Dear friends,

When African and Caribbean community leaders formed the Coalition of African Communities (AFRICOM) in 2001, they envisioned a long-standing body to advocate for and support African and Caribbean immigrants’ integration into Philadelphia.

Celebrating 15 years of service clearly means that we are fulfilling this vision.

In 2012, AFRICOM shifted its priorities and approaches. We have established numerous partnerships, joined larger local, state, and national organizations and agencies, created new programs and projects, expanded relationships with donors, strengthened the board of directors, generated more revenues, and created a better path to sustainability.

This 2016 report celebrates these achievements and indicates how critical it is to work with AFRICOM to develop comprehensive plans to ensure that immigrants get effective assistance for access to healthcare, legal assistance, employment, housing, that researchers conduct research, that policy-makers design comprehensive policies, that community leaders are trained to be effective leaders.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Executive officers, we thank all our partners and donors and invite all communities to join in the movement. Our direction is clear.

Zemoria Brandon       Eric Edi
Board Vice-chair      Executive Director
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Zemoria Brandon Eric Edi
Board Vice-chair Executive Director

Funders and Partners

Our accomplishments are possible thanks to the generosity of individuals, foundations, business owners and organizations that we have had the honor and privilege to work with:

**Funders**

The Philadelphia Foundation  www.philafound.org
African Audio Video  www.africanaudiovideo.net
AllState  www.allstate.com
The Douty Foundation  http://www.doutyfoundation.org/
Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA)  www.pcacares.org
Philadelphia Activities Fund (PAF)  www.pcacares.org
Multicultural Family Service Center (MCFSC)  http://multiculturalcommunityfamilyservices.org/
African Family Health Organization (AFAMO)  www.africanhealth.org
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC)  http://paimmigrant.org/
Nilien Insurance

**Partners**

The University of Pennsylvania  www.sfac.us
Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School  www.ac3online.org
African Caribbean Cancer Consortium (ac3)  www.ac3online.org
The Southwest Community Development Corporation (SWCDC)  http://southwestdc.org/
MinutemanPress
Haitian Coalition of Philadelphia  www.haitiancoalition.org
Philadelphia Department of Health  www.phila.gov/health
Philadelphia Autism Project  http://www.paaautism.org/phillyautismproject
United African Organization  www.uniteafricans.org
Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church
Nationalities Services Center  www.nscophila.org
Office of Councilwoman Helen Gym  http://phlcouncil.com/HelenGym
New Sanctuary Movement  www.sanctuaryphiladelphia.org
Funtimes Magazine  www.funtimesmagazine.com
American Heart Association  http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/
The Sickle Cell Disease Association – Delaware Valley Chapter  www.sicklecellidisorde.com
Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY)  www.pcy.org
Tickets for kids  www.ticketsforkids.org
Radio Xalaat  www.radioxalaat.com
African Caribbean Business Council  www.acbphilly.net
African Small Pot Restaurant  http://www.africansmallpot.com/
African and Jamaican Kitchen  http://www.africansandjamaicanskitchen.com/
Board of Directors

Chair
Mr. Giordani Jean-Baptiste
C.E.O E.Z Language Translation and Interpretation Services
Haitian Coalition of Philadelphia

1st Vice-Chair
Mrs. Zemoria Brandon
Sickle Cell Disease Association - Delaware Valley Chapter

2nd Vice-Chair
Vera Tolbert, PhD
Liberian Association of Pennsylvania
Delegation Oversight Specialist, Independence Blue Cross

Secretary
Ms. Raphiatou Noubissi
Cameroonian Association of Pennsylvania
Social Worker

Treasurer
Mr. Chima Orji
Owner and Manager
African Cultural Center

Dr. Philip Udo-Inyang
Nigerian People Forum
Associate Professor of Engineering, Temple University

El Hadji Ndiaye
Manager, Radio Xalaat
Community Liaison, Philadelphia Department of Housing

