

STATE OFFICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

“IMPROVING THE LIVES OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN NEW MEXICO”

FY 23 STATE TRIBAL COLLABORATION ACT REPORT



Section I. Executive Summary

A. Agency Overview

The New Mexico Office of African American Affairs (OAAA) was enacted by the 44th New Mexico State Legislature in 1999 under House Bill 909. Although the official operation of OAAA started with State Legislation, the hearts of OAAA lies with the many New Mexico residents statewide who felt that there was a need to address issues specific to the African American community.

The impetus for the movement that led to the creation of OAAA was designed by community leaders who focused on the need to improve and promote the economic development, education, health, and political well-being of the African American community throughout New Mexico.

OAAA continues the work began by community leaders in 1997 through efforts that include advocacy, information sharing, cultural awareness, and community networking for the support of African Americans throughout New Mexico. We offer culturally relevant capacity building programs, social marketing campaigns to improve the understanding of the contributions of African Americans to NM culture, communications for increasing the access of African Americans to information and action, and programs that work to move the needle on health disparities of African Americans.

B. Mission Statement

The Office of African American Affairs' mission is to study, identify and provide change through advocacy, resources, and support to the African American community.

C. Agency Specific Statutes or Mandates: N/A

OAAA does not have any statutes or mandates specific to tribal communities.

D. Significant State-Tribal Issues: N/A

OAAA does not have any significant state-tribal issues

E. Narrative Summary:

OAAA works to have strong partnerships with the indigenous communities and move forward equity and justice for both Black and Indigenous communities. While our programs do not connect directly with tribes, we work to ensure that whenever possible we are supporting indigenous voice at the decision-making tables. We have been involved with coalition building with indigenous community organizations and have been able to support equity, inclusion, and increased access for marginalized communities through these spaces.

F. Main Agency Accomplishments and Challenges Relating to Tribes:

The Office of African American Affairs does not have specific divisions or programs that collaborate with tribes. However, the OAAA remains a partner to the Indian Affairs Department.

G. Goals for Fiscal Year 2024 relating to Tribes or Indian Organizations

OAAA does not have any specific goals for relating to tribes or Indian organizations. We will continue to build and maintain partnerships with Indian Pueblos and Tribes, and the Indian Affairs Department, seeking to collaborate on issues relating to both African American and Indigenous issues.

Section II. Agency Policy

OAAA is scheduled to increase the leadership staff that have completed the IAD/SPO training on working with indigenous communities. We have no official policies to increase notification to tribes and have not had reason to participate in tribal consultation. OAAA participates regularly in IAD meetings for Tribal Liaisons and is open to move forward with policies that are relevant to the mission of OAAA.

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

OAAA has no specific efforts to implement policy.

Section IV. Current and Planned Programs and Services:

OAAA has plans for boosting communication infrastructure, individual capacity building courses, and increasing the distribution of data on African Americans in NM. While these programs are not specific to tribes and indigenous communities, there will be multiple opportunities for collaboration. We will reach out with opportunities to collaborate and co-advocate.

Section V. Training and Employee Notification

OAAA leadership is scheduled to complete the IAD/SPO training on working with indigenous communities. All OAAA staff receive a copy of the STCA.

Section VI. Key Names and Contact Information

Charles Reado, Deputy Director and Tribal Liaison

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Section VII. Appendices:

None