



Ohio Sunset Review Committee

Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name New African Immigrants Commission

Point of Contact Ronald C. Todd II

Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives

Per ORC 4112.31: The new African immigrants commission shall do all of the following:

- (A) Gather and disseminate information and conduct hearings, conferences, investigations, and special studies on problems and programs concerning sub-Saharan African people;
- (B) Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of sub-Saharan African people to this state;
- (C) Stimulate public awareness of the problems of sub-Saharan African people by conducting a program of public education;
- (D) Develop, coordinate, and assist other public and private organizations that serve sub-Saharan African people, including the conducting of training programs for community leadership and service project staff;
- (E) Advise the governor, general assembly, and state departments and agencies of the nature, magnitude, and priorities of the problems of sub-Saharan African people;
- (F) Advise the governor, general assembly, and state departments and agencies on, and assist in the development and implementation of, comprehensive and coordinated policies, programs, and procedures focusing on the special problems and needs of sub-Saharan African people, especially in the fields of education, employment, energy, health, housing, welfare, and recreation;
- (G) Propose new programs concerning sub-Saharan African people to public and private agencies and evaluate for such agencies existing programs or prospective legislation concerning sub-Saharan African people;
- (H) Review and approve grants to be made from federal, state, or private funds that are administered or subcontracted by the commission;
- (I) Prepare, review, and approve an annual report;

(J) Serve as a clearinghouse to review and comment on all proposals to meet the needs of sub-Saharan African people that are submitted to it by public and private agencies;

(K) Apply for and accept grants and gifts from governmental and private sources to be administered by the commission or subcontracted to local agencies;

(L) Monitor and evaluate all programs subcontracted to local agencies by the commission;

(M) Endeavor to assure that sub-Saharan African people have access to decision-making bodies in all state and local governmental departments and agencies;

(N) Establish advisory committees on special subjects as needed to facilitate and maximize community participation in the operation of the commission;

(O) Establish with state and local governments and private business and industry relationships that promote and assure equal opportunity for sub-Saharan African people in government, education, and employment.

(P) Create an interagency council consisting of the following persons or their authorized representatives: one member of the senate appointed by the president of the senate; one member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; the directors of administrative services, agriculture, education, development services, health, highway safety, job and family services, liquor control, mental health and addiction services, and developmental disabilities, natural resources, rehabilitation and correction, youth services, transportation, environmental protection, and budget and management; the chairperson of the Ohio civil rights commission, the administrator of the bureau of workers' compensation, the executive director of the opportunities for Ohioans with disabilities agency, and an additional member of the governor's cabinet appointed by the governor. The new African immigrants commission, by rule, may designate other state officers or their representatives to be members of the council. The director of the commission shall be the chairperson of the council.

Agency's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff:

Per ORC 4112.33: The office of new African immigrant affairs is created. The office shall be accountable to the new African immigrants commission. The director of the office shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the commission.

The director, with the approval of the commission, shall appoint such employees as are necessary to carry out the duties of the office. The employees shall serve at the pleasure of the director.

The office shall execute the tasks assigned to it by the commission, which shall include the duties listed in section 4112.31 of the Revised Code.

Agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding

The New African Immigrants Commission was appropriated \$250,000 in FY24 and \$250,000 in FY25 through House Bill 33 of the 134th General Assembly.

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any

Per ORC 4112.32: The New African Immigrants Commission consists of eleven voting members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate and four nonvoting members, two of whom are members of the general assembly. The governor shall make initial appointments to the commission.

Of the four nonvoting members of the commission, two shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and two shall be appointed by the president of the senate. Of the two nonvoting members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, one shall be a member of the house of representatives and one shall be a private citizen. Of the two nonvoting members appointed by the president of the senate, one shall be a member of the senate and one shall be a private citizen.

All voting members of the commission shall be of sub-Saharan African origin, and shall be American citizens or lawful, permanent, resident aliens. Voting members shall be from urban, suburban, and rural geographical areas representative of sub-Saharan African people with a numerical and geographical balance of the sub-Saharan African population throughout the state.

The commission shall elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and other officers from among its voting members as it considers advisable. Six voting members constitute a quorum. The commission shall adopt rules governing its procedures. No action of the commission is valid without the concurrence of six members.

Members shall not be compensated for work as members of the commission.

Additional notes