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Wed, 8 Mar 2000 12:03:05 -0500
Subject: Re: Char.Choice survey reminder
Message-Id: <000000601113035379370@cpjustice.org>
From: stanley@cpjustice.org (Stanley Carlson-Thies, Center for Public Justice)
Sender: stanley@cpjustice.org (Stanley Carlson-Thies, Center for Public Justice)
Date: Wed, 08 Mar 2000 11:56:09 -0500
Organization: Center for Public Justice
X-Mailer: CommuniGate 3.1
Reply-To: stanley@cpjustice.org (Stanley Carlson-Thies, Center for Public Justice)
To: thomas.watts@mdhs.state.ms.us
Cc: Bwfletch@mdhs.state.ms.us (Bettye Ward Fletcher),
Governor@governor.state.ms.us (Governor David Musgrove)
MIME-Version: 1.0
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Content-Transfer-Encoding: 8bit

Mr. Watts:

Thank you for your quick response.

The survey covers both compliance with Charitable Choice AND other state initiatives concerning collaboration with the faith communities. The second half of the survey has to do with this wider area of collaboration. Mississippi has operated a nationally known program of collaboration with churches-- Faith and Families-- which is a good example of the wider range of collaboration initiatives we wish to document.

So I hope you or one of your colleagues will complete the survey, if only to put on paper such initiatives as Faith and Families.

The first part of the survey does ask about Charitable Choice compliance. The actual questions ask about the rules the state does have in place for structuring its contracts and grants with religious and other nonprofit organizations. Since Mississippi has turned to nonprofits and other nongovernmental organizations to provide certain services, I believe that the questions relate directly to Mississippi policies and practices.

As for Charitable Choice itself, would you please ensure that some sentences are added to the survey explaining the state's position that Charitable Choice is not relevant to Mississippi?

My apologies that the hardcopy of the survey did not reach you despite our best efforts. I will fax the survey, cover letter, and a short description of the research project to you shortly. And I will send these same materials, plus the other items in the original mailing, to you by overnight express.

Thank you for your cooperation.

On Wed, Mar 8, 2000, 12:10:03 AM GMT Thomas P. Watts wrote:

>Mr. Carlson-Thies, We do not participate in Charitable Choices and are unable to respond to your
>questionnaire. Tom Watts, Acting Director, Division of Economic Assistance, Mississippi Department of
>Human Services
>

>"Stanley Carlson-Thies, Center for Public Justice" wrote:

>> As of today's mail, we have not received a completed survey from your state concerning compliance

>with Charitable Choice and other action to promote collaboration with faith communities

ies.
>>
>> Let me request again that a joint survey response be prepared for your state. We
will be grading
>states on Charitable Choice compliance and on other collaboration initiatives in a p
ublic report at the
>end of the month in any case. We would like to be able to take into account your st
ate's account of how it
>is dealing with these matters, as we prepare the evaluation. So I urge completion o
f a survey for your
>state.

>>
>> Thank you for your cooperation.
>>
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