

Coalition of African & Caribbean Communities (AFRICOM)

FY 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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PHILADELPHIA PA 19142

Dear readers,

We are thankful to have you as partners, members, and supporters as we look at what we achieved in 2019.

In 2019, we committed to build collective power and increase civic engagement among African and Caribbean immigrants. We are on track to meet that goal. Our innovative programs and projects and our ability to collaborate with other agencies made a difference in the lives of families, individuals, workers, and business owners. They opened their doors, sought our assistance, or promoted our services.

The 2019 accomplishments were possible because of the dedication of the Board of Directors, the Executive officers, the volunteers, and the interns. They contributed hundreds of hours to ensure that African and Caribbean immigrants feel a sense of empowerment, belonging, and self-sufficiency.

Thank you for believing in AFRICOM's vision.

Zemoria Brandon
Board Chair

Dr. Eric Edi
Chief Operating Officer

FY 2019 Essential Accomplishments

- ❖ We hired our first Community organizer
- ❖ We doubled our revenues
- ❖ We reached more than 1800 people, more than ever
- ❖ We had two community leaders elected to the Southwest Neighborhood Advisory Subcommittee
- ❖ We trained 23 Census2020 Champions

Samuel Fels Grant Funds Community Organizer

One of the proudest moments of this year was hiring, Senegalese-born US citizen Papa Faye to serve as Community Organizer and Coordinator of the joint Bartram's Garden-**AFRICOM** public space sharing project. The two-year project brought in \$70,000 funding from the Samuel Fels Fund.

Outreach to families, individuals, community organizations, and businesses led to increased awareness about Bartram's Garden and the impacts that future developments would trigger for African and Caribbean communities in Southwest Philadelphia. 5 organizations planned to use the Garden for cultural, health, and leadership training events.

In 2020, the flag-ship project will double the number of African and Caribbean immigrant visitors to the Garden and prepare immigrant small business owners and families to maintain their homes and businesses.

“Investing in professional Community Organizing has allowed AFRICOM to build knowledge about why African and Caribbean immigrants are marginalized, connect with 20 business and conduct a Get out the Vote campaign reaching more than 300 African voters.”

Dr. Eric Edi,
Chief Operating Officer.

Changing the Narratives, Building Stronger and More Engaged Immigrant Communities



In 2019, AFRICOM implemented 8 ambitious projects which underline the intersection of civic engagement and the health, economic, and social wellbeing of African and Caribbean immigrants. We worked to reduce the traditional marginalization of these immigrants in their neighborhood and city-wide initiatives.

The projects, *Engagement with Parks and Recreation Centers*, *the Natural Hair Braiders Support Group*, *Immigrant Voters' Project*, *Census2020*, *the Neighborhood Advisory Subcommittee Initiative*, *the Rally for Peace*, and *Breaking Bread Breaking Barriers* engaged over **500** people, **20** small business owners and **130** natural hair braiders. For the November 6, 2019 elections, our GOTV campaign mobilized **300** immigrant voters.

We also learned why African and Caribbean immigrants do not engage in civic activities, the needs of the small business owners' needs, and the gun-violence related fears and trauma. Access to recreation centers and libraries was also discussed as essential to increase visibility.



AFRICOM is playing a critical role in organizing and hosting leadership training to build the skills of African and Caribbean Community Leaders. Participants at the Census 2020 Champions Training.

\$16,275 Awarded for Digital Literacy and Census Awareness

On November 1, 2019, at the Municipal Service Building, Mayor Jim Kenny congratulated 8 organizations, including AFRICOM, that received the Digital Literacy Alliance Census 2020 grants. The Alliance awarded AFRICOM \$16,275 to support the innovative census outreach efforts.

“AFRICOM will conduct Census2020: African Natural Hair Braiding Shops and Ethnic Restaurants’ Engagement, a city-wide outreach program to reach African and Caribbean immigrants through social avenues such as natural hair-braiding shops, ethnic restaurants, and grocery stores.”

See more about the story on <http://ucreview.com/>



Mayor Jim Kenny congratulating AFRICOM.



Promoting Fair Immigration Policies and Conducting Know Your Rights Information Sessions.

In 2019, our expanded Immigration and Legal Assistance Program offered free services to immigrants and refugees. We joined 5 legislative and collective action campaigns to promote immigration justice.

- *The TPS/DED Caravan,*
- *Shut Down Berks,*
- *Home is Here, March for DACA and TPS*
- *Moving PA Forward,*
- *The Domestic Workers Rights*

PA Is Ready

With continuous funding from PICC, our 2019 *PA Is Ready* Project reached **479** people through **10** community outreach and education events. We also provided up to **68** hours of *Technical Assistance* to community-based organizations, city agencies, individuals, and news media. A total of **122** constituents received legislative advocacy training. We also helped **4** community members develop public speaking skills, build relational power, and improve organizing and civic engagement skills.



Africom’s Community Organizer, Papa Faye leads delegates to the “Home is Here” Rally at City Hall, November 1, 2019.

