

Study: Black churches pass on federal grants

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York and New Jersey leading the list.

The study found that there was insufficient outreach to black churches about the FBICI. While 75 percent of the churches surveyed were vaguely aware of the FBICI program, 66 percent did not know about the rules and details for participating, and only one in six (16 percent) had been contacted about applying.

"There is a lot to be done with regard to information dissemination and technical assistance," said Margaret C. Simms, interim president of the Joint Center. "Black churches need more details about the program, and need assistance in completing funding applications in order for the program to have a significant presence in minority communities."

The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives was created by Executive Order 13199 in 2001, as one of President Bush's key domestic policies. The initiative gives faith-based organizations equal

access to compete for funding under federal social welfare programs along with secular service providers.

Overall, 20 percent of the churches surveyed gave an unfavorable view of the program, with many expressing uneasiness about the relationship between church and state. For instance, 22 percent gave an unfavorable view of the FBICI program because they opposed involvement with government, while 18 percent were concerned specifically about government control, 12 percent mentioned separation of church and state, and 13 percent raised doubts about whether funding was actually available.

The churches surveyed were randomly selected from a national sampling frame of 18,000 black churches, which represented approximately 95 percent of all black churches, and the selection process was stratified by region, size of church, and denomination. Survey results were based on telephone interviews with head pastors or other ordained personnel, and results have a 3.6 percent

margin of error.

Other key findings include:

- Only one in nine black ministers (11 percent) reported applying for grants; churches that applied were larger and had higher revenues, were Evangelical or Pentecostal as opposed to Baptist or Methodist, and were suburban rather than rural.

- Fifty-three percent of black ministers indicated that their churches were interested in participating, with Evangelical and Pentecostal congregations the most interested.

- Even though conservative churches had a more favorable view of the FBICI (70 percent), churches with progressive theologies and socially liberal congregations were more interested in participating than conservative ones.

- Churches that applied for the FBICI grant were more likely to have clothing banks (74 percent versus 66 percent for churches that did not apply), prison ministries (67 percent vs. 58 percent), healthcare programs (66 percent vs. 49 percent), after-

school programs (65 percent vs. 46 percent), drug abuse counseling (55 percent vs. 46 percent), and shelter for the homeless (37 percent vs. 30 percent).

Legal minds to be honored at gala

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Jones, development coordinator for the scholarship fund. "We appreciate the support that the Charlotte community has extended to the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund and with continued support, we hope to bring this event to Charlotte each year."

The event will start with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. For tickets, call (201) 227-9427 or e-mail maryvjones@aol.com

Roundtree, a Charlotte native, rose to prominence as a civil rights attorney. She successfully litigated *Sarah Keys v. Carolina Coach Company*, a bus desegregation lawsuit that provided the

legal foundation for the Kennedy administration's drive to make interstate transportation more accessible for African Americans. She was also one of the first women ordained to the ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, where she was special consultant for legal affairs for three

decades.

Taylor is senior vice president of human resources at Lending Tree/IAC in New York, one of the nation's largest lenders. Thigpen is chairman of N.C. Central University's board of trustees and a partner at Thigpen, Blug, Stephens and Fellers, a Durham law firm.

Sanford

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and not an indication that the GOP governor is losing his conservative base as some critics have suggested.

"Gov. Sanford enjoys broad support from the conservative base of the Republican party," campaign manager Jason Miller said. "But he also has the ability to reach out and bring new folks on to the team and that's what we're doing."

The incumbent Republican governor has frequently been at odds with the GOP-controlled House and Senate, leaving some to wonder if that's why he is trying to expand his base.

"There's no doubt Mark Sanford is in trouble. But it shouldn't take political desperation for the governor to pay attention to our African-American families," said Karen Cutmann, spokeswoman for Aiken County Sen. Tommy Moore, Sanford's Democratic opponent in November.

Francis Marion University political scientist Neal Thigpen says there's no question Sanford is losing some of his conservative base.

"That 35 percent of the vote for Oscar Lovelace I think is indicative of it," Thigpen said. "But whether the circumstances are so severe that it could endanger his re-election and thus prompt him to try to seek votes elsewhere - I wouldn't want to say that."

Courting the black vote could be dangerous for Sanford, Thigpen said.

"If it becomes perceived that that's what he's trying to do, it may look like pandering and it may look like something other than what a lot of Republicans in this state like," Thigpen said. "There are some Republicans that are less progressive-minded on race than the larger number."

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