

## Year 1, Spring 2018 Cohort

*Empower your faith-based organization to live out its sacred mission.*

As a thoughtful leader in a faith-based organization, you want your organization to fully embody its religious freedom by living out its faith-based mission in both internal operations and public engagement. You want to understand the nuances of how to navigate your organization's faith-based identity in public life, and remain true to its mission.

## Apply to Join the Community

The Sacred Sector Community empowers organizations to advance their faith-based missions, fully exercise their ability to live out their faith, and increase their impact through a unique learning experience. Sacred Sector is recruiting 25 faith-based nonprofits in the eastern U.S. to join a six-month learning cohort, beginning in February of 2018. Applications can be accessed at [www.sacredsector.org/community](http://www.sacredsector.org/community) and are due December 20, 2017. There is no cost to participate.

This learning community will empower faith-based organizations to live out their sacred missions in everything that they do. Using a holistic framework called the **Three P's**, the Sacred Sector Community empowers organizations to integrate and fully embody their sacred mission in every area of their organization, including:



How to engage in  
**public policy**



How to adopt organizational  
**best practices**



How to implement strategic  
**public positioning**

Participating organizations will learn to apply this framework in six key areas through **Sacred Sector Toolboxes**, which offer a deep-dive on topics that include: Religious Staffing, Government Partnerships, Positive Engagement in the Public Square, Nondiscrimination Laws, Advocacy and Lobbying, and Family Supportive Policies.

## How it Works

The **Sacred Sector Community** is designed to equip faith-based organizations as they are guided through a three-part program:

**Part 1:** Complete a one-on-one assessment to identify the organization's strengths and areas for growth.

**Part 2:** Create a plan to address the organization's needs and areas of growth.

**Part 3:** Implement the plan through in-person and virtual learning sessions, toolboxes, and peer engagement within the Sacred Sector Community.

The program spans six months (February to August), and will be carried out through in-person and online gatherings, as well through written resources and one-on-one coaching, to ensure that the time commitment is flexible and customizable to the discretion and availability of the organization. Sessions include:

**In-person session:** Kick-off in Washington, DC

**Webinar session:** Religious Staffing

**Webinar session:** Government Partnerships

**Webinar session:** Positive Engagement in the Public Square

**Webinar session:** Nondiscrimination Laws

**Webinar session:** Advocacy & Lobbying

**Webinar session:** Family Supportive Policies

**In-person session:** Wrap-up in Washington, D.C

*For those unable to join the in-person sessions, participants may join via live stream. All sessions, both in-person and online, will be recorded and made available for viewing at a later time.*

## Access to New Tools

Other resources that are available to these organizations include the **Standards for Excellence**, a national initiative that promotes ethical practices and accountability in nonprofit organizations.

The Standards for Excellence code covers the following areas of nonprofit operations: *Mission, Strategy, and Evaluation; Leadership: Board, Staff, and Volunteers; Legal Compliance and Ethics; Finance and Operations; Resource Development; and Public Awareness, Engagement and Advocacy.*

Based on fundamental values of honesty, integrity, fairness, respect, trust, responsibility and accountability, the Standards describe how nonprofits should act to be ethical and accountable in their program operations, governance, human resources, financial management, and fundraising.

## What You'll Learn

At the end of the program, faith-based organizations will be able to:

- Understand and be prepared to respond to **public policy** contexts that impact your faith-based work;
- Implement organizational **best practices** that advance your faith-based mission;
- Effectively communicate and adopt **public positioning** regarding how your organization positively and distinctly contributes to society; and
- Empower your organization to live out its sacred mission in every area of its organizational life.

*Questions? Contact Chelsea Langston Bombino, Director of Strategic Engagement, [chelsea.langston@cpjustice.org](mailto:chelsea.langston@cpjustice.org), 248.802.7295 or Virginia Creasy, Program Coordinator, [virginia.creasy@cpjustice.org](mailto:virginia.creasy@cpjustice.org), 615.521.0968.*