

STATE OF INDIANA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT INDIANAPOLIS

EXECUTIVE ORDER 26-06

FOR: FOSTERING INDIANA'S FAITH-BASED INSTITUTIONS

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS.

WHEREAS, Indiana's state government is not the answer to every societal issue that Hoosiers face;

WHEREAS, smaller-scale intermediate institutions that stand between individuals and the State are essential for enabling individuals to actively participate in society, build community, and advance the common good;

WHEREAS, these intermediate institutions can promote human flourishing and protect human dignity from an overreaching state;

WHEREAS, Hoosiers are a dedicated and selfless people who have a long and proud tradition of faith since this State's founding in 1816;

WHEREAS, Indiana's diverse and welcoming faith community brings unique skills, services, and resources to assist with the struggles faced by Hoosiers;

WHEREAS, faith-based entities, community organizations, and houses of worship have tremendous capacity to serve individuals, families, and communities through means that are different from those of government and with effectiveness that often exceeds that of government;

WHEREAS, the Executive Branch is committed to ensuring all executive agencies honor and enforce the constitutional guarantee of religious liberty;

WHEREAS, the State must not advance nor inhibit religious expression;

WHEREAS, the State must not endorse any particular type of religion over non-religion, nor discriminate against faith-based providers of services that are otherwise qualified to provide services to Hoosiers; and

WHEREAS, Hoosiers can benefit from a comprehensive and coordinated effort to foster the effectiveness of faith-based intermediate institutions that address Hoosiers' pressing needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BRAUN, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby order the following:

1. The Faith-Based Institutions Initiative is established.
2. The Initiative's objective is to encourage and foster faith-based institutions to better serve individual Hoosiers, families, and communities.
3. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor shall spearhead this Initiative for the Executive Branch. The Lieutenant Governor is directed to pursue this Initiative in such manner as he deems necessary or appropriate to achieve the objective set forth in this Executive Order.

4. To the extent permitted by law, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor shall:
 - a. Consult with experts and various leaders of faith-based institutions that operate programs in the following areas:
 - i. Increasing civic engagement;
 - ii. Promoting recovery from substance use disorder;
 - iii. Facilitating prisoner reentry into society;
 - iv. Cultivating resilience through work and self-sufficiency;
 - v. Strengthening the family unit;
 - vi. Mentoring the next generation;
 - vii. Promoting principled morals and character; and
 - viii. Supporting foster parenting and adoption.
 - b. Identify and propose means to reduce barriers to effective participation of faith-based institutions in addressing societal ills.
5. The Lieutenant Governor shall provide an annual written report to the Governor on the progress of this Initiative.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,

I, Mike Braun, have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Indiana on this 25th day of February, 2026.

Mike Braun

Mike Braun
Governor of Indiana

DIEGO MORALES

ATTEST: Diego Morales
Secretary of State