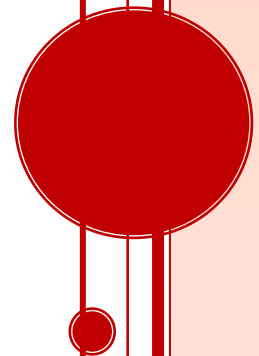


# **OFFICE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS COMMUNITY GRANT ANNUAL REPORT**

FY2014



## THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
GRANT PROCESS.....	3
RECIPIENTS.....	5
MONITORING.....	7
FINANCIALS.....	9

# Office on African Affairs Community Grant Annual Report

FY2014

## INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Mayor's Office on African Affairs (OAA) is to ensure that the full range of health, education, employment, social services, safety, business, and economic development information, opportunities, and services are accessible to the District's African community. One of the ways that OAA accomplished this mission is by funding community-based organizations (CBO) providing services to the District's African residents.

In April 2013, African community-based organizations and community leaders requested that the Mayor and DC Council allocate funds to be distributed competitively to community-based organizations serving Africans. Following this, in 2014, a Budget Support Act title awarded OAA grant-making authority for the first time with the ability to issue funding to community-based organizations serving the District's African residents. With the available funds OAA initiated the **African Community Grant** as its new programmatic area, and solicited grant applications from qualified community- and faith-based organizations that provide programs and services to the District's African constituents.

In its first year, the African Community Grant Program awarded \$100,000 in funding to support projects in priority areas of workforce development, health linkages, youth engagement, and promotion of arts, culture and the humanities.

## GRANT PROCESS

Eligibility criteria for the African Community Grant were: must be a community- or faith-based organization with a 501(c)(3) status; organization or program must serve the District's African residents or business owners; and that the organization or program is located in the District of Columbia.

OAA implemented a four-step competitive process that included:

- Notice of Funding Availability
- Request for Application
- Pre-bidders Grant Orientation
- Proposal Review

### **Informing the Public of Funding Availability**

OAA notified the public of the African Community Grant through OAA’s website, public bulletins, the African Beat bi-weekly newsletter, the Office of Partnerships and Grant Development’s Funding Alert, and via OAA’s network lists and social media platforms. OAA first prepared and distributed a Notice of Funding Availability. The notification targeted CBOs providing services to the District’s underserved African residents in the areas of workforce development, health linkages, youth engagement, and promotion of arts, culture and the humanities.

On Wednesday, April 9, 2014, OAA held its Pre-bidders Grant Orientation meeting at the Edna Cromwell Community Room of the Franklin D. Reeves Center of Municipal Affairs. About 70 participants, mostly community- and faith-based organization representatives, attended the informational session on eligibility criteria and funding priorities. A question and answer (Q&A) session followed the presentation. OAA provided additional assistance and response to queries by interested applicants via meetings, e-mails, phone calls and website postings of relevant FAQs. The Request for Applications (RFA) was distributed on September 19, 2014 and was covered in-depth at the Pre-bidders Grant Orientation meeting.

### **Application Review Process**

OAA recruited eleven grant reviewers using different resources, including: Office of Grants and Partnership’s Funding Alert, emails to community leaders, OAA’s bi-weekly newsletter African Beat, and its network of professionals. The review panel was composed of neutral, qualified

individuals selected for their knowledge of the District’s African community, their experience in grant-making and program development, and their familiarity with funding priority areas. Reviewers were selected based on their experience and knowledge in different areas such as education, public health, the African immigrant community in the District, youth services, nonprofit administration, and evaluations. Reviewers received a slate of applications and evaluation sheets to review, score, and comment on each submission. Each application was read by at least two independent reviewers.

Final scores for each application were developed based on the average of all the reviewers’ scores. OAA staff also reviewed all applications to provide context. The

**OAA implements a four step competitive process that includes: Notice of Funding Availability; Request for Application; Pre-bidders Orientation; and Proposal Review.**

review panel submitted the recommendation for funding to the OAA Director. After reviewing the recommendations and any other information considered relevant, OAA allocated appropriate funding amounts and notified successful applicants.

