

Community Relations Commission Office

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 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

The mission of the CRC is to provide leadership to the people of Columbus by educating citizens about diversity, identifying and resolving community tensions and eliminating racism/discrimination.

Strategic Priorities for 2011

From the Columbus Covenant:

Neighborhoods

- Continue to work with area commissions, civic associations, and community organizations on conflict resolution within various neighborhoods, provide technical training, best practices, and offer additional support as requested.
- Continue implementation of the Mayor’s New Americans Initiative with a focus on integrating immigrant and refugee families into the community. The initiative encompasses capacity building, education and awareness presentations, distribution of civic guides and assistance with citizenship civic engagement.

Economic Development and Technology

- Continue to respond to requests for 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.

Safety

- Improve residents’ general knowledge and awareness of safety forces’ operations and procedures, resulting in enhanced relationships and understanding between the community and safety forces.

Education

- Continue to provide public forums on key issues facing our community. These forums will educate our residents and allow critical community input and interactive participation. These programs will be televised and community reaction will be monitored.

Peak Performance

- Continue to update and enhance the complaint tracking program, which tracks the CRC staff's performance on complaints and neighborhood issues and events. The database offers a real time status on each charge and complaint initiated through the complaint system.
- The CRC will continue to provide cultural sensitivity training to all city departments.
- Continued focus on Columbus.Stat results to monitor success of programming and activities in order to increase efficiency.

2011 Budget Notes

- Funding for the New Americans Initiative continues in 2011, to assist with the assimilation of new Americans arriving in Columbus from other countries. Services will include translation and interpretation services, as well as training for police and fire personnel.
- Additional funding is provided to update and print "*Opening Doors to Our City*," a publication summarizing local services provided to new Americans, as well as orientation classes regarding services found in the booklet.

Budget and Program Summary

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION FINANCIAL SUMMARY					
DIVISION SUMMARY	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Original Appropriation	2010 Estimated Expenditures	2011 Proposed
Community Relations	\$ 877,698	\$ 703,205	\$ 687,236	\$ 665,391	\$ 718,889
TOTAL	\$ 877,698	\$ 703,205	\$ 687,236	\$ 665,391	\$ 718,889

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION SUMMARY BY CHARACTER					
COMMUNITY RELATIONS EXPENDITURES SUMMARY	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Original Appropriation	2010 Estimated Expenditures	2011 Proposed
Personnel	\$ 730,660	\$ 617,350	\$ 640,948	\$ 619,192	\$ 663,025
Materials & Supplies	3,508	3,633	3,157	3,157	3,157
Services	143,530	82,222	43,131	43,042	52,707
TOTAL	\$ 877,698	\$ 703,205	\$ 687,236	\$ 665,391	\$ 718,889

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION SUMMARY BY FUND					
FUND SUMMARY	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Original Appropriation	2010 Estimated Expenditures	2011 Proposed
General	\$ 877,698	\$ 703,205	\$ 687,236	\$ 665,391	\$ 718,889
TOTAL	\$ 877,698	\$ 703,205	\$ 687,236	\$ 665,391	\$ 718,889

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION PERSONNEL SUMMARY					
DIVISION	FT/PT	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Budgeted	2011 Budgeted
Community Relations	FT	7	7	7	7
TOTAL		7	7	7	7

*FT=Full-Time PT=Part-Time

**2011 Operating Budget
Community Relations Commission**

Program	Mission	Financial History by Program				Personnel by Program			
		2008 Budget	2009 Budget	2010 Budget	2011 Proposed	2008 FTEs	2009 FTEs	2010 FTEs	2011 FTEs
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.	\$ 617,661	\$ 507,106	\$ 513,586	\$ 524,828	6	5	5	5
Special Events	To promote cultural diversity, awareness and education through CRC sponsored public events.	\$ 32,811	\$ 13,271	\$ 13,271	\$ 13,200	0	0	0	0
New Americans Initiative	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.	\$ 209,768	\$ 191,791	\$ 160,379	\$ 180,861	2	2	2	2
		\$ 860,240	\$ 712,168	\$ 687,236	\$ 718,889	8	7	7	7

This page has been intentionally left blank.