

# FLORIDA

**INTRODUCTORY NOTE:** *The issue of government-faith collaboration is “on the radar screen” at the state level in Florida. This is seen, for example, in the Governor’s “Front Porch Florida” initiative; the Faith Community Network within the Department of Juvenile Justice; and in the recent passage by the state legislature of bills providing (a) funding for faith-based rehabilitation programs in state prisons and (b) earmarking 15 percent of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) youth funds for FBOs. Nonetheless, we did not uncover much activity in terms of new collaborations, with the exception of collaborations in the field of rehabilitative services (e.g., drug/alcohol related services).*

*Front Porch Florida is an initiative designed to encourage multi-sector collaboration (e.g., business, social service agencies, FBOs and CBOs, and local government) to address problems in distressed, underserved communities. A neighborhood can compete for designation as a Front Porch Florida site by submitting a holistic Neighborhood Action Plan that articulates the community residents’ assessment of local problems and plans to address them, including clearly defined short and long-term goals. Communities that receive Front Porch designation are eligible to receive priority attention in state agency funding opportunities. Thus far, neighborhoods in eleven Florida cities (Bartow, Fort Lauderdale, Gainesville, Miami, OpaLocka, Orlando, Pensacola, Sanford, St. Petersburg, Tallahassee, and West Palm Beach) have gained the designation. The Faith Community Network within Florida’s Department of Juvenile Justice exists to promote a comprehensive partnership in which the faith community and CBOs provide voluntary prevention, intervention, diversion, and aftercare programs for at-risk and delinquent youth.*

*These initiatives have not been stimulated specifically by Charitable Choice, but by welfare reform more generally. Florida’s approach to welfare reform has emphasized devolution, and the Front Porch initiative and the Faith Community Network express this. Devolution and privatization in Florida have led to a diffusion of responsibility for social welfare in a variety of agencies, with an emphasis on local control. This reality made tracking the implementation of Charitable Choice in Florida a great challenge, as state-level agencies often lacked data on what localities were doing. To learn what was happening, our research team contacted regional workforce development boards (these oversee much TANF, WIA, and WtW distribution) to learn about local initiatives. Based on our inquiries, it appears that Florida has yet to experience a blossoming of government-faith partnerships.*

*As mentioned earlier, one social service arena where much collaboration has occurred is in rehabilitation – for alcohol and drug abusers and among the incarcerated population of Florida. In Florida, the faith-based community operates 3000 drug rehabilitation beds, almost as many beds as operated by the state. This has convinced Department of Children and Families’ (DCF) official Ken DeCerchio to partner with the faith-based community in providing substance abuse services. Ten contracts have emerged, with more on the way. Meanwhile, DeCerchio has been working to help faith-based substance abuse service providers comply with Florida licensure standards. Florida requires that an organization must be licensed in order to provide substance abuse services. Faith-based organizations have historically been exempt from this requirement, but to be taken seriously by the state and to be eligible for funds, faith-based providers have had to become licensed. For those not seeking state funds, DeCerchio has worked with them to develop voluntary standards. By abiding by these voluntary standards and defining what good care is, faith-based providers are being taken more seriously.*

*More faith-based programs in Florida’s prisons are on the way, thanks to passage of Senate Bill 912, which is the first bill in Florida history that specifically allocates money to faith-based providers.*

*The \$5 million allocated will put 400 new beds on line, bring in six new faith-based “dorms” within specified prison facilities, renovate dorms, and hire new staff for the development of faith-based dorms.*

## **DIRECT FINANCIAL COLLABORATIONS**

### **(1) Tallahassee: A Life Recovery Center**

**Nature of Service Provided:** Non-residential substance abuse treatment services

**Amount of Contract:** \$40,500 (from the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant through SAMHSA); October 1, 2000-June 30, 2001

