

QUICK GUIDELINE FOR FAITH ORGANIZATIONS ON CONTRACTING WITH LA COUNTY AND ITS PARTNERS

The Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative is interested in leveraging and expanding the work that both secular and faith organizations can provide to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County. There are several County departments and agencies that have partnership opportunities for organizations, including faith organizations who can provide services in support of the Homeless Initiative strategies to combat homelessness in the County.

The accompanying Contracting Guide provides information on FY 2017-18 contracting opportunities available through Measure H.

What does the law say about the government contracting with faith organizations to provide services?

What the County and its partners CAN do... What your faith organization CAN do...

No Preference Clause

The County and Homeless Initiative lead agencies who are funded by Measure H can grant funds to or contract with secular or religious organizations showing no preference to either. All contracting and procurement policies apply equally to secular and religious organizations. Grant or Contract Funding must be based on the following:

1. The Grant/Contract has a secular purpose (a social service that will benefit County residents). The contracted services must be made available by the religious organization to the public at large, without any religious preference.
2. The primary effect of the Grant/Contract is to neither advance nor inhibit religion.
3. The Grant/Contract does not create an excessive entanglement between the government and religion.

What the County and its partners CAN'T do... What your faith organization CAN'T do ...

State and Federal Establishment Clauses

The County and Homeless Initiative lead agencies that are funded by Measure H cannot take any action or part in the establishment of any religion.

- *The government will not fund any contracts that promote any religious cause.*

Faith organizations may not utilize government contracts or funding to proselytize with/to service recipients.

- **Example:** *If a faith organization provides shelter to homeless individuals, they cannot be required to attend church services.*

No Aid Clause

The County and Homeless Initiative lead agencies that are funded by Measure H cannot grant anything to or in aid of religious organizations for religious purposes.

- **Example:** The County cannot fund an annual Christmas church service/meal for homeless clients.