

NEWS RELEASE

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AFRICAN-CANADIAN CHRISTIAN NETWORK ISSUES THIRD CALL FOR ANTI-CRIME PROJECT PROPOSALS

GTA pastors partner with government to help fight youth violence

TORONTO —The African-Canadian Christian Network (ACCN) today issued its third Call for Proposals from Toronto churches and community organizations committed to helping young people lead lives free of violence.

In April 2006, the McGuinty government awarded the ACCN \$3 million over two years through its financial trustee, the Toronto Community Foundation. The funding assists Black Christian leaders enhance and create sustainable Black church/community partnerships efforts within neighbourhoods that help marginalized youth find alternatives to violence. The areas of focus that are being funded by the ACCN's anti-crime project include Family, Education, Employment and Crime Prevention.

"We have already funded several exciting and needed projects that are relevant to reducing youth violence," said ACCN co-chair Rev. Alvin Nicholson. "We look forward to providing funding to more projects that enrich the lives of young people and their families and help youth make positive choices. We're particularly interested in funding proposals that focus on the areas of Crime Prevention and Employment."

Grants that were approved through the second Call for Proposals will be announced by the Honourable Mary Anne Chambers, Minister of Children and Youth Services later this month.

"While preparing to receive new proposals, we will be seeking new funding to ensure sustainability of already funded programs and to provide support to new initiatives that will help reduce youth violence," said ACCN co-chair Pastor Michael Morris. "The ACCN is an intermediary funder which is also focusing on building capacity in the churches to ensure that they have all the tools necessary to continue to deliver successful programs."

The deadline for submitting proposal is May 23rd, 2007. Interested churches and organizations are invited to visit the ACCN's website at www.accntoronto.com for more information and to download a grant application form.

ACCN will host information sessions to assist church and community groups applying for grants on Tuesday 17th April, 2007 and Tuesday 24th April, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Friendship Community Church located at 1290 Finch Avenue West.

To heighten awareness of programs that can be developed and implemented by the churches and their partners, the ACCN is also hosting 2 workshops on April 14th, 2007 in the areas of Crime Prevention and Employment.

ACCN is a volunteer-driven organization and welcomes the support of people from various disciplines who would like to help make a difference in the lives of young people.

For more information, please contact the office at:

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