



# COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

**Department Description**

In 1990, the Community Relations Commission (CRC) was established to help convene and facilitate discussions with civic leaders, business leaders, citizens, and elected officials on issues of ethnic, racial, and cultural diversity. The CRC is committed to creating strong connections between the neighborhoods of Columbus and all of our residents. Through the work of the CRC, our vision of “Building a Community for All” can become a reality.

**Department Mission**

To provide leadership to the people of Columbus by educating citizens and small businesses about diversity, identifying and resolving community tensions, and eliminating racism/discrimination.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2015

### Neighborhoods

Continue to work with area commissions, civic associations, and community organizations on conflict resolution strategies, provide technical training, best practices, and offer additional support to empower individuals to positively impact their community.

Continue implementation of the Mayor's New Americans Initiative, with a focus on integrating immigrant and refugee families into the Columbus community. The initiative encompasses service capacity building, education and awareness presentations, distribution of civic guides, and assistance with citizenship and civic engagement.

### Peak Performance

Continue to enhance the staff performance tracking system, on which complaints, neighborhood issues, and events are logged. The database offers a real time status for each charge and complaint initiated in the system.

### Economic Development and Technology

Promote and facilitate training and technical assistance on diversity, cultural awareness, civil rights compliance, changing demographics, non-discrimination practices, and cultural sensitivity.

Work in conjunction with the Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office to build economic capacity within the refugee and immigrant communities.

### Education

Continue to provide public forums and monthly television programs on relevant topics and key issues facing our community. The live forums will allow residents to have critical community input and interactive participation.

Provide training, upon request, to the corporate and private sectors as well as to community groups and governmental agencies in the following areas: community building, diversity, cultural competency, poverty simulations, and working with immigrant and refugee communities.

### Safety

Improve residents' general knowledge and awareness of police and fire operations and procedures through social media, presentations, and training materials in an effort to enhance relationships with the community.



## 2015 BUDGET NOTES

Funding for the New Americans Initiative continues in 2015 to assist with the assimilation of new Americans arriving in Columbus from other countries. Services will include translation and interpretation services. In addition, CRC will continue to offer “ABCs of CPD” classes that focus on best practices for the interaction between the Columbus Police Department and the local immigrant community.

Funding for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration event is partially restored at \$12,500. Given the timing of the annual event in January, funding for the event is typically included in the prior fiscal year’s operating budget.

Department Financial Summary by Area of Expense					
Fund	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2014 Projected	2015 Proposed
<b>General Fund</b>					
Personnel	\$ 733,070	\$ 828,492	\$ 861,727	\$ 843,655	\$ 845,639
Materials & Supplies	2,315	2,511	2,000	2,914	2,040
Services	386,916	384,777	66,259	91,808	72,826
<b>General Fund Subtotal</b>	<b>1,122,301</b>	<b>1,215,780</b>	<b>929,986</b>	<b>938,377</b>	<b>920,505</b>
<b>Department Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,122,301</b>	<b>\$ 1,215,780</b>	<b>\$ 929,986</b>	<b>\$ 938,377</b>	<b>\$ 920,505</b>

Department Personnel Summary					
Fund	FT/PT	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Budgeted	2015 Budgeted
<b>General Fund</b>					
Community Relations	FT	8	8	8	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

Operating Budget by Program					
Program	2014 Budget	2014 FTEs	2015 Proposed	2015 FTEs	
Community Relations Office	\$ 724,016	6	\$ 701,277	6	
Special Events	-	0	12,500	0	
New Americans Initiative	205,970	2	206,728	2	
<b>Department Total</b>	<b>\$ 929,986</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$ 920,505</b>	<b>8</b>	

Program descriptions begin on the following page.



# 2015 PROGRAM GUIDE

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**COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE**

To provide leadership to the people of Columbus by educating citizens about cultural diversity, identifying and resolving community tensions, and eliminating racism/discrimination through training and awareness programs.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

To promote cultural diversity, awareness and education through CRC sponsored public events.

**NEW AMERICANS INITIATIVES**

To provide coordination and resources to the city, county, state and community in a culturally sensitive manner, and to address those needs of our growing immigrant and refugee population by maximizing the effect of existing services in the City of Columbus and Franklin County.

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