

Faith-Based Support Specialist Program

A program of the Agency for Substance Abuse Prevention

Greetings,

My name is Byron Jackson, and I work for the Agency for Substance Abuse Prevention as the Faith-Based Support Specialist Program Ambassador. The Agency for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) is a non-profit that works specifically in the prevention aspect of the substance misuse field. The agency birthed the idea for this program after noticing a gap between the mental health field and faith-based community. Many people who are struggling with some substance misuse problem typically turn first to the church. In many cases, pastors and churches are ill-equipped to effectively minister to, support, and aid those in need of help and relief.

The Faith-Based Support Specialist (FBSS) Program is a free, ecumenical program that aims to equip senior faith leaders to reach their congregants and participate in improving the quality of life for their communities. The Agency for Substance Abuse Prevention has created, through the FBSS program, a certification backed by the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH). To obtain certification, participants will attend a 16-hour program designed by the Agency for Substance Abuse Prevention to educate and equip pastors with the knowledge, tools, and resources to minister effectively to those dealing with substance use disorders. This program is sponsored by funding from the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE).

The first FBSS Training Conference will cover this region of the state, which includes Cherokee, Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Jackson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, Walker, and Winston counties. **On June 23-24, 2022 (Thursday and Friday), participants will gather in Huntsville, Alabama, (Venue TBA) to complete the sessions necessary to earn their certification.** Topics include Substance Use Disorders, Emerging Trends in Substance Misuse, Effective Communication and Listening Skills, Cultural Competence, Ethics, and much more. All facilitators are certified in their respective fields.

To register, simply call or email me at the contacts below, or register online at fbss.asaprev.com. Sign up today!

Best,

Byron Jackson, FBSS Ambassador

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*"Prayer, prevention, and treatment **do** work together."*



**Foundation for
Opioid Response Efforts**