

FAITH RESPONDS TO AIDS (FRTA)



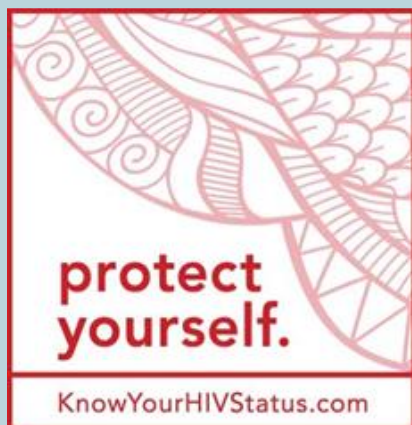
FRTA PROGRAM GOALS

To create a safe place for community members to go for HIV-related information and linkages to resources, regardless of religious denomination or affiliation.

To reduce stigma and discrimination by mobilizing faith-based organizations (FBOs) and communities to have regular dialogue regarding HIV in their communities.

To support the development and enhancement of health ministries by FBOs that address HIV/AIDS.

To encourage FBOs to participate in national HIV/AIDS observance days.



"Our Faith Responds to AIDS"

WHAT IS FRTA?

Built on the same framework as the Business Responds to AIDS initiative, FRTA programs are faith-based initiatives that mobilize churches and other FBOs to raise awareness and reduce stigma around HIV/AIDS. FRTA programs are particularly effective at reaching minority communities. HIV prevention programs must be overreaching and cost effective; therefore, faith settings are ideal for the implementation of prevention programs serving hard-to-reach populations. The vision of FRTA is to advance prevention efforts in communities that are highly impacted by HIV through: information sharing; collaboration and partnerships between FBOs, and community-based organizations (CBOs). Ultimately, FRTA aims to engage communities of faith and their leaders, regardless of race, ethnicity, or behavior, to mobilize a response to HIV in Florida. Once partnerships are established with faith institutions, the HIV/AIDS Section, Prevention Program can provide a variety of branded materials to support the program.

LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT:

FBOs that participate in the FRTA initiative are asked to commit to making HIV prevention a priority. FRTA meets organizations and leaders where they are and provides opportunities to become involved by offering three levels of project engagement: 1) endorsement; 2) support; or 3) participation. Once a level of engagement is selected, FBOs and/or leaders are asked to make a one-year commitment to keep the project logo and materials visible.

1) Endorsement:

- FBO agrees with project goals and signs project commitment letter
- FBO agrees to display project logo and print materials
- FBO completes an evaluation form

2) Support:

- FBO agrees with project goals and signs project commitment letter
- FBO agrees to display project logo and print material
- FBO distributes project materials
- Faith leader agrees to talk to congregants and local community members about HIV
- FBO participates and/or supports health department-sponsored HIV events and activities
- Faith leader completes an evaluation form

3) Participation

- FBO agrees with project goals and signs project commitment letter
- FBO agrees to display project logo and print material
- FBO distributes project materials
- Faith leader agrees to talk to congregants and local community members about HIV
- FBO participates and/or supports health department-sponsored HIV events and activities
- FBO agrees to enhance or develop a health ministry that includes HIV outreach, education, and referrals
- Faith leader completes an evaluation form

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BUILD UP COMMUNITIES, BREAK DOWN STIGMA



WHY PARTNER WITH FAITH COMMUNITIES?

In supporting High-Impact Prevention (HIP) prevention efforts, FBOs are uniquely positioned to mobilize their communities into action, build partnerships and identify resources to address HIV in their communities. Faith communities can also:

- Provide resources (facilities, volunteers, health professionals within congregations, etc.)
- Conduct community outreach (health ministry, health fairs, social activism)
- Meet with religious/spiritual leaders, coordinators of youth pastorals, youth leaders and parents to discuss the relevance of HIV prevention in their communities
- Provide support information and education on HIV prevention and linkage to care
- Encourage men's participation in HIV prevention programs
- Foster community dialogue on ending stigma toward people living with HIV (PLWH)
- Encourage advocacy on the rights and responsibilities of PLWH
- Break the silence around HIV through sermons
- Provide guidance and support to faith leaders
- Partner with other FBOs, CBOs, the local county health department, and the Department of Health's FRTA initiative

HIP:

- FRTA supports the core components of HIP by providing gateways for HIV testing, condom distribution, outreach and prevention with positives
- FRTA could be implemented in any area

POTENTIAL FRTA ACTIVITIES:

- Placing printed material (posters, pamphlets) in annex, restroom, classrooms, and/or other areas
- Reading the commitment letter to the congregation, members, or groups
- Participating in the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS
- Hosting a health fair and including HIV/AIDS education and testing information
- Hosting commemoration events in remembrance of those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS
- Planning activities in observance of HIV/AIDS Awareness Days; including World AIDS Day, National HIV Testing Day
- Hosting musical events in recognition of the impact of HIV/AIDS in the community
- Hosting an inter-faith service for the community on HIV/AIDS Awareness Days
- Hosting prayer vigils for those impacted by HIV/AIDS
- Hosting special topic bible studies
- Hosting engagement forums
- Becoming an HIV testing site
- Hosting education workshops on HIV
- Starting health ministries within the church and other FBOs