



AAAC Mission Statement

To improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut, through advocacy, information sharing, cultural awareness, community networking and influencing legislation.

African-American Affairs Commissioners:

George Logan, Chair
Delores Franks, Vice-Chair
Sharon Ibrahim, Treasurer
Derrick McBride, Secretary
Mustafa Abdul-Salaam
Jonathan Bruce
Christopher R. Cloud
Lillie B. Crosby
Jacqueline Dickens
Kurt Harrison
Andrea Scott
Arthur Perry

Staff:

Vanessa D. Burns, Executive Director
Cheryl Harris Forbes, Public Affairs/Special Projects Coordinator
Frank Sykes, Legislative Analyst
Denise R. Drummond, Senior Legislative Secretary



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Acknowledgement



- The African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) is indebted to the many organizations and individuals that supported it in 2002. We particularly want to thank the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, and Commission on Children for their continuous support of the AAAC as a legislative advocate for Connecticut's African-American community.

- The AAAC recognizes its success depends on the dedication and work of its commissioners. The Commission is grateful for the distinguished service of Commissioner Mustafa Abdul Salaam, who completed service in 2002.

- The AAAC also acknowledges the support and technical assistance provided by the Office of Legislative Management, Information Technology Services and the Capitol Police.

Legislative Mandates



- Maintain a liaison between the African-American community and governmental entities;
- Review and comment on any proposed state legislation that would affect the African-American population in the state;
- Encourage African-American representation at all levels including state boards and commissions;
- Advise and provide information to the Governor on state policies concerning the African-American communities;
- Advise the Governor concerning the coordination and administration of state programs serving the African-American population;
- Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of the African-American population of the state; and
- Prepare and submit to the Governor an annual report concerning its activities with appropriate recommendations concerning the African-American population in the state.

Chairperson's Report



The Honorable John G. Rowland
Governor of the State of Connecticut
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106



Dear Governor Rowland:

On behalf of the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC), it is my pleasure to submit our 2002 Annual Report for your review.

The AAAC has worked hard to maintain an effective role as advocate for the African-American community through our legislative initiatives and other activities throughout the State. As a result of our effort, along with that of other advocacy groups and the dedication of members of the General Assembly, our constituency has made many strides over the last few years. However, there is still more work to be done. Particularly in the areas of education, healthcare, and poverty elimination. Therefore, we continue to create and maintain relationships with advocacy groups such as Connecticut Health Foundation, National Conference of Black State Legislators (NCBSL), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Urban League, National Black Caucus and Sickle Cell Association to improve the overall standard of living for African-Americans living in the State of Connecticut, which will benefit everyone.

The AAAC has worked even harder this year to increase our outreach effort to community groups, churches, elected officials and other African-American organizations, through extensive use of public speaking and media communications, including cable television, the internet, print publications and radio. During the AAAC's Third Annual Classic Awards, we recognized another select group of outstanding African-Americans for their accomplishments and contributions within our community. In addition, this year we have begun to take a closer look at issues related to equal justice for everyone living in our great state, by working with the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System.

As we move towards the future, the AAAC looks forward to continuing to work with your administration and the General Assembly to achieve greater progress on issues of concern to our constituency.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George S. Logan", written over a grey rectangular background.

George S. Logan
Chairperson 1999 - 2002

Message from the Executive Director



As the new Executive Director of the African-American Affairs Commission, I was pleased to have the opportunity to work with the AAAC and many other entities to improve the lives of our Connecticut citizens.

During 2002, we revised our website to better reflect the ongoing issues that African-Americans in our state must deal with. The new site is more interactive and serves as a resource that includes an activity calendar, talent bank and connections to informative websites that deal with issues of concern to African-Americans.

It is our hope that during the upcoming legislative session and beyond, we will continue to utilize, develop and expand the Commission's partnerships to help improve the lives of its constituency.

Health concerns for Connecticut African-Americans have become a primary issue. The Centers for Disease Control's statistics for Connecticut African-Americans for diseases such as diabetes, strokes, hypertension, as well as their resulting mortality rates are extremely high, and clearly in need of reduction.

We are all hopeful that in the upcoming years, we will all work together to affect changes to improve the health status of Connecticut African-Americans.

In this report, the Commission reviews its 2002 activities and areas of interest in order that we may develop strategies to help the African-American community to grow and prosper.

The AAAC thanks all those that have worked with us throughout Connecticut, to advance our mission to improve the quality and quantity of life for Connecticut African-Americans.

Sincerely,

Vanessa D. Burns

Vanessa D. Burns
Executive Director



CONNECTICUT AFRICAN-AMERICAN



SELECTED STATISTICS



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

POPULATION TRENDS

Connecticut ranks at number twenty-four in terms of states with the highest number of African-Americans. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the number of African-Americans identified in the state was reported at **309,843**. This figure represents **9.1 percent** of Connecticut's total population. Since the 1990 Census data, the African-American population has grown by **35,574**, which represents a **0.8 percent** increase. The vast majority of the Connecticut African-American population is dispersed in its urban centers, particularly in the major cities of Hartford, Stamford, New Haven, Bridgeport and Waterbury.

In recent times there has been considerable migration of African-Americans from the inner cities to the suburbs. Of the six major cities, Hartford and New Haven continue to have the highest number of African-Americans, although the Hartford population has seen a sharper decline since the 1990 Census. Likewise, New Haven and Stamford have experienced slight declines (refer to Chart A). In contrast, areas such as Windsor, Hamden and Bloomfield have seen tremendous growth in the African-American population, most notably Hamden (refer to Chart B). The following table illustrates this distribution.



CONNECTICUT AFRICAN-AMERICAN POPULATION

TOWN	1990 Total Population	1990 No. of African-Americans	Percent of Total Population	2000 Total Population	2000 No. of African-Americans	Percent of Total Population	Percent Change 1990-2000
BLOOMFIELD	19,483	8,084	41.4	19,587	10,589	54	12.6
BRIDGEPORT	141,686	37,684	26.5	139,529	42,925	30	3.5
HAMDEN	52,434	4,556	8.6	56,913	8,840	15.5	6.9
HARTFORD	139,739	54,338	38.8	121,578	46,264	38	-0.08
MERIDEN	58,479	2,553	4.2	58,244	3,754	6.4	2.2
MIDDLETOWN	42,762	4,747	11.1	43,167	5,291	12.2	1.1
NEW BRITAIN	75,491	5,723	7.5	71,538	7,794	10.9	3.4
NEW HAVEN	130,474	47,157	36.1	123,578	46,181	37.3	1.2
NEW LONDON	28,540	4,807	16.8	25,671	4,784	18.6	1.8
NORWALK	78,331	12,123	15.4	82,951	12,663	15.2	-0.02
STAMFORD	108,056	19,217	17.7	117,083	18,019	15.3	-2.4
STRATFORD	49,389	3,899	7.8	49,976	4,892	9.7	1.9
WATERBURY	108,961	14,133	12.9	107,271	17,500	16.3	3.4
WEST HAVEN	54,021	6,713	12.4	52,360	8,530	16.2	3.8
WINDSOR	27,817	4,792	17.2	28,237	7,648	27	9.8

