

Religion Sector 3.0

“Meet Our City/County Leaders” Congregations: Gateway to Resident Engagement

This Project enables community leaders to achieve personal “face to face” contact with vast numbers of residents.* A real benefit of this congregation based Project is direct engagement with the diversity of the community and new residents, including new immigrants **

Counties/Cities will achieve an ongoing platform for officials to aggressively utilize the components in “A Local Official’s Guide to Working with Clergy and Congregations,” published by the Institute for Local Government, co-authored by Rabbi Jay Miller.

The Project, the Guide and related components enable local officials to engage congregations to:

- Extend Local Agency Education and Outreach
- Deepen and Diversify Public Engagement
- Partner in the Delivery of Programs and Services

The project provides the foundation for transformational community building in light of data in Robert Putnam’s “Bowling Alone.” Putnam’s data highlights congregations as the institution in the community with the least rate of decline of individuals gathering together.

City/County outcomes include:

1. Formation of database of all, or project specific delineated, clergy and congregations;
2. Staff development training on religious components of cultural competency;
3. Clergy and Council/Board convened gatherings with congregant and department leadership;
4. Initiation of annual year long cycle of congregation based “Meet Our Community Leaders.”
 - a. “Meet our Council /Supervisors”
 - b. “Meet our professionals from law, fire, parks and recreation, senior services, etc.”
 - c. “Meet our school district superintendents and school principals”
5. Congregant signup cards for city emails, county “Alert” and school information, etc.

The project consultant provides support for each of these items for a two year cycle as it becomes a city or county and congregation tradition.

*This Project, when implemented in numerous cities in related geographical areas, engages congregants who do not worship in their city of residence with the leadership in their home city. All congregants will be provided with websites of the region’s cities, the county and the schools. All congregants’ information cards will be forwarded by project coordinator to their city of residence.

**In a 2003 workshop at the League of California Cities statewide conference, the USC faculty panelist shared data on the extremely high rate of immigrant family congregation attendance.

Rabbi Jay Miller RELIGION SECTOR 3.0

*1.0 On the Town Square 2.0 Walls of Separation
3.0 Alignment: Among Congregations - Within Society*

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