



New Mexico Office of African American Affairs 2020 Tribal Liaison Agency Report

Section I. Executive Summary

A. Agency Overview

The Office of African American Affairs (OAAA) recognizes the need for targeted intervention strategies that address and produce sustained results not only for African Americans, but all New Mexicans. With a purpose of developing and implementing strategies targeted to the specific disparity needs of families, the strategic plan is designed to give a greater voice and sustainability to the well-being of our community. Under original House Bill 909, it is the mandate of this agency to increase awareness and understanding surrounding the multi-dimensional issues which contribute to disparities and successes relevant to African Americans in our state. We strive to develop an action-oriented agenda for disseminating key messages that aid in the decrease and prevention of disparities. We also endeavor to establish approaches that will strengthen collaborative networks which sustain on-going initiatives in the following focus areas:

- 1.) Healthcare Advocacy
- 2.) Educational Advancement
- 3.) Economic Development
- 4.) Advocacy and Policy
- 5.) Community Development

OAAA currently has seven FTE positions.

B. Mission Statement

The Mission of the OAAA is to study, identify and provide change through advocacy, resources, and support to the African American community.

We strive to be the “Go To” authority in New Mexico on matters relating to methods that improves the quality of life for African Americans. We will ensure access to resources by providing valuable resources to constituents, legislators, educators, health care professionals and the Governor.

C. Agency Specific Statutes or Mandates: N/A

D. Significant State-Tribal Issues: N/A

E. Narrative Summary

Through the agencies Tribal Liaison, OAAA staff continues to insure a representative is assigned to participate as a State Tribal Liaison.

F. Main Agency Accomplishments and Challenges Relating To Tribes:

Beginning a partnership with Indian Affairs and Public Education Department to tackle issues of racism, inequality and disparities our native and black students are facing in public schools. Our challenge will be effectively implementing solutions on the above issues in our public schools.

G. Goals for Fiscal Year 2021 relating to Tribes or Indian Organizations

Continue working to maintain and form partnerships with Indian Pueblos and Tribes, and partner with Indian Affairs on issues relating to our African American/Native American youth. OAAA will also continue serving on the State Tribal Liaison Leadership Team.

Section II. Agency Policy

OAAA is open to receive advice and direction from the Department of Indian Affairs.

Section III. Agency Efforts to Implement Policy: N/A

Section IV. Current and Planned Programs and Services: We are looking into partnering with tribes in the Farmington area to start a mentorship program in Farmington's school district. Continue working with PED and Indian Affairs on racial justice in our public schools.

Section V. Training and Employee Notification

Steps will be taken to ensure that information about the State-Tribal Collaboration Act is communicated to each employee through staff meetings and email.

- A. STCA Training Certification: OAAA will take advantage of any and all opportunities/training to increase understanding of American Indians.
- B. Employee Notification about STCA: Each OAAA employee will be issued a copy of the STCA.

Section VI. Key Names and Contact Information

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Section VII. Appendices: None