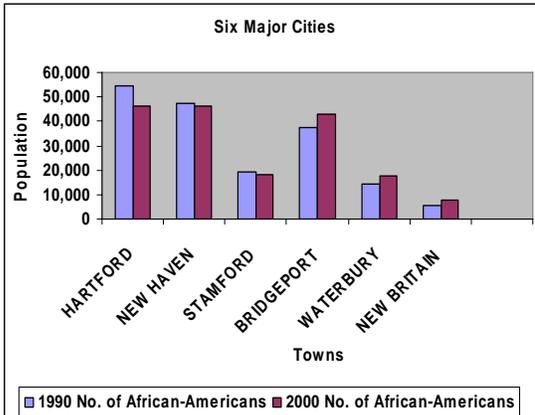


Chart A

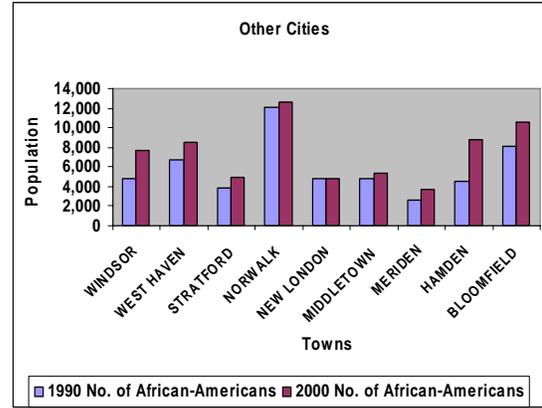


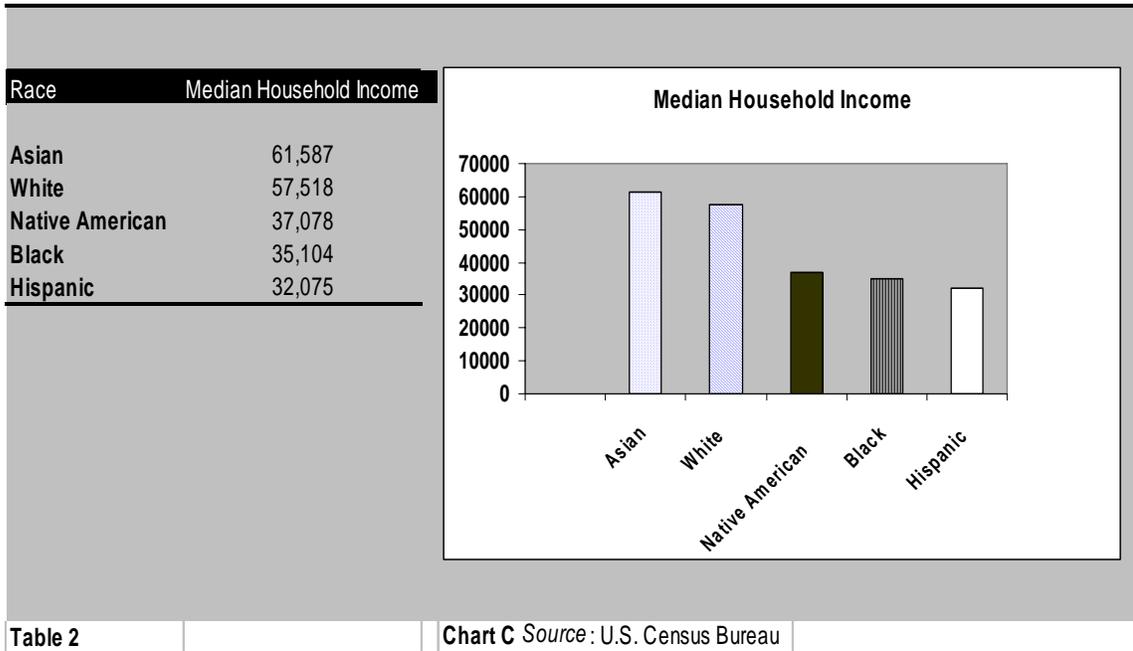
Chart B



INCOME AND POVERTY

Disparities in income continue to grow. The wealthiest communities in the state continue to prosper, but less affluent communities have not fared as well. In 1999, personal income in Connecticut grew by 4.7 percent, but wealthier counties experienced a much higher rate of income growth than the poorer counties. The majority of the African-American population reside in poorer communities with lesser job opportunities and overall have lower income levels than their white counterparts.

Source: (The Social State of Connecticut 2001)





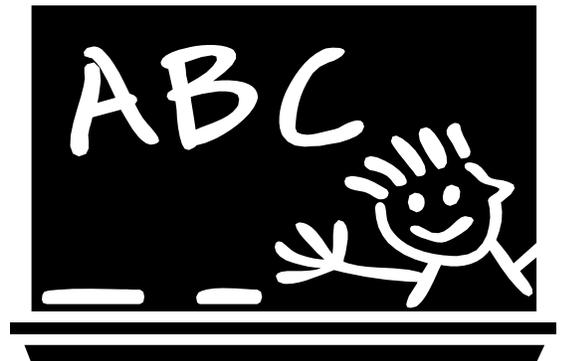
COMPARISONS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FOR 2000-2002

Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)

The following graphs illustrate statewide results on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) beginning in 2000 through 2002. The CMT is administered each fall to measure the academic performance of approximately 126,000 students in Grades 4, 6 and 8. Overall achievement gaps between whites and non-whites have improved slightly. Nevertheless, the gap still demonstrates a significant disparity in educational achievement between whites and minorities throughout the state. Results from the 2002 CMT indicate that the average scores for African-American students have either seen minimal increases in selected subject areas, or have remained the same. Specifically in Grade 6, the performance of black students showed marked improvement in mathematics. Since 2000, there has been an increase of 5.9 percent among African-American students achieving the goal.

Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT)

The Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) assesses 10th grade students' academic skills in reading, writing, mathematics and science. For African-Americans, participation levels increased slightly. However statewide, the gaps in student achievement between minorities and non-minorities has remained essentially the same. Exhibit 1.3 demonstrates the participation levels and rates for students in selected ethnic groups. Exhibit 1.4 illustrates the percentage of students who scored above the CAPT's established state goal by subject matter.



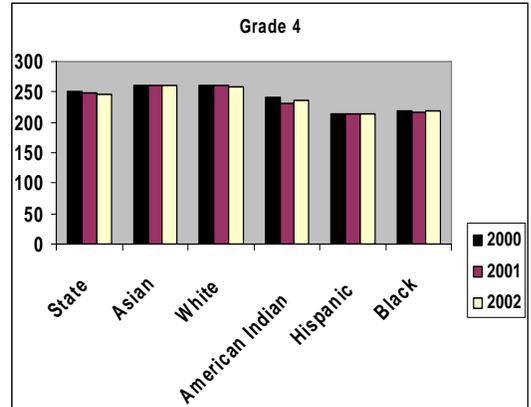


Connecticut Mastery Test(CMT)

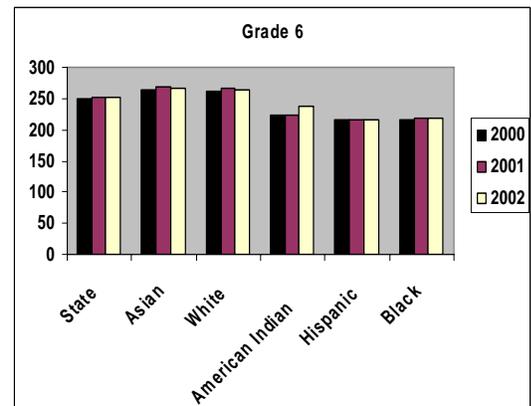
READING

Average Scale Scores

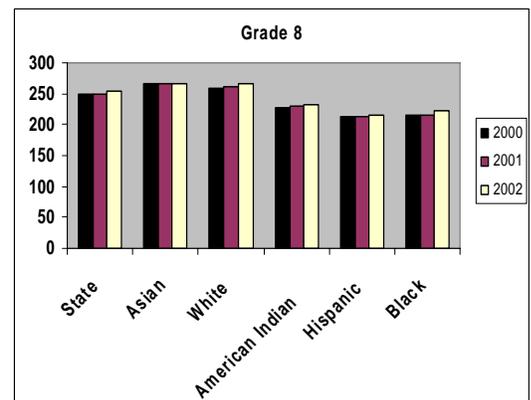
	2000	2001	2002
State	250	248	246
Asian	261	261	260
White	261	261	258
American Indian	240	232	236
Hispanic	215	214	213
Black	218	217	218



