

Case Study: MANAGING A NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

The Compassion Capital Fund



BACKGROUND

Faith based and community organizations (FBCOs) are fueled by a passion to help the needy and disadvantaged among us; the homeless, delinquent youth, families of the incarcerated, ex-offenders, recovering substance abusers, domestic violence survivors, vulnerable senior citizens, and others. In 2002, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) established the Compassion Capital Fund (CCF), a Presidential Signature Initiative with the direct intent to increase the scale and effectiveness of FBCO programs.

SITUATION

Unfortunately, critical community needs can overwhelm the resources of many small FBCOs. These grassroots organizations are often strapped for funding and find it difficult to obtain federal grants.

CCF needed to find comprehensive means by which the initiative could build the capacity of FBCOs and equip them with the skills, resources, and tools needed to increase the scale and effectiveness of their programs through training, technical assistance, and capacity building grants.

An important component of the CCF grant program was the intermediary model, through which intermediary organizations provide sub-grants, training, and technical assistance to smaller grassroots FBCOs, enabling them to serve more people more effectively and improving outcomes for the community.

HHS needed to ensure that intermediaries were equipped to serve as grantors and technical assistance providers for small FBCOs. HHS also had to pledge that mini-grantees and CEY grantees- the selected intermediary organizations, would receive the necessary technical assistance, expertise, and oversight to build their capacity to serve and properly execute their grants.

ENTER DARE MIGHTY THINGS

In September 2005, HHS officially engaged DMT to launch the National Resource Center for CCF grantees. DMT established the National Resource Center and developed a wide range of methods for providing oversight and delivering training and technical assistance including:

- Web-based peer knowledge sharing
- Comprehensive e-services
- Customized one-to-one technical assistance consultation
- Toll-free technical assistance hotline
- Robust e-clearinghouse
- Site visits to assess training and TA needs
- National training events and on-line training sessions
- Coordination and Oversight Plan outlining comprehensive strategies and detailed methods to monitor and track grantee progress.

RESULTS

DMT's expertise in channeling their training and technical assistance through the National Resource Center for CCF grantees has produced demonstrable results, increasing the scale and effect of FBCOs.

A recent retrospective study of the Compassion Capital Fund examined the extent to which faith-based and community organizations have succeeded in using CCF sub-awards and intermediary organization technical assistance to expand their service capacity, strengthen their resource base, and improve their organizational capacity. More than 100 FBCOs participated in the study which revealed the following progress:

- 75 percent **more clients served**
- 73 percent **improved organizational capacity**
- 79 percent **strengthened financial potency**
- 40 percent **more applicants for federal funds**
- 90 percent **improved quality of service** to individuals or families.