## **Recipients**

Below are profiles of the community-based organizations that received grants from OAA:

### **• African Women’s Cancer Awareness Association**

Funding Priority Area: Linkages to Health and Human Services (\$10,000.00)

The African Women's Cancer Awareness Association (AWCAA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. AWCAA was established in 2004 by a coalition of African immigrant women health professionals in order to address disparities in awareness, prevention and access to health care for African immigrant communities that face cancer and other life threatening illnesses. The group has grown to encompass healthcare professionals, entrepreneurs, and concerned individuals dedicated to eliminating these disparities within the Washington metropolitan area, the continent of Africa and beyond.

### **• African Diaspora for Change in collaboration with Peace Thru Culture**

Funding Priority Area: Youth Engagement/Arts Culture and the Humanities (\$8,000.00)

The vision of the African Diaspora Change is to dispel the negative images of African descendants and foster true change in perception and policy toward Africa’s people. African Diaspora for Change plans to become the premier organization for the African Diaspora and provide members with access to a robust online community, cutting-edge use of technology, and local resources and programs. Peace Thru Culture, Inc. was founded in 2006 to provide cultural enrichment programs for children and youth in underserved communities via Global Education (Out of School Time Programs and Events); and Global Trek (International Travel). Peace Thru Culture specifically includes programming to support the outcomes of global awareness, leadership skills, communication skills, social responsibility, critical thinking, self-restraint, and literacy support (science, language, reading, math, writing and the arts).

### **• CitiWide Computer Training Center**

Funding Priority Area: Jobs, Workforce, and Economic Development (\$20,000.00)

CitiWide seeks to deliver the highest quality computer technology training to District of Columbia residents leading to industry recognized certification. CitiWide provides its students with effective and affordable training in a friendly state-of-the-art training facility with a dedicated and professional staff and faculty committed to providing a learning environment conducive to productivity.

- **Ethiopian Community Center**

Funding Priority Area: Youth Education and Engagement (\$15,000.00)

The Ethiopian Community Center (ECC), Inc. is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) community-based organization established in the District of Columbia in 1980. The Center is committed to meeting the cultural, social, economic and psychological needs of the immigrant community in their effort to become self-sufficient and contributing members of society in their new country. The Center provides various educational and community services to refugees, immigrants, and the general public in the Washington metropolitan area. ECC clients include newcomers, unemployed and low-income individuals who need counseling and referrals in their effort to achieve economic self-sufficiency and social integration.

- **Ethiopian Community Services and Development Council**

Funding Priority Area: Linkages to Health and Human Services (\$15,000.00)

The mission of the Ethiopian Community Services and Development Council (ECSDC) is to work for the success, common welfare and well-being of the African immigrant community residing in the District of Columbia and to assist in a smooth transitional process to attain self-sustaining status in their new country. ECSDC develops programs and strategies to improve the quality of life for immigrants by community consultation, public education, settlement assistance, and community services.

- **KanKouran West African Dance Company**

Funding Priority Area: Promotion of Arts, Culture and the Humanities (\$12,000.00)

KanKouran was formed in 1983, in Washington, DC, by Artistic Director Assane Konte and former Director of Music, Abdou Kounta, who grew up together in Dakar, Senegal. After many months of recruiting, training and performing at local venues, the company presented its first full-length concert, “A Visit to Africa” in 1985. And with that performance, an institution was born. Although many dancers and drummers have come and gone, to this day KanKouran continues under the leadership of its co-founder/Artistic Director, Assane Konte. KanKouran’s immediate future is devoted to the establishment of an African Cultural Center. This Center will serve as a model to educate the community in order to foster a greater understanding of and appreciation for pan-African and cross-cultural artistic cooperative endeavors.