	2000	2001	2002
State	250	253	252
Asian	264	268	266
White	261	266	264
American Indian	224	224	237
Hispanic	215	215	215
Black	217	219	219



	2000	2001	2002
State	249	249	253
Asian	267	266	267
White	260	261	265
American Indian	227	231	233
Hispanic	213	213	216
Black	216	216	222





EDUCATION

Exhibit 1.1

CT. HIGH-SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE BY RACE, 1996 THROUGH 2001

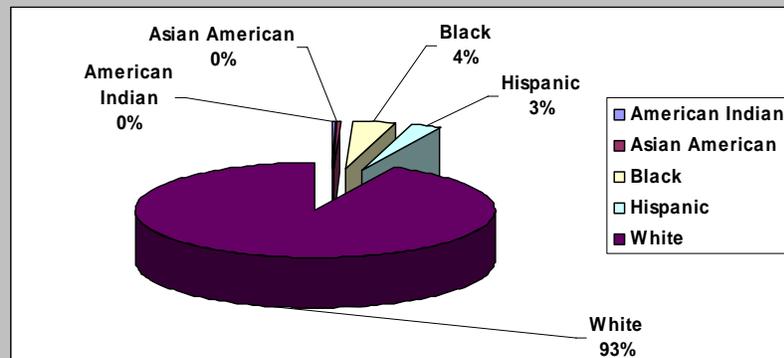
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Statewide	3.5	3.3	3.1	3	2.6
White	2.5	2.2	2.1	2	1.9
Black	5.5	5.6	4.7	5.6	4.1
American Indian	2.3	2.8	5.1	3.7	4.9
Asian-American	2.6	2.7	2	1.8	2.4
Hispanic	8.8	8.3	8	7.3	5.4

Source: Connecticut State Department of Education - (Data Bulletin, September 2002)

Exhibit 1.2

CT. GENDER/RACE/ETHNICITY OF CERTIFIED STAFF

	No. of Females	No. of Males	Female %	Male %
White	33,899	12,462	73.1	26.8
Black	1,352	487	2.91	1.11
Hispanic	1,023	416	2.2	0.89
Asian American	190	52	0.04	0.11
American Indian	59	28	0.01	0.06
Total	36,523	13,445		



Source: Connecticut State Department of Education - (Profiles of our Schools The Condition of Education in Connecticut 2000-01)

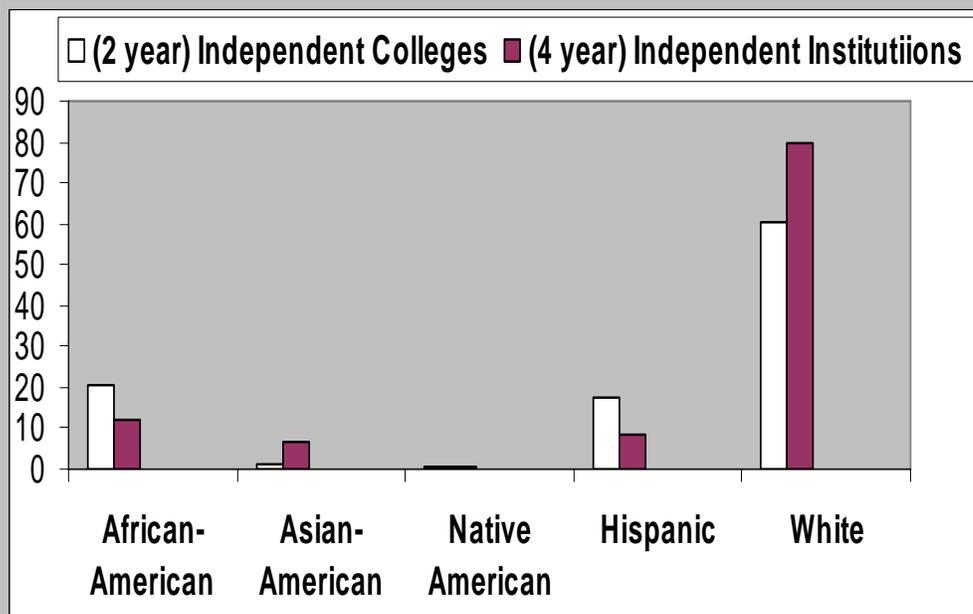


HIGHER EDUCATION

Exhibit 2.3

Percent of Students Enrolled in Connecticut Independent Institutions

Race/Ethnicity	(2 year) Independent Colleges	(4 year) Independent Institutions
African-American	20.3	12.3
Asian-American	1.36	6.5
Native American	0.45	0.6
Hispanic	17.5	8.4
White	60.2	80.0



Source: Connecticut State Department of Higher Education- (Enrollment of Minority Undergraduate Students in Connecticut Institutions of Higher Education)

2002 Annual Report

*Does not include non-resident aliens or students of an unknown race



Exhibit 2.1

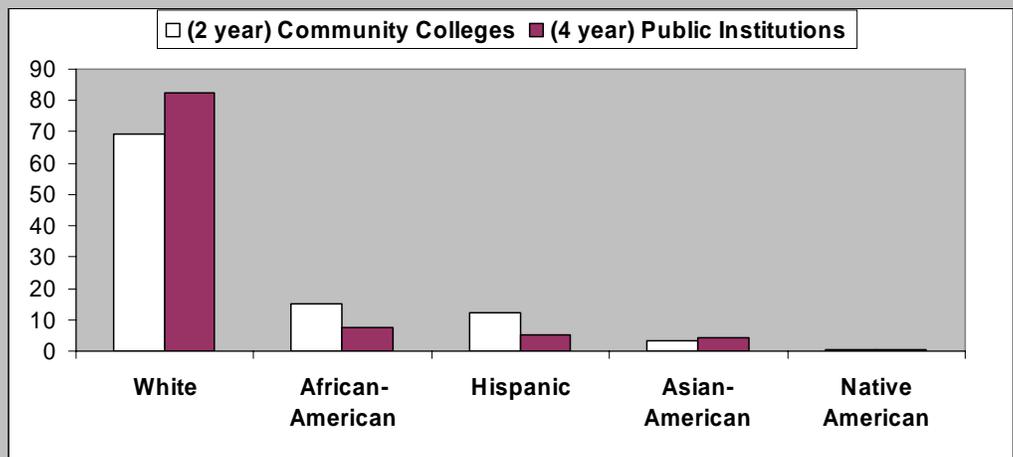
2002 Minority Undergraduate Enrollment Connecticut Public Higher Education			
Race/Ethnicity	% of Student Population	% of Students Enrolled	% of Students Receiving a Degree
Hispanic	9.40%	8.2%	5.9%
African-American	8.70%	10.80%	7.3%
Asian-American	2.40%	3.60%	3.3%
Native American	0.20%	0.40%	0.4%

Source: Connecticut Department of Higher Education-(Strategic Plan to Ensure Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Connecticut Public Higher Education 2003 Report)

*Please note that percents for students and populations are not rounded off.

