

The Commission on the Status of African-Americans, formerly known as the Commission on the Status of Blacks, was created by statute in 1988. The governor appoints each member of the nine-member commission, which sets policy for and provides direction to the Status of African-Americans Division within the Department of Human Rights. The division administrator is appointed by the governor with Senate confirmation.

The mandate of the Commission on the Status of African-Americans is to report on the status of Iowans of African-American descent. The Commission is also dedicated to identifying and addressing the changing needs and concerns of Iowa's African-American population. The Commission, with the support of staff, community leaders, public and private agencies and organizations, will consider, review, and recommend programs, services, policies, legislation and administrative rules that will improve the quality of life for Iowa's African-American population.

Status of Women, Division of the - *Charlotte Nelson, administrator; Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines 50319; 515/281-4461; 800/558-4427*

Citizen Members

KATHRYN BURT, chair, Marshalltown; term expires 2002; SANDRA J. BLODGETT, Clear Lake; term expires 2000; JUDGE BROWN, Fort Dodge; term expires 2000; VICTORIA BROWN, Oskaloosa; term expires 2002; DENNIS BULLOCK, Sioux City; term expires 2000; DR. SCHARRON A. CLAYTON, Waterloo; term expires 2000; LISA GREEN, Indianola; term expires 2002; SHAWN E. MULLEN, Des Moines; term expires 2000; MATTHEW WISSING, Davenport; term expires 2002

Ex-officio Member

ROSE VASQUEZ, director, Department of Human Rights

Legislative Members

SEN. PATRICIA HARPER, Waterloo; term expires 2001; SEN. GENE MADDOX, Des Moines; term expires 2001; REP. BETTY GRUNDBERG, Des Moines; term expires 2002; REP. JACK HOLVECK, Des Moines; term expires 2000

The commission was established by statute in 1972. Nine citizen members are appointed by the governor and four non-voting legislative members serve ex-officio.

Its principal function is to study the changing needs and problems of the women of Iowa, and to develop and recommend new programs and constructive action to the governor and the General Assembly.

The commission is also mandated to:

1. Serve as a clearinghouse on programs and agencies operating to assist women.
2. Conduct conferences.
3. Cooperate with governmental agencies to assist them in equalizing opportunities between men and women in employment and in expanding women's rights and opportunities.
4. Serve as the central permanent agency for the development of services for women.
5. Cooperate with public and private agencies in joint efforts to study and resolve problems relating to the status of women.
6. Publish and disseminate information relating to women and develop other educational programs.
7. Provide assistance to organized efforts by communities, organizations, associations, and other groups working toward the improvement of women's status.