

Voice Your Opinion

KAAAC would like to hear your comments, questions and concerns to keep the commissioners informed of the needs and accomplishments of the African American Community. Join the KAAAC list serve by visiting our website

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Office of the Governor
African American Affairs Commission

KANSAS
AFRICAN
AMERICAN
AFFAIRS
COMMISSION

Mission Statement

The Kansas African American Affairs Commission will address issues of equity for African Americans and serve as a conduit for programs, legislation, grants, research, and policy advice for state and local organizations in addressing concerns that are unique to the African American community in the State of Kansas.

History

The Kansas African American Affairs Commission (KAAAC) is a seven member body with members appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Senate Minority Leader, the Speaker of the House and the House Minority Leader.

KAAAC was created by the passing of House Bill 2444 during the 1997 legislative session. Governor Bill Graves signed the bill into law stating, “This advisory commission has been a long time coming, and it is due to the continued vigilance and perseverance of its supporters.”

In 2004 Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed the substitute for House Bill 2435, which moved the KAAAC from the Department of Human Resources to the Office of the Governor. This change allows the commission to serve officially as the Governor’s liaison to the African American communities throughout the state.

Core Services

Research

Provide research to public and private entities and the African-American community through a variety of media.

Serve as a liaison for groups to convene special topic meetings, summits or conferences to address needs in the African American Community.

Advocacy

Present African American issues to influence public policy and legislation.

Function as an African American community liaison, for the office of the Governor.

Education

Develop and distribute African American “focusing” information on trends, policies and legislation affecting African Americans. Establish relationships with state agencies and community partners to better assess, identify needs and inform the African American community.

Serve as a referral and information source.

Goals and Objectives

- Gather and disseminate information on legislation and public policy issues of concern in the African American community.
- Communicate the public policy concerns of African Americans to state officials and business leaders.
- Provide advice and assistance in the development of public policy and legislation that will affect the lives of African Americans.
- Create effective partnerships with each state agency and the agency leadership.
- Communicate with the African American community regarding state agency programs and objectives.
- Ascertain the effectiveness of existing programs and propose new legislation or programs when necessary.
- Collaborate with state and community partners to provide programming in the areas of education, employment, health, business development and social services throughout the state.
- Collaborate with the corporate community to fund programming to address public policy concerns.
- Collaborate with and secure funding from private foundations to address public policy concerns.