Exhibit 2.2

Percent of Students Enrolled in Connecticut Higher Education State Institutions		
Race/Ethnicity	(2 year) Community Colleges	(4 year) Public Institutions
White	69.1	82.3
African-American	15.3	7.64
Hispanic	12.05	5.33
Asian-American	3.1	4.28
Native American	0.41	0.4



Source: Connecticut State Department of Higher Education - (Enrollment of Minority Undergraduate Students in Connecticut Institutions of Higher Education) **2002 Annual Report**

*Does not include non-resident aliens or students of an unknown race



The following selected statistics were taken from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's September 2001 report entitled *Healthy People 2010 Database National Vital Statistics System*.

These are baseline statistics that have not been updated. The basic health disparity gap between Connecticut African-Americans and other ethnic groups still remains a significant problem. A full copy of this statistical report is available on the AAAC website www.cga.state.ct.us/aaac.



HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010: SELECTED HEALTH DISPARITY AREAS Baseline data and Targets for the Year 2010

The Federal Department of Health and Human Services selected six focus areas in which racial and ethnic minorities experience serious disparities in health access and outcomes: Infant Mortality, Immunization, Cancer Screening and Management, Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes, and HIV Infection/AIDS. The purpose of the report was twofold: first, to compare United States and Connecticut data on six health disparity areas for Black/African-American, Hispanic or Latino, Asian or Pacific Islanders, and American Indian or Alaska Native populations with the White population, specifically highlighting areas where disparities exist; and second, to list the targeted health status for the year 2010, for each of the health indicators.

INFANT MORTALITY

Infant Mortality Rates for United States and Connecticut Residents*

Race / Ethnicity	U.S.A ** 1998	CT ** 1998	Target 2010
Total	7.2	7	
Black or African-American	13.8	16.7	
Hispanic or Latino	5.8	9.6	4.5
Asian or Pacific Islander	5.5	NR#	
American India or Alaska Native	9.3	NR#	
White	6	5.7	

* Per 1000 live births.

** Data 2010, Healthy People 2010 Data Base, National Vital Statistics System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, September 2001 Edition.

Not Reported



2. CANCER SCREENING AND MANAGEMENT

Age-Adjusted Cancer Death Rates United States and Connecticut Residents*

Race / Ethnicity	Baseline		Target 2010
	U.S.A ** 1999	CT ** 1999	
Total	202.7	194.5	
Black or African-American	254.4	223.8	
Hispanic or Latino	122	94.7	159.9
Asian or Pacific Islander	125.3	72.4	
American India or Alaska Native	126.4	NR#	
White	199.8	193.8	

* Per 100,000 persons of all ages. Age-Adjusted 1999 base line data.

** Data 2010, Healthy People 2010 Data Base, National Vital Statistics System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, September 2001 Edition.

Not Reported [The age-adjusted mortality rate is not reported due to a small number of deaths (<15)].

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States and in Connecticut. The age-adjusted death rates due to cancer were highest for Black or African-Americans both in Connecticut and nationally. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), report that in Connecticut during 1999, for every 100,000 persons living in the state, nearly 224 were African-Americans who died of cancer. CDC's 1999 statistics also indicate that throughout the United States, approximately 254 African-Americans die of cancer for every 100,000 persons.

During the same period, the incidence for cancer among Whites, both nationally and in Connecticut were 199.8 and 193.8 per 100,000 respectively. Cancer incidences among Hispanic or Latino populations in Connecticut for 1999 were 94.7 per 100,000 persons, For Asians or Pacific Islanders the rate was 72.4 per 100,000 persons.



3. CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

A. Age-Adjusted Death Rates for Coronary Heart Disease United States and Connecticut Residents *

Race / Ethnicity	Baseline		Target 2010
	U.S.A **	CT **	
	1999	1999	
Total	204	177	
Black or African-American	250	204	
Hispanic or Latino	144	120	166
Asian or Pacific Islander	122	114	
American India or Alaska Native	128	NR#	
White	201	176	

* Per 100,000 persons of all ages. Age-Ajusted 1999 base line data.

** Data 2010, Healthy People 2010 Data Base, National Vital Statistics System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, September 2001 Edition.

Not Reported [The age-adjusted mortality rate is not reported due to a small number of deaths (<15)].

DIABETES

Age-Adjusted Death Rates for Diabetes for United States and Connecticut Residents*

Race / Ethnicity	Baseline		Target 2010
	U.S.A **	CT **	
	1999	1999	
Total	77	71	
Black or African-American	135	142	
Hispanic or Latino	89	66	45
Asian or Pacific Islander	62	68	
American India or Alaska Native	112	NR#	
White	72	67	

* Per 100,000 persons of all ages. Age-Ajusted 1999 base line data.

** Data 2010, Healthy People 2010 Data Base, National Vital Statistics System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, September 2001 Edition.

Not Reported [The age-adjusted mortality rate is not reported due to a small number of deaths (<15)].



B. Age-Adjusted Death Rates for Stroke United States and Connecticut Residents*

Race / Ethnicity	Baseline		Target 2010
	U.S.A ** 1999	CT ** 1999	
Total	62	50	
Black or African-American	82	55	
Hispanic or Latino	40	29	48
Asian or Pacific Islander	52	NR#	
American India or Alaska Native	40	NR#	
White	60	50	

* Per 100,000 persons of all ages. Age-Adjusted 1999 base line data.

** Data 2010, Healthy People 2010 Data Base, National Vital Statistics System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, September 2001 Edition.

Not Reported [The age-adjusted mortality rate is not reported due to a small number of deaths (<15)].

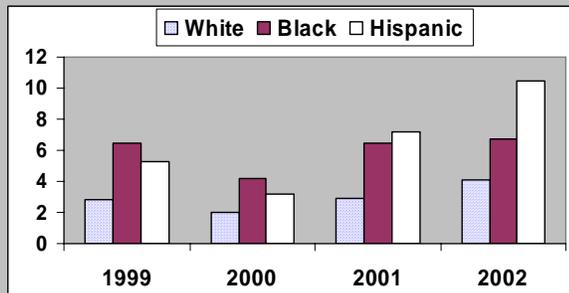


LABOR

Exhibit 4.1

CT. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY RACE

	1999	2000	2001	2002
White	2.8	2	2.9	4.1
Black	6.5	4.2	6.5	6.7
Hispanic	5.3	3.2	7.2	10.5



Source: National Bureau of Labor Statistics

Exhibit 4.2

AFRICAN-AMERICAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY GENDER

	1999	2000	2001	2002
MEN	8	*n/a	5.6	9.0
WOMEN	5.2	4.9	7.3	4.7

Source: National Bureau of Labor Statistic

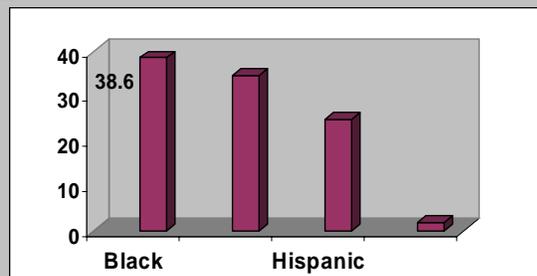
*Data for men in 2000 was unrecorded due to the small sample size

