

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

P.O. BOX 750 › MADISON, WI 53701 › (608) 256-8900 › WWW.FFRF.ORG

November 29, 2021

**SENT VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL:
OSBM-Public-Records@osbm.nc.gov**

Public Records Custodian
North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management
MSC 20320
Raleigh, NC 27699-0320

Re: Request for Public Records

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) to request public records. FFRF is a national nonprofit organization with more than 35,000 members across the country, including almost 800 members in North Carolina and a state chapter, Triangle Freethought Society. FFRF protects the constitutional separation between state and church, and educates about nontheism.

The recently passed North Carolina budget includes grants or possible grants to several organizations that appear to offer only faith-based services, raising concerns that taxpayer funds given to these organizations will necessarily be used to advance religion in violation of the U.S. and North Carolina constitutions and in violation of Section 5.2(b)(5) of the budget itself (“Directed grants to nonprofit organizations are for nonsectarian, nonreligious purposes only.”).

To ensure the state establishes appropriate safeguards against this abuse of public funds, FFRF is requesting copies of all contracts with the organizations listed below. **Rather than submitting repeated requests, we ask that your office consider this request to be ongoing until all contracts under the FY 2021–22 and FY 2022–23 budgets are finalized.**

Pursuant to the North Carolina Public Records Law, NCGS §132, FFRF requests a copy of all contracts signed since November 18, 2021 to which any of the following organizations are a party:

- 1) Cabarrus Cooperative Christian Ministry;
- 2) Changing Destinies Ministry;
- 3) Ministry Seven;
- 4) Hendersonville Rescue Mission;
- 5) Brunswick Christian Recovery Center;
- 6) Christian Recovery Centers, Inc.;
- 7) Carolina Pregnancy Care Fellowship;
- 8) The Human Coalition;
- 9) Mid-Atlantic Christian University;
- 10) Methodist University;
- 11) North Carolina Wesleyan College;
- 12) Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary;
- 13) Shaw University;
- 14) St. Andrews University;
- 15) St. Augustine's University;
- 16) Belmont Abbey; and
- 17) Livingstone College.

If any of these records are available through electronic media (**preferred**), they may be e-mailed to ryan@ffrf.org. If your office is not the custodian of the records requested, please inform me the name and address of the proper custodians. Thank you for your time and attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan D. Jayne". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ryan D. Jayne
Staff Attorney