

Biography - Philip F. Mangano

Executive Director
United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Philip F. Mangano is the Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH). Mr. Mangano was appointed by President Bush to lead the Council in March, 2002. The Interagency Council is a part of the Domestic Policy Council within the Executive Office of the President and is responsible for the coordination of 20 federal agencies in their response to reduce and end homelessness.

Prior to his appointment by President Bush to lead the Interagency Council, Mr. Mangano was the founding Executive Director of the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA), a statewide coalition of 80 agencies which operate over 200 programs. During the 12 years of Mr. Mangano's tenure MHSA developed statewide strategies to reduce and end homelessness in Massachusetts. His formulation of the front door/back door paradigm of advocacy response was adopted by the National Alliance to End Homelessness and is now central to the national strategy to end homelessness.

Research conducted by MHSA led to greater emphasis on the prevention of homelessness especially from mental health, substance abuse, corrections, and foster care systems. MHSA's advocacy also created new resources to create and expand the availability of housing targeted to homeless households.

For his work at MHSA and his broader national impact, Mr. Mangano's work has been widely recognized. He has been named an Associated Press "Hero," the Boston Globe recognized him as a City Light, the Boston Phoenix as a Local Hero, and the City of Boston, the Massachusetts Legislative and Governor's Office have commended his achievements with community recognitions.

Additionally he has received citations and awards from numerous agencies and non-profits including the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, the Department of Public Health, the City of Cambridge, United Way, the Boston Rescue Mission, the Black Pastors of Cambridge Massachusetts, and many others. Last year MHSA and Mr. Mangano received the prestigious 2001 Non-profit Sector Achievement Award from the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

Prior to his work at MHSA, Mr. Mangano participated in the creation and development of a variety of community based organizations including a social justice group in Los Angeles and Social Action Ministries of Greater Boston. For several years he was a full time volunteer on St. Anthony's breadline in downtown Boston and subsequently became the Director of Homeless Services for the City of Cambridge. His work in Cambridge was distinguished by organizing the response to family homelessness and creating the nationally recognized Multi-Service Center for Homeless, People.

Through his historical and theological training, Mr. Mangano's work has been inspired by the words and actions of the abolitionists, particularly William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass. He credits the lives and writings of St. Francis Assisi and Simone Weil for spiritual inspiration in his work. His years in Los Angeles in the music industry as agent and manager also have contributed to his unique style of advocacy negotiation.

Mr. Mangano has spoken extensively throughout the United States on the abolition of homelessness. His work at the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness is intended to further this abolitionist effort.