HOMELESSNESS

Exhibit 4.3

PERCENTAGE RATES OF CT'S HOMELESS POPULATION

October 2001 - September 2002	
Black	38.6
White	34.6
Hispanic	24.9
Other	1.9



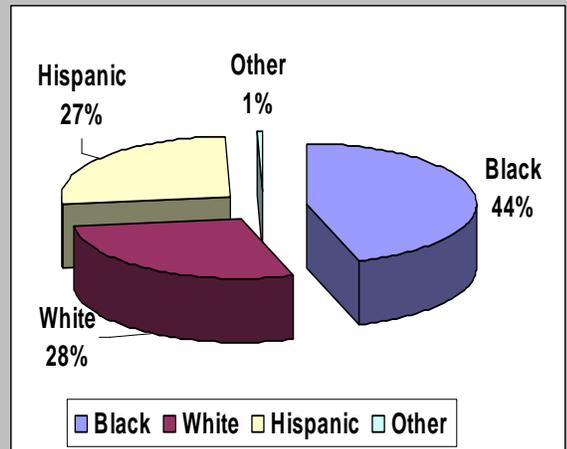
Source: Connecticut Department of Social Services - (Homeless Shelter Report - January 2003)



PRISONS

Exhibit 7.1

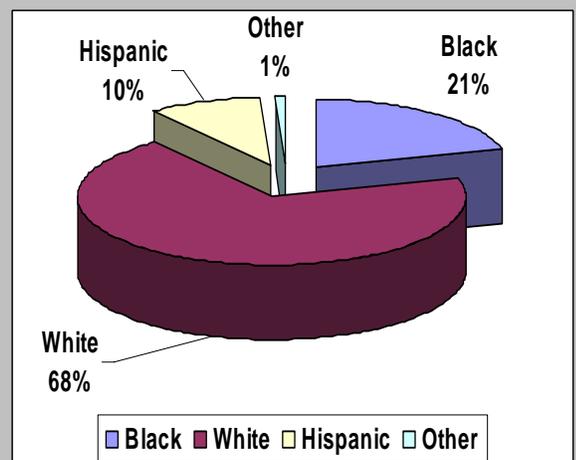
INCARCERATED POPULATION BY RACE AS OF 07/01/02	
Black	8,490
White	5,257
Hispanic	5,003
Other	123
Total	18,873



Source: Connecticut Department of Correction - (Workforce Analysis Report by Employment type, Occupational Category, Race and Sex)

Exhibit 7.2

NUMBER OF PRISON EMPLOYEES BY RACE AS OF 06/01/02	
Black	1,431
White	4,767
Hispanic	662
Other	57
Total	6,917



Source: Connecticut Department of Correction - (Workforce Analysis Report by Employment type,

State Administered General Assistance (SAGA)

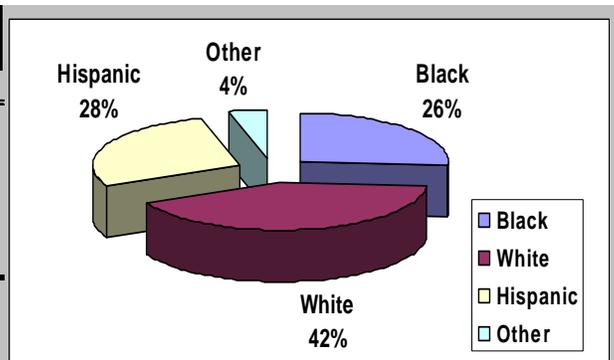


STATE ADMINISTERED GENERAL ASSISTANCE (SAGA)

The SAGA program provides cash and medical assistance to certain low-income individuals in Connecticut. Services are provided by the Department of Social Services for financial and traditional medical assistance and through the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for behavioral health services.

Exhibit 6.1

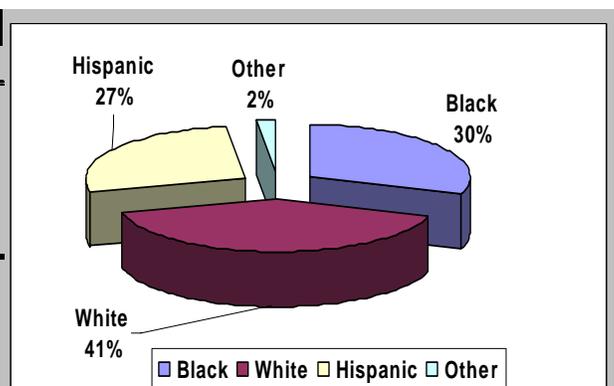
RECIPIENTS OF CASH ASSISTANCE BY RACE	
Black	1,252
White	2,020
Hispanic	1,346
Other	196
Total	4,814



Source: Department of Social Services - (SAGA Recipients as of February 2003)

Exhibit 6.2

MEDICAL COVERAGE BY RACE	
Black	7,567
White	10,225
Hispanic	6,785
Other	463
Total	25,040



Source: Department of Social Services - (SAGA Recipients as of February 2003)



2002 Legislative Agenda AND SUMMARY

African-American Affairs Commission 2002 Legislative Report



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The African-American Affairs Commission developed its 2002 Legislative Agenda to include:

- 1) Support of amendments to mandatory sentencing guidelines.
- 2) Increased financial support of treatment for substance abuse offenders.
- 3) Use of incentive and tax credits to developers such as Urban Site Reinvestment Programs.
- 4) Resident Ownership Strategies.
- 5) Continued support of employers to participate in One-Stop Centers.
- 6) Technical and capital assistance for small and minority owned businesses.
- 7) Transportation and case management to TANF recipients.
- 8) Expansion of early childhood programs.
- 9) Increased early reading programs.
- 10) Expansion of charter schools.
- 11) Restructure of school funding formulas to create equity of resources.
- 12) Adequate Higher Education Funds.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a comprehensive overview and commentary on legislative activities pertinent to the AAAC's Legislative Agenda for the 2002 Legislative Session. The AAAC provided testimony on all publicly heard bills outlined in its agenda, either orally or in written form. In addition the AAAC monitored all legislation that could have an impact on the African-American community.

- ✓ The checked items were signed into law by the Governor.

ENVIRONMENT

- ✓ **House Bill 5209** – *An Act to Reduce Sulfur Dioxide Emissions at Power Plants*
Status – Signed by Governor into law on May 2nd 2002 as Public Act 02-64.
- ✓ **Senate Bill 54** – *An Act Establishing an Environmental Justice Task Force*
Status – Signed by Governor into law on May 2nd 2002 as Public Act 02-64.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- ✓ **HB 5672** *An Act in Support of: A Pilot Program For A Debit System For Telephone Calls From A Correctional Facility*
Status – Signed by Governor into law on June 3rd, 2002 as Public Act 02-104
- ✓ **SB 456** – *An Act Concerning Employment Protection For Crime Victims and Persons Who's Criminal Records Have Been Erased.*
Status – Signed by Governor into law on June 13th, 2002 as PA 02-136.

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- **HB 5695** *An Act for Support Services for Persons in Recovery from Substance Abuse*
Status – Bill was referred to Judiciary Committee on March 25th, 2002. Bill died as a result of no further action.
- **HB 5690** – *An Act Concerning Prison and Jail Overcrowding.*
Status – Bill was referred to Judiciary Committee on March 6th, 2002 after a public hearing. Bill died as a result of no further action.
- **SB 5760** – *An Act to Address the Changes to the Juvenile Justice System.*
Status – Bill was referred from the House to the Appropriations Committee on April 30th, 2002. Bill died as a result of no further action.
- **HB 5682** – *An Act Concerning the Composition of the Commission on Prison and Jail Overcrowding.*
Status – Bill was tabled for the House calendar on April 19th, 2002. Bill died as a result of no further action.
- **HB 5746** - *An Act Concerning Mandatory Employment and Education for Inmates.*
Status – Bill was introduced in Judiciary Committee on March 13th, 2002 for a public hearing. Bill died as a result of no further action.
- **SB 541** – *An Act Concerning Discharge Plans for Persons Leaving State Funded Programs.*
Status – Bill was referred by the House to the Legislative Management Committee on March 23rd, 2002. Bill died as a result of no further action.
- **HB 5691** – *An Act Concerning Drug Treatment Programs at Alternative Incarceration Centers.*
Status – Bill was introduced in the Judiciary Committee on March 6th, 2002 for a public hearing on March 11th, 2002. Bill died as a result of no further action.

