

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

The Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans (ICSAA) is legislatively mandated¹ to report on the status of Iowans of African-American descent.

In so doing, the Commission, with the support of the governor's office, staff, community leaders, public and private agencies and organizations, works to improve the quality of life for Iowa's African-American population by celebrating their culture and heritage, advocating for issues that impact them, providing technical assistance, and expertise for agencies, public and private, who wish to work on behalf of, or connect to, the state's African-American residents.

ICSAA educates others regarding the needs of the state's African-American citizenry and regarding the issues that significantly impact them.

ICSAA informs the broader African-American community, legislative branches of government and the general public of those needs and issues.

ICSAA advocates for positive changes in policy, practices and programs that potentially or actually negatively affect African-American Iowans.

1. Pursuant to Chapter 216A.142 of the Iowa Code

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Check the website often, it is updated periodically with new information. And subscribe to "Iowa Commission on the Status of African-American (ICSAA) News".

Iowa Commission on the Status of African- Americans

ICSAA

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Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Promoting African-Americans' Issues

ICSAA feels strongly that education, health, criminal justice and economic empowerment issues shape the future of Iowa's African-Americans. Because of that, the Office supports and collaborates on numerous sustainable programs and initiatives across the state covering outreach, advocacy, education, civil rights, children and families and employment. Examples of some of those programs include:

- I'll Make Me A World In Iowa
- Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault – Women of Color Advisory Committee
- Disproportionate Minority Confinement Committee of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council
- Tobacco Control Diversity and Disparities Workgroup
- Friends of Iowa Civil Rights Commission – Diversity Conference Advisory Committee
- Employee and Family Resources – Women's Initiative for Smoke-Free Education
- Network of Alliances Bridging Race and Ethnicity (NABRE)

Providing Technical Assistance

Support is given through lobbying, development of legislative proposals, research, training, program development, education and outreach, access to resources, and increased communication between the public and private sectors. In addition, the ICSAA partners with more than 200 local, state, federal, and private organizations becoming an "information hub" for Iowa's African Americans.

The Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans remains the bridge of communication between Iowa's African Americans and state government. ICSAA is able to help Iowans who contact the Office with requests for assistance with resources, referrals, minority recruitment, training, and African American representation on various task forces and/or advisory committees. For more information of what Technical Assistance ICSAA can offer, please refer to the website www.state.ia.us/dhr/saa.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Since the formation of the Iowa Commission on the Status of African Americans in 1988, ICSAA has been developing programming for:

- Empowering Black Iowa
- Hosting a series of public hearings to build a legislative action plan
- Serving as the state's "expert" for working with, on behalf of, and advocating for African Americans living and working across Iowa
- Building partnerships and establishing networks
- Promoting equity and excellence in support for, and pursuit of, equality for all citizens living, working and playing in Iowa

But the work is not finished. The current work of the Office involves:

- Closing the Achievement Gap
- Reducing overrepresentation of African Americans in prison
- Re-connecting with Iowa's African American citizenry
- Increasing voter education and turnout
- Changing mind-sets between the races