
also quote that  
can be interpreted  
as racist to single  
out black kids

9/Individuals/  
Religion/s  
their worth and that they  
are not alone.

improve/These  
organizations

9/9/s

they are loved and supported by some higher being, it could make them want to do better. When people learn to accept themselves, they can start putting their lives together. They will be more stratified with their lives and more likely to serve other people. This religion factor is missing in the secular government programs and is part of the reason they don't work as well for certain people.

A study done by Robert Wuthnow, Conrad Hackett, and Becky Yang Hsu found that participant in faith-based organizations trusted the faith-based organization more than those who participated in secular programs (2004, p. 1). Trust is an important aspect in a program. The participants need to trust that the organization is serving them to the best of their abilities. They need to feel comfortable around the people that are helping them so that they won't try to hide all of their problems. When people are trying to get rid of a bad addiction, it is important to have people around them that they trust. The participants know that these people will provide the support and help that they need. Sherman states that "program participants feel more loved, supported, and inspired because they know those who are helping them are not getting paid to do so" (2003, p. 23). Participants in faith-based programs are going to interact with the employees or volunteers. Most of the people that labor in such organizations are volunteers who want to truly help people. They let the participants know that they want to help them and are happy to be there. Having these loving volunteers' support is important to the participants.

Faith-based organizations work because the participants feel like they are responsible for giving back. The organization makes the participants feel needed and shows them that they can make a difference to someone else in the organization or in their community (Sherman, 2003, p. 23). If these organizations are helping to teach that kindness and caring is needed in the world then they are teaching an important lesson. More kindness is needed in the world. Secular



government organization ~~might~~ make participants feel like they have failed in life. It could make ~~them feel like they are only there for help because they aren't able to help themselves.~~ occasionally / <sup>that/can't</sup>

A study done in the *American Journal of Public Health* found that faith-based programs cause an improvement in health. Most faith-based organizations that deal with health issues focus on the prevention of health problems ~~although there were many who helped people during the time they are faced with difficult health problems.~~ and coping (DeHaven, et al., 2004 p. 1030) If faith-based organizations prevent younger people from using illegal drugs, abusing alcohol, and unprotected sexual activity it will help them in the future ~~because they will not have as many health problems.~~ these / steer / away participating in / hold long term effects In San Francisco there is an alarming rate of younger people who have STDs. This is a big problem so a local faith-based organization, the Providence Foundation, worked ~~with the Youth United through Health Education to screen teens for STDs and teach classes on preventing STDs.~~ Because of this problem, / called / caps / sp The Providence Foundation was able to receive some federal help and that ~~made it possible for the teenagers to learn more about the dangers of STDs. The groups were able to change teenagers' lives by screening them for possible STDs and they taught them how to prevent them.~~ the contraction of / which These types of programs are free which it makes it possible for every teenager to ~~attend (Moss, et al., 2004, p. 1081). Prevention programs are an easy way to stop a problem even before it happens. Teaching younger people about the dangers of STDs, drug use, alcohol will prevent future health problems.~~ <sup>create awareness and</sup>

~~It can be argued that~~ faith-based organizations are not necessarily more effective than secular government organizations. The subject is debatable that The paper written by the Urban Institute brings up the facts ~~that the studies on faith-based organizations are not accurate. The studies they conducted found that the participants in these organizations do not reflect the general public. If people are going to participate in a faith based organization it is probably because they have a religious background~~ severe / J:2 = /



and want religion to be part of their recovery or training (Kramer, et al., 2005 p. 19). ~~It is true~~ or  
~~that the participants in a faith-based organization are going to have ties to religion, but if this is~~ <sup>if this is</sup> ~~going to help them~~ <sup>help</sup> recover from a problem that is harming their life, is it a bad thing? ~~The participants~~  
~~government should take into account that it should not matter where the help is coming from as~~  
~~long as the people who need it are getting it.~~

<sup>AN:</sup> This should be a block quote  
 The Urban Institute also argues that, "since raw success rates do not adjust for the cost of the treatment, it is impossible to know whether a particular approach achieved greater success because of its faith based or because additional resources per case—including volunteer labor—had been applied" (Kramer, et al., 2005, p.19). Faith and religious principles ~~may~~ <sup>...</sup> not always be the reason why faith-based organizations get the high success results. Sometimes it ~~may~~ <sup>take</sup> more than just feeling God's love in order to overcome a drug abuse problem. Love from volunteers ~~may be~~ <sup>needed</sup> as well. ~~Should the government be responsible for funding programs that are being run by volunteers?~~ Different types of programs work better for different people. Some people may do great in a secular organization with caring people who get paid to work there. Others may do better if they participate in an organization that has loving volunteers who want to be there helping other people. These types of organizations should be able to get funding from the government because they are helping people with problems. People should have a choice of where they want to get their help from. ~~If a faith-based organization can not operate because it does not have the funding, it could hurt the people who would have done well in that setting.~~

There are often questions brought up of whether faith-based organizations violate Title VII when being funded by the government. "Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, passed in 1964, prohibits discriminatory employment practices in the private sector" (Rosenthal, 2006, p.642). If

the government is going to fund a program, it is unconstitutional to not hire people of other faiths <sup>intend / 1/2</sup> and not hire them? If the government starts to directly fund the organization, then the <sup>5/ This is to say, 1/10</sup> organization shouldn't be able to hire someone just based on their religion. This is a difficult <sup>solely</sup> issue because faith-based organizations need to hire people who are of the same faith, but if they <sup>5/ 1/10</sup> are receiving government funding then they can not discriminate against who they hire. If the <sup>receive / 5</sup> organization decides that it really needs the funding, then it is going to have to accept the <sup>Should a faith-based organization decide government funding is a necessity, then it will no longer be allowed the freedom of choosing how volunteers are hired.</sup> consequences of not being able to discriminate who they are going to hire. While organizations may feel that hiring people who are not of the same religion is a bad thing, it may have positive <sup>Faith is a hindrance / keep in mind that</sup> effects. If members of an organization are all of the same faith there is going to be a greater <sup>one religion is represented</sup> chance of proselytizing to the people who attend the organization. If the people who work at the organization are there because they are caring people who really want to help others then it won't matter what specific religion is being promoted. All that will matter is that the participants' lives are being changed for the better.

Faith-based organizations that help people overcome difficult problems are a great asset <sup>life's</sup> for society. They can help people in ways that the government can not. If the organization is <sup>to 1/9/3</sup> proven to effectively help people, then it should have the option to receive government funding <sup>5/ proves / should be available</sup>. Faith-based organizations will help the country in the long run because they change the lives of <sup>United States</sup> people. They don't just stop them from being an alcoholic, but they give them a belief and <sup>individuals / instill in</sup> standards to live by. The government <sup>Government, as organizations still prove necessary as</sup> needs to continue offering their programs because some people will do better in that type of environment, but they need to give funds to faith-based <sup>improve more easily / provide</sup> organizations that are making differences in people's lives who struggle with difficult problems. <sup>also make 2/ 5</sup> While the wall between church and state should be strong, this aid isn't building up a church, it <sup>the lives of those / 5</sup> is helping people overcome difficult situations that have held them back. It will only make our <sup>separation / remain / 1/</sup> life's problems <sup>3/ life's problems / Doing so can</sup> easier to deal with.



country stronger.

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