- **Many Languages, One Voice**

Funding Priority Area: Youth Education and Engagement (\$10,000.00)

Many Languages One Voice (MLOV) fosters leadership and facilitates community-led initiatives to increase the meaningful inclusion of people in the District of Columbia who do not speak English as their primary language. MLOV’s work consists of advocacy and

community organizing. MLOV advocates by administering the DC Language Access Coalition, which strives for government accessibility to limited/non-English proficient individuals.

• **Oromo Community Organization**

Funding Priority Area: Youth Education and Engagement (\$10,000.00)

The Oromo Community Organization (OCO) of the Washington metropolitan area was established in 1988 to assist Oromo immigrants overcome challenges of resettlement and starting a new life in the U.S. The OCO fosters a unity of purpose and networking among community members to foster support and to promote the preservation, continuity, and development of Oromo language, culture, and traditions.

## **MONITORING**

### **Monitoring and Grant Oversight**

To ensure that services are reaching our African residents through the funded programs, OAA implemented an oversight process that includes written documentations (e.g., financial and program reports) and on-site consultations (e.g., site visits, meetings).

For quarterly written reports, OAA reviews expenditure receipts to help ensure that budget is spent within designated allocations. Grantees sent OAA written reports to document program progress; the reports include a table of each grantee’s performance measures and their accomplishments.

OAA also conducted on-site consultations to observe ongoing funded programs, informally interviewing clients to collect feedback and meeting briefly with Program Manager/s to discuss progress and concerns. OAA keeps a report of site visits on file.

### **Highlights of Grant Outcomes**

It is to be noted that for this particular grant cycle, the eight grantees awarded received funding and conducted programs in the final quarter (Q4) of FY2014. Despite time constraints, two of the eight grantees exceeded their target measures. Some of the impressive works of these programs include:

- A combined 4,122 outreach and engagement touches to African residents were recorded by African Community Grantees informing constituents about services and programs available to them;

**There were a combined 4,122 outreach and engagement connections made by FY2014 OAA Grantees**



- 68 African youth participated in the three youth programs funded
- One group exceeded its reach by 75+ participants
- Four organizations used collaboration methods which resulted in an increase in referrals and shared resources.

<b>ORGANIZATION NAME</b>	<b>FUNDING PRIORITY AREA / AMOUNT</b>	<b>TARGET MEASURE</b>	<b>ACHIEVED MEASURE</b>
African Women's Cancer Awareness Association	Linkages to Health and Human Services \$10,000.00	400 clients served	475 clients served
African Diaspora for Change/Peace Thru Culture	Youth Engagement/Arts Culture and the Humanities \$8,000.00	20 students	17 students
CitiWide Computer Training Center	Jobs, Workforce, and Economic Development \$20,000.00	25 clients served	21 clients served
Ethiopian Community Center	Youth Education and Engagement \$15,000.00	30 youth	35 participants + 11 volunteers
Ethiopian Community Services and Development Council	Linkages to Health and Human Services \$15,000.00	625 clients served	487 clients served
KanKouran West African Dance Company	Promotion of arts, culture and the humanities \$12,000.00	3,000 concert and conference participants	2,800 concert and conference participants
Many Languages One Voice	Youth Education and Engagement \$10,000.00	Qualitative outcomes detailed	63 clients served

Oromo Community Organization	Linkages to Health and Human Services \$10,000.00	300 clients served	204 clients served
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**Financials**

The chart provides a breakdown of the \$100,000 used for OAA’s African Community Grant.

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN	
ORGANIZATION	FUNDING AMOUNT
African Women’s Cancer Awareness Association	\$10,000.00
African Diaspora for Change/Peace Thru Culture	\$8,000.00
CitiWide Computer Training Center	\$20,000.00
Ethiopian Community Center	\$15,000.00
Ethiopian Community Services and Development Council	\$12,000.00

KanKouran West African Dance Company	\$10,000.00
Many Languages One Voice	\$10,000.00