

# Compassion

President Bush is fully committed to the goal of building a more compassionate America through our Nation's long tradition of helping individuals, families, and communities most in need. The President believes that faith-based and community groups should be unleashed to help transform the lives of our neighbors by addressing many of our Nation's most challenging social problems, one step and one act of kindness at a time.

Since 2001, President Bush has:

- Launched a faith-based and community initiative to enable more local charities to partner with the Federal government to address some of our most pressing social needs;
- Issued a national Call to Service in January 2002 – urging all Americans to dedicate at least 4,000 hours or two years over the course of their lifetime to serving their communities. Over the last two years, the USA Freedom Corps has mobilized thousands of Americans to engage in volunteer service, strengthened national service programs, supported the teaching of American history and civic education, and established new volunteer initiatives to better meet important community needs;
- Signed into law \$113 million for the Compassion Capital Fund (CCF). CCF announced over \$30 million in grants to 81 organizations in September 2003;
- Sought and received unprecedented funding increases for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grants to States to improve services for students with disabilities;
- Created education and training vouchers for foster care youth, securing funding to provide \$5,000 vouchers to an estimated 17,000 eligible youth;
- Provided access to health care for an additional 3 million poor and underserved individuals through Health Centers;
- Provided a \$522 million increase in resources to state and local governments and service providers to expand substance abuse treatment capacity throughout the Nation, including \$100 million for the Access to Recovery treatment voucher program;
- Congress approved \$100 million in Federal funds for 2004 that will support the development, expansion, and strengthening of exemplary mentoring programs specifically targeted at disadvantaged middle school students and 100,000 children of prisoners;
- Continued to seek legislation to provide billions of dollars in tax incentives for more charitable giving which passed both the House and Senate in 2003;
- Approved \$60 million for the mentoring of the children of prisoners;

- In June 2004, the President announced the immediate availability of \$20 million in new funding to deliver life-saving drugs to the men and women in the United States living with HIV/AIDS who are waiting today for HIV-related medication;
- Supported the reauthorization of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act based upon the principles of focusing Federal resources on life-extending care; ensuring flexibility to target resources to address areas of greatest need; and ensuring results;
- Signed the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act to help the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) serve more children by allowing direct certification for children who live in families that qualify for other assistance programs such as Medicaid, and allowing private and faith-based organizations to participate in feeding programs. Also, USDA is providing grants to help increase awareness of the Food Stamp Program for low-income households;
- Expanded and coordinated the AMBER Alert system to locate missing children. AMBER Alerts have been credited with helping recover approximately 100 children since the President announced his initiative in October 2002;
- Funded violence against women programs at the Department of Justice at historic levels of close to \$100 million per year above the FY 2001 level. Under the Family Justice Center Initiative the President announced in October 2003, the Justice Department has awarded \$20 million in grants to help local communities establish and support 15 centers, which will provide services under one roof for victims and their families;
- Supported efforts to promote prevention while encouraging research to combat HIV/AIDS. Efforts include:
  - Emphasizing Abstinence: Abstinence is the only sure way to prevent sexual transmission of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. In the President's 2004 State of the Union Address, he called for a new emphasis on abstinence-only education, and doubling the funding for abstinence-only programs;
  - Encouraging Testing: Approximately 40,000 Americans become infected with HIV/AIDS each year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that one-quarter of the approximately 1 million infected with HIV do not know that they are infected, and that these individuals cause up to two-thirds of new infections. To facilitate testing, the FDA has approved a quicker and less invasive saliva test for HIV;
  - Global Vaccine Enterprise: Research is key to removing the devastation caused by the disease. At the G-8 Summit in early June 2004, the President announced a global vaccine enterprise to bring a strategic vision to global AIDS vaccine efforts;
  - Easy-to-Use AIDS Medications: The Food and Drug Administration has announced a plan to make low-cost, easy-to-use HIV/AIDS medications available for purchase under the Emergency Plan and through other providers; and
  - Lifting Barriers to AIDS Vaccine Development: In June, the President continued to call on Congress to lift barriers to AIDS vaccine development in the United States by providing liability protection to private vaccine developers, and others involved in researching cures to this disease.