EDUCATION

- **HB 5496** – *An Act Concerning Early Childhood Education and Teachers' Retirement.*
Status – Bill passed the house, but died in the Senate after a series of amendments.
- **SB 44** – *Programs to Address the Teacher and School Administrator Shortage.*
Status – Bill was referred by the Senate to Appropriations Committee on April 3rd, 2002. Bill died as a result of no further action.
- **SB 41** – *The Minority Teacher Incentive Program.*
Status – Bill was introduced in the Education Committee on February 7th, 2002 for a public hearing on February 13th, 2002. Bill died as a result of no further action.



- **HB 5334** – *An Act Concerning Full Compliance With the Sheff vs. O’Neill Ruling.*
Status – Bill was introduced in the Education Committee on February 7th, 2002. Bill died as a result of no further action.
- **HB 5336** – *An Act Concerning the Creation of Additional Magnet Schools and the Elimination of Racial and Economic Isolation.*
Status – Bill was introduced in the Education Committee on February 15th, 2002 but no action was taken.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ **HB 5057** – *An Act Increasing the Minimum Wage.*
Status – Signed by Governor on May 6th, 2002 as Public Act 02-33
- ✓ **HB 02-54** – *An Act Concerning the Self-Sufficiency Measurement for the State of Connecticut.*
Status – Signed by Governor on May 9th, 2002 as Public Act 02-54
- **HB 5479** – *An Act Concerning One-Stop Centers.*
Status – Bill was tabled for the House calendar on March 21st, 2002. Bill died as a result of no further action.
- **SB 322** – *A State Funded Work-Study Program for TANF Recipients.*
Status – Bill was referred by the House to the Appropriations Committee on March 21st, 2002. Bill died as a result of no further action.
- **HB 5482** – *An Act Concerning Community Based Job-Training Initiatives.*
Status – Bill was tabled for the House calendar on March 21st, 2002. Bill died as a result of no further action.
- **SB 323** – *A Higher Education Economic Competitiveness Grant Program.*
Status – Bill was introduced in the Workforce Development Committee on February 20th, 2002 for a public hearing which was held on February 28th, 2002. Bill died as a result of no further action.
- **SB 121** – *An Act Extending Unemployment Compensation Benefits*
Status – Bill was tabled for the Senate calendar on May 10th, 2002. Bill died as result of no further action.



BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **HB 5401** – *An Act Establishing a Revolving Loan Fund for Initiation of Projects in the Urban and Industrial Site Reinvestment Program (USRP).*
Status – Bill was referred by the Senate to the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee on April 14th, 2002. Bill died as a result of no further action.
- **HB 5598** - *An Act Concerning a Task Force to Study Micro Enterprises.*
Status – Bill was referred by the House to the Legislative Management Committee on April 2nd, 2002. Bill died as a result of no further action.
- **SB 497** – *An Act Concerning Certain Minority Set-Aside Provisions.*
Status – Bill was tabled for the House calendar on May 5th, 2002. Bill died as result of no further action.

CIVIL RIGHTS & POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

HB 5699 – *An act concerning voting reform*

Status – Bill was introduced in the Government Administration and Elections Committee on March 6th, 2002 for a public hearing held on March 11th, 2002. Bill died as result of no further action

HB 5700 – *An act concerning Election Day registration*

Status – Bill was tabled for the House calendar on April 23rd, 2002. Bill died as result of no further action.



2002 Program Issues & Activities

AAAC Programs, Special Projects and Initiatives



The AAAC developed and participated in a wide variety of new initiatives, programs and events during 2002. The following provides an illustration of such activities.

PUBLIC INFORMATION-MEDIA OUTREACH

During 2002, the AAAC initiated and implemented plans to increase public awareness of the Commission. Cable television and commercial radio opportunities were used to begin conversations and to inform the public about AAAC goals and planned activities. Additionally, the AAAC collaborated with community activists and non-profit organizations to provide well-rounded commentary and public information regarding issues related to the African-American community.

Media appearances included public affairs, news, and call-in interview programs on several media outlets including but not limited to: Connecticut Television Network, Hartford Cable Access Television, COMCAST Cable TV in New Haven and SKYE Cable XII in Waterbury, WELI 960 AM and WKCI 101.3 FM's "Paul Pacelli Show", WKND 1480 Radio's "59 Minutes with Ben Andrews," WTIC 1080 Radio's "Face Connecticut," WYBC 92.3 Radio's "Electric Drum and WZMX Radio's Hot 93.7 Morning Show".

Additionally, the Commission was contacted for comments and insight to print media reports for *The Hartford Courant*, *The Hartford Inquirer*, *The Northend Agent*, *The Connecticut Post*, *The New London Day*, and *The Eagle Press*.



WTIC Radio's Face Connecticut host Sam Gingerella interviews Suzette Strickland of End Hunger CT (right), AAAC Executive Director Vanessa D. Burns (center-right) and Lenore Jackson (rear).



WEBSITE

Public information and community partnerships were enhanced with the upgrading of the AAAC website. Through the use of improved graphics, data and text, the AAAC provided a valuable resource to its constituency, Connecticut residents and to worldwide web users. During the first 60 days after its launch, the site logged more than 19,000 hits, with an average of 623 page views per day. During that time, more than 244 visitors visited the site at least twice. The website's most frequently accessed links were: AAAC General Information, Job Opportunities, Sitemap, Talent Bank, and the AAAC Legislative Agenda.

In addition to general information about the Commission, the updated website contains information on state governmental meetings and activities, community events, website resources, and links to other state agencies.



SEPARATE CINEMA

In celebration of Black History Month, the African-American Affairs Commission and Suffield Council for the Arts collaborated to bring *SEPARATE CINEMA*, an exhibit of African-American motion picture memorabilia to the Capitol/Legislative Office Building Concourse.

The display of 50 historical movie posters chronicled the richness of African-American cinematic contributions across the span of seven decades.

Posters in the collection covered a wide variety of film genres and periods, including westerns, musicals, race films (independent films made for black audiences), and those from the post-World War II era. Artistic depictions of the works of Oscar Micheaux, Gordon Parks, Spencer Williams, Melvin Van Peebles, Ossie Davis and even Spike Lee were included.

The month long February 2002 exhibit, not only enabled audiences to view commercial movie posters, but to observe the evolution of African-Americans in film through several periods.



Classic Awards attendees admire Separate Cinema's historic movie posters.

Classic Awards



- The following individuals were chosen as recipients at the Third Annual Classic Awards, held on February 8, 2002 at the Legislative Office Building. Honors were bestowed on Connecticut residents who contributed to the quality of life of Connecticut's African-American communities. Honorees were selected from a distinguished pool of nominations submitted by the public. More than 200 people celebrated the event.



