

CLERGY, CASA AND COMMUNITY

FAITH OUTREACH TEAM ROAD MAP

1

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Determine who will be the initial lead for Clergy, CASA and Community in your program.
 - Depending on the size of your program, you may have one or multiple contacts who will spearhead the initiative.
- Review materials and trainings at TexasCASA.org and those provided by Texas CASA's faith-based liaison.
- Schedule a staff or team meeting, depending on your program size, to discuss CCC and your program's investment in it.

CHOOSE YOUR TEAM

2

- Determine how many team members you would like to recruit to get the initiative started.
 - Connect with your case supervisors and ask them for recommendations of potential members for your Faith Outreach Team (FOT).
 - Consider who is missing from the table; review and understand the demographics of children and volunteers in your program's service area.
 - Refer to pages 18-19 in [A Guide to Faith-based Recruitment for CASA Programs](#) to learn more about who should be included on a Faith Outreach Team.
- Formally invite members to ensure that it's seen as a prestigious opportunity; have any initial recruitment emails for members come from the person who recommended them, e.g. case supervisors.
- Host an info session for potential FOT members. The Texas CASA faith-based liaison can be asked to attend this and give an overview presentation if requested.
- Use the info session as a tool to gauge interest and determine who will be committed to serving on the FOT.
- Consider volunteers who could serve as leaders of the FOT in the future.
- Once members are selected, collect and save their self-reported demographic and biographic information.
- Create a Doodle poll or other scheduling tool to set a first meeting that will work for most of the team. Lunch or evening meetings have been shown to be most effective.

3

YOUR FIRST MEETING

- Allow time for each member to share about their faith community and their involvement in it.
- Share or work together on initial goals for the team, which may include:
 - Having FOT members research points of contact in their faith community.
 - Having FOT members work on setting up initial meetings with faith leaders, small groups, etc. in their faith community in the first 3-6 months.
 - Scheduling the CASA program to attend at least one event hosted by the faith community such as a worship service or ministry fair within the first 3-6 months.
- Develop talking points for FOT members to share with their faith community; or use examples in the [CCC Toolkit](#) in the Program Portal or on pages 20-21 of [A Guide to Faith-based Recruitment for CASA Programs](#).
- Share [A Guide to Faith-based Recruitment for CASA Programs](#), [A Call to Faith Leaders](#) and other resources and materials found in the CCC Toolkit with your team.

BECOMING PARTNERS

4

- Schedule regular meetings with your FOT; at least monthly when starting out.
- Connect regularly with FOT members outside of team meetings.
- Understand that FOT members may come and go from your team.
- Research faith communities that have alignment with the CASA mission (i.e. already serving families involved with foster care and/or LGBTQIA+ welcoming and affirming).
- Track data about potential faith community partners in the Texas CASA sample spreadsheet or database of your choice. Regularly analyze this information to determine what is working and what can be done differently.
- Think about setting up a vision session for your FOT after the initial meetings. What are your long-term goals? How many faith communities do you want to become a partner with? What faith communities are underrepresented in your volunteer pool? How can you train FOT members to reach out to members outside of their own faith community?
- Invest in faith communities that are underrepresented in your volunteer pool, e.g. Hispanic or Black communities.
- Remember to communicate with your FOT, other staff members and volunteers that this is not business as usual. Your goal is to form partnerships for children and families in foster care and that takes time and extensive relationship development.