The President's FY 2005 Budget for a more compassionate America builds on the successes of the last three years:

- The President's Budget includes a new four-year, \$300 million Prisoner Re-Entry initiative to bring faith-based and community organizations together with Federal agencies to help recently released prisoners make a successful transition back to society and long-term employment. Through the collaborative efforts of the Departments of Labor, Housing and Urban Development, and Justice, the initiative will provide transitional housing, basic job training, and mentoring;
- The Budget provides \$150 million as part of a three-year program for mentoring disadvantaged youth and children of prisoners to brighten the outlook for these children in need of a caring adult;
- The President's Budget doubles funding for the Access to Recovery drug treatment voucher initiative. With \$200 million to provide treatment for an additional 100,000 addicts, the program will increase access to and provide consumer choice among effective substance abuse treatment programs, including those operated by faith-based and community providers;
- The President's Budget supports the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program, providing a record \$4.787 billion for WIC services to serve an estimated 7.9 million people nationwide per month as well as continuing to provide resources for the WIC contingency fund created by President Bush;
- The Budget provides \$100 million for the Compassion Capital Fund which creates public/private partnerships that support charitable organizations in expanding or emulating model social service programs;
- The President's New Freedom Initiative (NFI) provides about \$13 billion to help individuals with disabilities lead more independent lives, including another \$1 billion (or 10%) increase for Individuals with Disabilities Education (IDEA) State grants. To help Americans with disabilities, the President has:
  - Obtained \$20 million for matching grants to States to help people with disabilities buy equipment necessary for telecommuting to work;
  - Secured \$10 million under the Help America Vote Act to improve access to voting for people with disabilities and \$5 million for protection and advocacy programs on behalf of people with disabilities;
- The Budget includes \$22 million (5%) in additional funding to provide early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities, one of the most at-risk populations. These interventions might reduce or eliminate the need for special education later in life;
- The President's Budget harnesses the expertise of multiple agencies to successfully implement the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS globally;
- The Budget continues to combat HIV/AIDS domestically with \$17.1 billion in funding for domestic AIDS research, care, prevention, and treatment—an increase of 27% since 2001;

- The Budget increased by 29% from FY 2001 to address the demand for and to improve the quality and accessibility of burial services to honor veterans who have made tremendous sacrifices for our Nation;
- The President's Budget continues and strengthens the commitment to end chronic homelessness by proposing \$70 million for the Samaritan Initiative, a new competitive grant program jointly administered by the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs that supports the Administration's efforts to end chronic homelessness by 2012; and
- The President's 2005 Budget for the Department of Education requests \$25 million for 3-year competitive grants to local education agencies and public and private entities to develop or enhance, implement, and evaluate school-based drug testing programs for students. This is an increase of \$23 million over the 2004 enacted level. The 2005 request significantly expands the initiative that began in 2003. The 2003 appropriation of \$2 million enabled the Department of Education to award funding to eight programs, serving 78 schools across six States. The 2004 appropriation of \$2 million is being used to continue awards to these eight programs.

For Other Information About the President's Accomplishments and Proposals:

**FY 2005 Budget**

Department of Agriculture: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/agriculture.html>

Department of Education: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/education.html>

Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/hhs.html>

Department of Housing and Urban Development: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/hud.html>

Department of Labor: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/labor.html>

Department of Veterans Affairs: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/va.html>

**Compassion**

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/compassionate/>

Corporation for National and Community Service: <http://www.nationservice.org/fbci>

**Education**

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/earlychildhood/>

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/education/>

Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml?src=fb>

**Faith-Based And Community Initiatives**

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/>

Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.hhs.gov/fbci/>

Department of Housing and Urban Development: <http://www.hud.gov/initiatives/fbci/index.cfm>

**Health Care**

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/healthcare/>

**HIV/AIDS**

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/hiv aids/>

### **Home Ownership**

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/homeownership/>

Department of Housing and Urban Development: <http://www.hud.gov/initiatives/homeownership/index.cfm>