2002 Honorees



*From Left to Right: Katherine “Kay” Wyrick, Janis Hadley Ed.D, Dr. Charles Groce, Ronald Collins and Senator Alvin Penn
(Not pictured Chiquita Stevens)*

AAAC Commissioners



Back ground: George Logan, Kurt Harrison, Mustafa Abdul-Salaam, Derrick McBride, Foreground: Jacqueline Dickens, Andrea Scott, Christopher Cloud, Delores Franks, Sharon Ibrahim, Jonathan Bruce and Lillie B. Crosby



Connecticut Association of Affirmative Action Professionals, (CTAAP)

The AAAC gave two presentations to this group of affirmative action officers from corporate, governmental and institutional organizations. AAAC Commissioner and Legislative Chair Delores Franks and Executive Director, Vanessa Burns provided an overview of the AAAC and its legislative mandate. An extensive presentation by Commissioner Franks and Ms. Burns discussed health and educational concerns.



AAAC Commissioner Delores Franks with CTAAP conference attendee.



CTAAP Co-Presidents Clifton Graves and Dr. Marcia Smith-Glasper.



Reflecting Connecticut

The African-American Affairs Commission is a founding partner of the *Reflecting Connecticut* project, an effort to increase the participation of women and people of color on state boards and commissions. In addition, the *Reflecting Connecticut* coalition worked to expand opportunities for board membership on corporate, institutional and municipal boards.

According to the Secretary of State's report, *Gender and Racial Diversity on Connecticut State Appointive Boards, (2002)*, demonstrated membership on Connecticut's boards and commissions does not reflect the state's diverse population.



AAAC Commissioner Kurt Harrison speaks with Governor's Office Director of Appointments Michelle Stebbins.



Secretary of State's Manager of Records & Legislative Services Peter Bartucca (left), AAAC Executive Director Vanessa D. Burns (center), Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Executive Director Fernando Betancourt (right).

Outreach Events & Activities



- Association of Similar Organizations
- Black Catholics
- Centers Edge Project
- Connecticut Health Foundation – Health Conference
- Connecticut Health Foundation Multi Cultural Health
- Department of Public Health – Health Conference
- Department of Public Health Multicultural Health Conference
- Hebrew Academy – Black History Presentation
- Permanent Commission on the Status of Women Making Women Visible Day
- NAACP Connecticut State Chapter Annual Conference
- National Black Caucus of State Legislators Annual Conference
- National Council of Black Males
- Reflecting Connecticut Forums
- Sickle Cell Association
- Small & Minority Business Showcase – New London, New Britain and Stamford
- Stonington High School – Speaker – Martin Luther King Day
- Take Your Child to Work Day

2002 Areas of Interest



- Pay Equity
- Economic and Business Development
- Health Status Disparities
- African-American State Employees Equitable Treatment
- Prison Reform
- Black Male Development
- Sickle Cell Treatment
- Appointive Boards and Commissions
- Educational Achievement
- Disparate Criminal Justice
- Health Programming
- Childcare
- Organ Transplants
- Immigrant Concerns - Department of Motor Vehicles
- Urban Sprawl

2002 Partnerships



- The African-American Affairs Commission would like to thank the following organizations whose partnerships helped to support AAAC activities.
 - Amistad America
 - Capitol Region Chamber of Commerce
 - Caribbean American Yellow Book
 - Centers Edge
 - Connecticut Civil Liberties Foundation
 - Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities
 - Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
 - Connecticut Department of Education
 - Connecticut Department of Social Services
 - Connecticut Health Foundation
 - Connecticut State Chapter of NAACP Branches
 - Criminal Justice Task Force
 - Democracy Works, Inc.
 - Institute for African-American Studies – University of Connecticut
 - Multi-Cultural Health Task Force
 - NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.
 - National Conference for Community and Justice
 - Northeast Action
 - Urban League of Greater Hartford
 - Urban League of Southwest Connecticut



Executive Director Vanessa D. Burns with Connecticut Health Foundation's Health Conference panelists Michael Williams and Mayra Rodriguez-Howard.

Commissioner Profiles



Housing Member and Chairperson - Commissioner George Logan is a Senior Engineer and Mapping Group Supervisor at the BHC Company in Bridgeport. A resident of Ansonia, Mr. Logan completed undergraduate study at Trinity College, and a masters degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Bridgeport. In addition to serving on the AAAC, he is a member of the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System and a member of the Advisory Commission on Multi-Cultural Health. A native of New Haven, Mr. Logan has an extensive record of community service within the Bridgeport and New Haven areas. His volunteer efforts are mainly concentrated on youth empowerment through educational achievement. He currently serves as a board member for Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut. In addition to his duties as a Junior Achievement board member, he is responsible for the coordination of the organization's Evening Program, which provides high school students with practical business experience through the creation and operation of an after-school business enterprise. In 1998, House Majority Leader Moira Lyons appointed Mr. Logan as a Commissioner of the African-American Affairs Commission.



Health Member - Commissioner Christopher Cloud is a graduate of Howard University (Washington, D.C.) where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. A former legislative aide to State Senator Eric Coleman, he currently is the Executive Director for Amistad America, Inc. Mr. Cloud was responsible for overseeing the marketing and promotion efforts related to the construction of a scale size replica of the actual Amistad vessel. The Amistad sails the nation's waterways as an educational ambassador, teaching history lessons, cooperation, and leadership to Americans of all ages, interests, and cultural backgrounds. Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin Sullivan appointed Mr. Cloud to the Commission in 1998.



Public Safety Member and Secretary - Commissioner Derrick McBride is a native of Bridgeport. He currently resides in Willimantic. Mr. McBride holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina. He has worked in law enforcement since 1987 at Eastern Connecticut State University's Police Department, and is currently the department's Executive Officer/2nd in Command. He recently graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Mr. McBride is involved in many roles at the University and within the Windham community. As a reflection of this commitment, he is a recipient of Eastern's Martin Luther King Community Service Award and the Excellence in Service to the University Award. Mr. McBride is deeply devoted to his family and church. He was appointed to the Commission by Speaker of the House Moira K. Lyons in February 2001.



Public Member - Commissioner Jacqueline Dickens is a Congressional Aide for United States Congressman John B. Larson. She concentrates on issues related to the U.S. Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service, the U.S. Department of State, United States Embassies, U.S. Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She offers a wealth of experience in the field of financial services and housing and was once a top producer in mortgage lending with a Fortune 500 corporation. Mrs. Dickens has been recognized by the National Reference Institute for inclusion in the publication of "Who's Who of Women Executives". She is a native of Hartford and is an alumnus of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce sponsored "Leadership Greater New Haven", and participates in the Women's Campaign School at Yale University. Senate Majority Leader, George Jepsen, appointed Mrs. Dickens to the AAAC in 1999.



Education Member and Vice Chairperson - Commissioner Delores A. Franks is a graduate of Rutgers and Yale Universities where she received Masters degrees in Social Work and Public Health. She has extensive experience in the fields of health, mental health and finance. Ms. Franks was appointed to the AAAC in 2001 by House Minority Leader Robert Ward.



Transportation Member and Treasurer - Commissioner Sharon Ibrahim of Manchester is currently employed as a Marketing Assistant for the Governor's State Employee Mentoring Program with Nutmeg Big Brothers & Big Sisters. She has worked for more than 10 years in the human/social services field and is also certified by the State of Connecticut as a sexual assault counselor. Ms. Ibrahim is involved in a host of community organizations and was appointed to the AAAC by House Minority Leader Robert Ward in 1998.