The Story of Lea: Legal Counsel for Low-income Immigrants is Essential

“How would you feel to know that your husband comes out of jail, you are free, you regained custody of your child from foster care, you do not have to pay any monies back to the State’s Child Protection services, your asylum case is granted, and Nationalities Service Center (N.S.C) has helped you get your first job? In a nutshell, the above is the story of L.W. and her family. From hope to despair and back to hope. Throughout all her tribulations with criminal charges and incarceration at York, P.A, L.W. received support from AFRICOM (fund, referral, representation in court, translation service, clothes.) and NSC (legal representation, asylum application.). Today, L.W is thankful. She is our ambassador and testimony.”



Mayor J. Kenny greeting L. W, and son.

Working With Partners to Build a Culture of Health

In 2019, AFRICOM, the African Family Health Organization (AFAHO), the Multicultural Family Services Center (MCFS), the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA), Better Home Health Care, the Woodland Health Annex, the Sickle Cell Disease Association, Christianity for Living Ministries, the Philadelphia Autism Society, Bartram's Garden and the DBHIDS collaborated to build a culture of health among immigrants.



Helping our Senior Citizens Age with Dignity, ACE Conference, September 14.

Our joint project reached **800 people** through **14 activities**: *Lunch and Learn Series, Christian Community Conversations, Health fairs, and focus groups on topics including Aging Well, Youth Alcohol and Drug Prevention, Christianity and Infertility, Gun-violence trauma, family and friends' fun Day, the Autism Awareness Campaign, the African Caribbean Seniors' Conference, and referrals to health agencies, benefit applications*

We built knowledge about aging, the importance of regular health screening, health insurance, chronic diseases, recreational activities, and drug and alcohol prevention. We also focused on Men's Health to improve health indicators among black men.



"Mothers, children, friends and community members gathered for fun at Bartram's Garden"

Effective Partnerships for healthy communities

"Thank you for generously contributing and collecting donations towards food, drinks, water ice, ice blocks, and your time in support of our 2019 African Family and Fun Day event. ... We had a great turnout and have received wonderful feedback from those that attended. We here at AFAHO would like to thank you for the collaboration from AFRICOM, for your fervent support and strong partnership, and are in support of continuing our partnership with AFRICOM to support our community."

Oni Richards-Waritay,
Executive Director, African Family Health Organization (AFAHO)

"Christianity for Living Ministries is greatly appreciative of the support provided by the Coalition of African Communities. Their provision of food, drinks, and information resources complemented our Christian Community Conversations."

Reverend Christopher Nielson,
Pastor Christian Living Ministries.

Building leadership among immigrant children and young adults through established programs

AFRICOM responded to gun violence, alcohol, and drug-related insecurity by supporting *The Lone Star Soccer program*, the *Sudanese Community Family*, and the *Sierra Leone Youth Association*, and the *Malian Youth Soccer Club*, with the intent to create safer zones for families and children. Over **300** persons attended sports, arts, and cultural programs, which build leadership skills.



Sudanese Community Program

Facilitating Access to Employment

Employment is a significant indicator of wellbeing and is vital for immigrants and refugees. Our employment services included assistance with resume, job referrals, job fairs, job announcements, and assistance with online job applications. To improve efficiency, we welcomed a partnership with JEVS and the Welcoming Center.



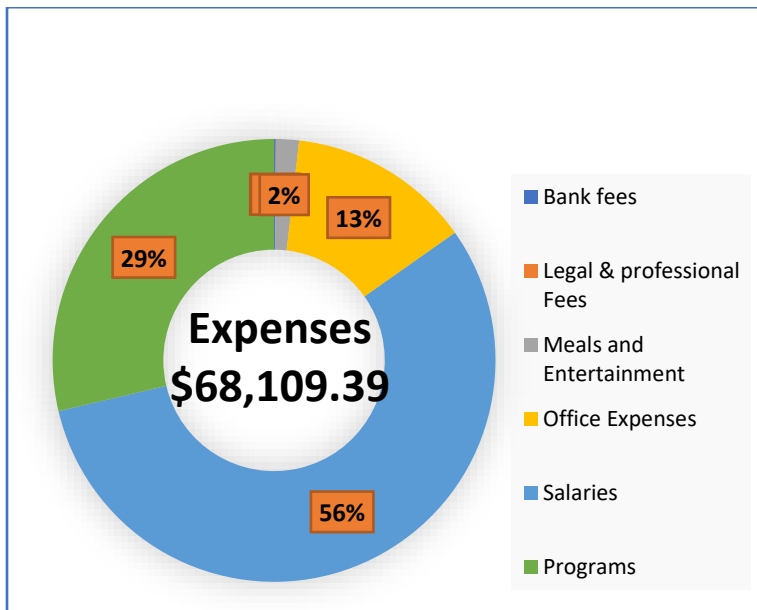
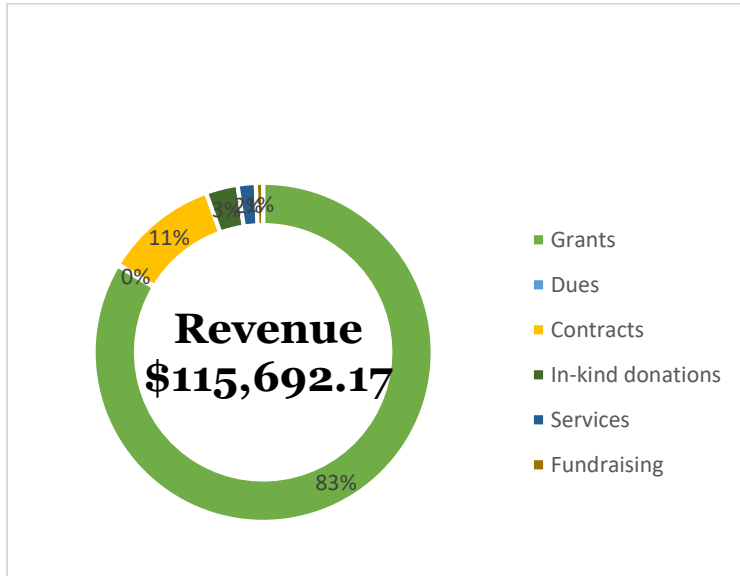
2 African community leaders elected to Southwest C.D.C. Neighborhood Advisory Subcommittee (N.A.S.)