**Contacts:** Ken DeCerchio, DCF (850) 921-2495  
Emma Hill, A Life Recovery Center (850) 224-9991

**Address:** 449 West Georgia St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

### **(2) Tallahassee: Bethel Family Life Center**

**Nature of Service Provided:** Children’s mental health/substance abuse services

**Amount of Contract:** \$500,000 (SAMHSA); March 7, 2001-December 24, 2001

**Contacts:** Ken DeCerchio, DCF (850) 921-2495  
Dorothy Boyer, Bethel Family Life Center (850) 577-1780

**Address:** 406 North Bronough St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

### **(3) Clearwater: Gulf Coast Jewish and Family Services**

**Nature of Service Provided:** Substance abuse prevention

**Amount of Contract:** \$50,569 (SAMHSA); July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001

**Contacts:** Ken DeCerchio, DCF (850) 921-2495  
Janice McDonald, Executive Vice President, Gulf Coast (727) 538-7460

**Address:** 14041 Icot Blvd.  
Clearwater, FL 33760

### **(4) Ft. Myers: Lutheran Services**

**Nature of Service Provided:** OASIS Shelter Program

**Amount of Contract:** \$42,000 (SAMHSA); June 1, 200-June 30, 2001

**Contacts:** Ken DeCerchio, DCF (850) 921-2495  
Tom Deseo, Lutheran Services (941) 278-5400

**Address:** 3634 Central Ave.  
Ft. Myers, FL 33901

**(5) Ft. Lauderdale: Catholic Charities**

**Nature of Service Provided:** Outpatient services for individuals and groups

**Amount of Contract:** \$8,961 (SAMHSA); July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001

**Contacts:** Ken DeCerchio DCF (850) 921-2495  
Vickie Kaufman, Catholic Charities (954) 630-9404

**Address:** 1505 N.E. 26th St.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305

**(6) Wilton Manors: Mount Bethel Human Services Corporation**

**Nature of Services Provided:** Adult prevention and intervention

**Amount of Contract:** \$55,684 (SAMHSA); December 1, 2000-June 30, 2001

**Contacts:** Ken DeCerchio DCF (850) 921-2495  
Mariann McCann-Colliee, Mount Bethel (954) 630-9404

**Address:** 1214 N.E. 4th Ave.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

**Points to Note:** *This is a ministry of Mount Bethel Baptist Church.*

**(7) Miami: Catholic Charities of Miami**

**Nature of Service Provided:** Full range of treatment and prevention services

**Amount of Contract:** \$1,428,132 (SAMHSA); July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001

**Contacts:** Ken DeCerchio DCF (850) 921-2495  
Julian Serrano, Catholic Charities (305) 795-0077

**Address:** 7707 NW 2nd  
Miami, FL 33150

**(8) Miami: Agape Women's Home**

**Nature of Service Provided:** Outpatient and residential Level II services

**Amount of Contract:** \$262,354 (SAMHSA); July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001

**Contacts:** Ken DeCerchio DCF (850) 921-2495  
Jose Hernandez (305) 235-2616

**Address:** 22790 S.W. 112th Ave.  
Miami, FL 33170

**(9) Okeechobee: Lamb of God Ministries**

**Nature of Service Provided:** Prevention and intervention services

**Amount of Contract:** \$65,676 (SAMHSA); November 11, 2000-June 30, 2001

**Contacts:** Ken DeCerchio DCF (850) 921-2495  
John Glenn, Executive Director, Lamb of God Ministries (863) 467-2300

**Address:** 2500 South Kanner Highway, Ste. 3  
Stewart, FL 34994

**(10) Ft. Pierce: Restoration Ministries**

**Nature of Service Provided:** Residential treatment for women

**Amount of Contract:** \$259,538 (SAMHSA); July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001

**Contacts:** Ken DeCerchio DCF (850) 921-2495  
Maryera Schneider, Executive Director, Restoration Ministries (561) 468-7900

**Address:** P.O. Box 2375  
Fort Pierce, FL 34954

**(11) Panama City: Greater Deliverance Church: Youth in Action Program**

**Nature of Service Provided:** Welfare transition and teen pregnancy prevention

**Amount of Contract:** \$75,000 (Gulf Coast Workforce Board's TANF allocation)

**Contacts:** Betty Boggs, Gulf Coast Workforce Board (850) 913-3285  
Pastor Sherlene McClary, Greater Deliverance Church (850) 872-8220

**Address:** P.O. Box 6564  
2506 E. 5th St.  
Panama City, FL 32401

**(12) Ft. Myers: Quality of Life Center of Southwest Florida, Inc.**

**Nature of Services Provided and Contract Amounts:**

**#1** Employment preparation for welfare transition clients: \$60,000

**#2** Intensive case management for welfare-to-work clients: \$133,079

**Contacts:** Mary Ann Plake, SWFL Workforce Development Board  
A.H. Muhammed, Quality Life Center (941) 461-0916

**Address:** P.O. Drawer 1290  
Fort Myers, FL 33902

**Points to Note:** *The term for these contracts is July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002. This agency also holds two WIA-funded contracts with the SWFL Workforce Development Board.*

## INDIRECT FINANCIAL COLLABORATIONS

### (1) Orange County: The Jobs Partnership of Florida, Inc.

**Nature of Service Provided:** Indicative of welfare privatization in Florida, a private, for-profit company, ACS State and Local Solutions Corporation (formerly called Lockheed Martin IMS), operates a One Stop Career Center under contract with the regional Workforce Development Board. ACS has subcontracted with The Jobs Partnership of Florida, a faith-based organization with an impressive record of job placement for un- and under-employed individuals. Under the terms of the subcontract, Jobs Partnership provides a 12 week intensive job-and-life skills training program. Program participants are matched with mentors drawn from local churches. Program participants who are eligible for either TANF or Welfare-to-Work benefits can choose to attend the Jobs Partnership program in lieu of participating in the mandatory job readiness classes provided by ACS. The contract is “outcome- based.” The Jobs Partnership receives a payment for each client’s “Individual Employment Plan” (IEP) and each client’s placement into a new job.

**Amount of Contract:** \$500 per IEP; \$750 per placement

**Contacts:** Lisa Portelli, ACS State and Local Solutions Corp. One Stop Operator Project Director  
(407) 741-4365  
Marc Stanakis, Jobs Partnership (407) 235-1522

**Address:** 7531 So. Orange Blossom Trail  
Orlando, FL 32809

### (2) Orange County: Goodwill Industries

**Nature of Service Provided:** Case management for “welfare transition” customers of the One Stop Career Center

**Amount of Contract:** \$1,192,000 (this is a subcontract from ACS State and Local Solutions Corp.)

**Contacts:** Lisa Portelli, ACS State and Local Solutions Corp. One Stop Operator Project Director  
(407) 741-4365  
Linda Rimmer, Goodwill (407) 235-1517

**Address:** 7531 So. Orange Blossom Trail  
Orlando, FL 32809