Commissioner Profiles



Arts & Culture Member - Commissioner Jonathan Bruce is a longtime resident of the City of Hartford. He attended the University of Hartford Art School and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree, which he followed with a Masters in Art Education. Mr. Bruce is an active member of the community and currently serves as the Director of Fine Arts for the Community Renewal Team of Greater Hartford, Inc., where he is the founder of the CRT Craftery Gallery. He has received numerous commendations for both his community service and commitment to the visual arts, among them: Connecticut Arts Award for Service to the Arts, Distinguished Alumni Award for Contributions to the Community (University of Hartford), and the Cicuso Club Community Service Award. Mr. Bruce was the former Commissioner of the City of Hartford Commission on Cultural Affairs, and a former member of the Selection Committee for the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. Currently, Mr. Bruce serves on the Board of the Amistad Foundation and the Electors for the Wadsworth Athenaeum. Senate Minority Leader M. Adela Eads appointed Mr. Bruce to the Commission in 1998.



Human Services Member - Commissioner Mustafa Abdul-Salaam holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Anthropology from the University of Connecticut, where he served as Captain of the 1975 basketball team. Mr. Abdul-Salaam also holds a Masters degree in Urban Management/Economic Development from Southern Connecticut State University. He has served in a variety of economic and community development positions in both New Haven and Hartford. He is the chair of the Commission's Economic Development Committee. Governor John Rowland appointed Mr. Abdul-Salaam in 1998.



Environment Member - Commissioner Lillie Crosby of Monroe is a retired executive from the Southern New England Telecommunications Corporation (SNET). She attended Waterbury Public Schools and holds a Bachelors of Science degree from Teikyo Post University, where she majored in Business Office Management and Administration. She also holds a Masters of Science in Health and Human Services from the University of Bridgeport, and was a Minority Fellow with the Connecticut Community Technical Colleges' Minority Fellowship Program. Mrs. Crosby has served as a Commissioner for both the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission. In 1998, Senate Minority Leader M. Adela Eads appointed Mrs. Crosby to the AAAC, where she is currently in her second full term.



Children & Youth Development Member - Commissioner Kurt Harrison is a lifelong resident of Hartford, born and raised in the city's Northend section. In 1995, Mr. Harrison graduated from Northeastern University (Boston, MA) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a minor in African-American Studies. As a Program Manager for the Regional Alliance for Small Contractors (RASC), Mr. Harrison is charged with administering the RASC contract compliance and monitoring program for both the redevelopment of Hartford's riverfront infrastructure (Adriaen's Landing), as well as the construction of the University of Connecticut's 40,000 seat football stadium in East Hartford. Accordingly, he is responsible for helping to maximize job opportunities for small and minority business enterprises (S/MBEs) and the minority workforce throughout Greater Hartford and Connecticut in accordance with state goals and requirements. Prior to his current position, Mr. Harrison worked as a Legislative Analyst for the General Assembly and provided research and analysis of issues affecting Connecticut's African-American communities. In service to the state's Commission on African-American Affairs, Mr. Harrison assisted the Commission in the development of its legislative agenda and priorities, and served as the prime liaison between legislators, governmental agencies and external groups.



Small Business & Economic Development Member - Commissioner Andrea Scott has more than ten years of experience in financial management and has worked in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. She has worked with various sized organizations in the areas of economic and community development. Mrs. Scott, a certified economic development professional (certified by the National Development Council) is currently the Senior Development Manager for the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for the northwest region of Connecticut. She is responsible for promoting economic growth in the 41 towns and cities in Northwestern Connecticut. She works directly with companies, developers, community groups and municipalities to help promote business development and job growth. She further serves as the northwestern regional marketing and investment manager for DECD, and is the central advocate for business and economic development in the northwest corridor of the state.

Staff Profiles



Executive Director – Vanessa Dale Burns is a native and long-time New Haven resident. She worked for more than 24 years in public service, including ten years as a legislative and fiscal analyst for the New Haven Board of Alderman. From 1997 to 1998 she served as staff to the Connecticut General Assembly’s public health committee. Prior to joining the African-American Affairs Commission, Ms. Burns served as the Director of Public Works, in Washington D.C., Evanston, Illinois, and New Haven, Connecticut. She is a graduate of American University, and earned her Masters degree in public administration from the University of New Haven.



Public Affairs/Special Projects Director - Cheryl Harris Forbes is a Connecticut native and graduate of Syracuse University’s S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. Prior to her current position, she worked as a Writer/Editor in the University Relations Office at Eastern Connecticut State University. Her accomplishments include the creation of Connecticut State University’s first institutional advertisements, and collaborative efforts with the State Department of Environmental Protection, the Governor’s Office, and WFSB-TV3 to produce a statewide water conservation campaign, including television public service announcements.



Legislative Analyst II - Franklin Sykes is resident of East Haven and holds a Masters in Business Administration from the University of New Haven. Mr. Sykes brings a wealth of experience from his work with the African Development Institute (ADI), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the human and material development of Africans and peoples of African descent, through research and policy analysis. More recently, Mr. Sykes worked with the Department of Treasury as an Examiner and has also tutored in a variety of business disciplines at Albertus Magnus College.



Senior Legislative Secretary - Denise Drummond is a native of Connecticut. She attends Middlesex Community College pursuing a degree in Business Administration. She plans to further her degree at the University of Hartford. Prior to joining the African-American Affairs Commission, Mrs. Drummond worked for Allegheny Ludlum as an executive secretary, a payroll analyst, and materials management coordinator. She has also been actively involved with the Big Brothers – Big Sisters organization.



- The African-American Affairs Commission maintains a talent bank of applications from African-Americans who are interested in appointment to state boards, councils, commissions, or task forces. The African-American Affairs Commission serves as a resource by forwarding these applications to appropriate appointing authorities. (Generally, positions on state boards and commissions are unpaid, and are appointed by the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House or other state officials in accordance with State law.)
- The Connecticut Secretary of State's published report, *Gender and Racial Diversity on Connecticut State Appointive Boards*, (2002) revealed of the 1,997 appointed members of the 203 state boards and commissions, 89.4% were White, 6.6% Black, 2.7% Hispanic and 1.3% were classified as "Other". Consequently, the African-American Affairs Commission worked to increase the participation of African-Americans on state boards and commissions.



Talent Bank Application



AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

TALENT BANK FORM

Name: _____
Last First Middle Initial

Home Address: _____
Street City/Town State/Zip Code

Telephone: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
Home phone # Work phone # Fax # E-mail address

Employer: _____

Racial/Ethnic Background: _____ Age: 18-30 31-50 51 & over

Political Affiliation: Democrat Republican Independent U.S. Citizen Yes or No

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE / BACKGROUND / OR ATTACH RESUME

Education: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
Degree Major/Concentration Institution Graduation Year

(Areas of interest for appointment):

___ Education ___ Human Services ___ Health ___ Housing ___ Public Safety
___ Children/Youth ___ Economic Development ___ Other

Briefly describe your community experience. Please include organizations purposes, your role / title and the dates you served:

Talent Bank Application



(References)

Please list name, address and day phone number.

Reference #1

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Reference #2

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

African-American Affairs Commission Contact Information



The African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) is located in Room 509 (5th Floor) of the State Capitol in Hartford, Connecticut.

The African-American Affairs Commission maintains a website that includes a listing of regional employment opportunities and the previously mentioned Talent Bank. Our website address is [www.cga.state.ct.us\aaaac](http://www.cga.state.ct.us/aaaac).

If you would like to request additional information, or to correspond with the AAAC, please contact us:

**State of Connecticut
African-American Affairs Commission
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Room 509
Hartford, CT 06106-1596
(860) 240-8555 (Phone)
(860) 240-8444 (Fax)**

We look forward to hearing from you.