In August 2019, our civic engagement program reached new frontiers with the nomination and the successful election of two African community leaders to the Southwest C.D.C. Neighborhood Advisory Sub-committee (N.A.S.). Foday Turay (Sierra Leone) and Dr. Eric Edi (Ivory Coast/Africom's C.O.O) will serve for two years (2019-2021). They will bring the voice of the Southwest African and Caribbean immigrant communities to the table, help foster intercultural conversations, and improve neighborhood relations.

Foday Turay is known in the Southwest area for his dedication to youth and children through his soccer and after-school program located at 6501 Elmwood Avenue. The election of these two leaders exemplifies AFRICOM's efforts to reduce or eliminate the traditional marginalization of African and Caribbean immigrants from neighborhood affairs.

FY 2019 Financials Summary

January 1 – December 19, 2019



We Thank Our Funders and Donors

AFRICOM is grateful to the foundations, agencies, and individual who made our work possible.

The Samuel Fels Fund
 The Douty Foundation
 The Philadelphia Foundation
 The Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC)
 The City of Philadelphia DBHIDS
 Cade Kids
 The Philadelphia Activity Funds
 The Union of Benevolent Association (UBA)
 The Bread and Roses Fund
 The Digital Literacy Alliance
 The Philadelphia Autism Project
 Power Up

Partners

Organizations and Agencies

Bartram's Garden
AFAHO
Haitian Coalition of Philadelphia
African Caribbean Cancer Consortium (ac3),
The Southwest Community Development Corporation
Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Nationalities Services Center
New Sanctuary Movement
Philadelphia Department of Health,
Philadelphia Autism Project
American Heart Association,
The Sickle Cell Disease Association – Delaware Valley Chapter
Public Citizens for Children & Youth

African Caribbean Business Council (ACBC),
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU),
Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA),
Philadelphia Neighborhood Small Business Council,
The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians,
Multicultural Family Services,
Coalition for Jamaica,
Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Organizations (PANO),
Radio Xalaat,
Mayor's Commission for African and Caribbean Immigrants Affairs

Schools

West Chester University
The University of Pennsylvania
Temple University
Fox Chase Cancer Center
Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School
Penn Community Scholars Program
The School District of Philadelphia

Individuals and Businesses

MinutemanPress,
Funtimes Magazine
African Small Pot Restaurant,
Kings and Queens, Upper Darby
Restaurant le Nile,
Sonia's Restaurant
Nilien Insurance

Elected Officials

Councilwoman Jenny Blackwell, 3rd District
Councilwoman At-Large Helen Gym,
State Representative Joanna McClinton (191st District)
Councilman At-Large David Ob

Board of Directors

Chair: Zemoria Brandon,
1st Vice- Chair: Vera Tolbert, PhD
2nd Vice Chair: Philip Udo-Inyang, PhD
Secretary: Sr. Florence Enechukwu,
Treasurer: Mr. Giordani Jean Baptiste

Raphiatou Noumbissi
Mr. El Hadji Ndiaye
Rev. John Jallah
Mr. Siddiq A.

Executive Officers

President & Chief Operating Officer: Eric Edi, PhD.
Vice-President: Lanfia Waritay, PhD
Education Committee Chair: Camille Kamkaing
P.R Officer / Youth Coordinator: Samuel M. Cole, MBA.
Health & Social Service Aminata Sidibé.
Children Engagement Astan Sacko.

Community Organizer
Papa Faye

2019 Interns

Issa Koroma, W.C.U.
Lisiya Morales, PYN
Latasha Hall, PYN
Momoudou Nianghane

“The mission of the Coalition of African and Caribbean Communities is to advocate and organize so that African and Caribbean immigrants feel a sense of empowerment, belonging, and self-sufficiency”

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