

**FAITH-BASED/RELIGIOUS INVOLVEMENT WITH CYFAR NCP
PROJECTS**

December 2007

**Lydia I. Marek and Jay A. Mancini
Virginia Tech**

In September of 2000 and 2001, 14 states completed their five years of USDA/CSREES New Communities Project Funding. A point of contact for each of the 14 states was identified via their program closeout reports and then confirmed with CSREES/USDA. All points of contact were e-mailed a survey and asked to complete it. Follow-up e-mails were sent to non-respondents. Ultimately, all states responded and completed surveys except for the state of Michigan. [For the purposes of this report, we are making the assumption that Michigan is no longer active since no response was received although at least three attempts were made to gather this information.] This provided a program response for 13 projects or 93% response rate. Results reported are based on 13 sustained projects. In addition to examining the sustainability of the 14 New Communities Programs one (nine states) and two (five states) years after their initial five years of funding ended, the involvement of these sustained NCP projects with faith-based/religious organizations was also explored and reported in this summary.

- 1. Providing or sharing leadership for 18% of sustained NCP projects**
- 2. Providing some level of monetary support for 18% of sustained NCP projects**
- 3. Are currently collaborating with 31% of sustained NCP projects**
- 4. Are “somewhat” involved in many activities, including:**
 - Volunteer recruitment (36% of projects)
 - Recruitment of program participants (36%)
 - Training and/or workshops for project personnel (18%)
 - Space provision (18%)
 - In-kind support (18%)
 - Provision of personnel (18%)
 - Program implementation (18%)
 - Program leadership (18%)
 - Program evaluation (9%)
 - Curriculum development (9%)
 - Provision of program materials and equipment (9%)
 - Advisory Board member (9%)
 - Supervision of staff and volunteers (9%)
 - Direct funding (9%)
- 5. Are “very” involved in many activities, including:**
 - Involved in a formal coalition for project (27% of projects)
 - Advisory Board member (9%)
 - Direct funding (9%)

Two sustained projects named a religious or faith-based organization as one of their three most important partners.

1. Connecticut: Bishop's Fund for Children has received a grant from the Episcopal Diocese of CT which helps to support 4-H LIFT and students visit one of the local churches to bake for the local soup kitchen.
2. Iowa – Perry: Perry Public and Parochial Schools provide space for substance abuse and literacy program for Hispanics, recruit potential learners, work to identify family needs and make referrals for follow-up support. Serves as liaison between Perry LINK and school outreach worker to expand programs. Provides facilitators for classes and ESL support. Has strong partnership with St. Patrick's Catholic Church which provides space, volunteers, recruitment support and monetary support from the Diocese to program family programs in Spanish. Also, St. Martin's Episcopal church partners by providing meeting space, facilitation on leadership programs, and recruitment support.