Rev. John Jallah
Liberian Association of Pennsylvania
Assistant Pastor

Sister Florence Enemenchukwu
Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Executive Officers

President and C.O.O
Eric Edi, PhD.
Philadelphia University

Vice President
Dr. Lanfia Waritay
Project TAMAA

Education Committee Chair
Mr. Camille Kamkaing
Special Education
President Cameroonian Association of Philadelphia

Public Relations Officer / Youth Coordinator
Mr. Samuel M. Cole, MBA
Bank Secrecy Act Specialist Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union

Health and Family Wellness Chair
Ms. Aminata Sidibé
Community Outreach, Action Aid

Children Engagement Chair
Mrs. Astan Sacko
Owner and Manager
AFRICOM at a Glance

History
Founded in 2001, AFRICOM is the umbrella organization of African and Caribbean communities and faith-based organizations.

Mission
AFRICOM’s mission is to empower the African and Caribbean communities and facilitate their integration into the social and economic fabric in the Greater Philadelphia area. AFRICOM seeks to achieve this mission by: facilitating families and individuals’ access to health and social services, with special focus on women, children, and the youth, promoting economic development, facilitating resolution of inter and intra-group conflicts, advocating on issues of concern to African communities, educating the media and broader public on African cultures and experiences.

Programs
The Coalition of African and Caribbean Communities operates several programs in partnership with agencies and other non-profit and community-based organizations. The most important programs are:

- African and Caribbean Business Development
- Education and Culture
- Immigration legal Assistance
- Advocacy
- Data collection
- Need assessment
- Grant writing
- Community Livelihood / Support
- Health and social services
The Population We Serve

“Sub-Saharan Africans are among the fastest-growing groups of US immigrants.”

AFRICOM-Philly serves the growing African and Caribbean Immigrants and refugees in the greater Philadelphia Area. According to Global Philadelphia, there are an estimated 50,000 African immigrants living in the Greater Philadelphia area, representing a variety of nations, cultures, languages and religions. (https://globalphiladelphia.org/communities/african)

Where do they come from?

The Migration Policy Institute (www.migrationpolicy.org, 2015) estimates that there are 837,159 foreign-born immigrants in Pennsylvania.

65,969 or 7.9% of foreign-born Pennsylvanians were born in Africa. African Immigrants in Pennsylvania come from: Eastern Africa (1.6%), Northern Africa (1.5%), Western Africa (3.5%), and the Middle and Southern African (0.8%).

Like U.S immigration trends, African immigrants in PA come from diverse countries. In Pennsylvania and especially in the Greater Philadelphia area, the largest contingents of African immigrants are from Liberia, Nigeria, Eritrea, and Ethiopia.

103,442 immigrants in PA come from the Caribbean islands, which is 12.4% of Pennsylvania’s total immigrant population. The largest contingents of Caribbean immigrants come from: Cuba (0.6%), Jamaica (2.3%), and other Caribbean (9.4%).

Where Do They Live in Philadelphia?

African and Caribbean immigrants and refugees are dispersed throughout the city of Philadelphia and the Greater Philadelphia area. Yet the largest contingents live in West and Southwest Philadelphia. North Philadelphia and the northeast section of the city are two other neighborhoods that have seen a good increase of African and Caribbean immigrant and refugee residents.

Liberians: Although Liberians are dispersed throughout the city, there are some concentrations in West and South Philadelphia, Upper Darby, and the Northeast.

Nigerians: Settlement is dispersed throughout the city and surrounding suburbs with no specific neighborhood concentration.

Eritreans: Many Eritreans live in West Philadelphia, where their community center is located.

Ethiopians: The core of Ethiopian settlement has been in West Philadelphia, including University City. Ethiopians also reside in Upper Darby.
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Immigration Legal Assistance Program
Core objectives

Expand immigration legal assistance program
Ensure African and Caribbean immigrants’ accessibility to legal services
Provide training opportunities to community leaders
Increase immigration advocacy
Ensure that AFRICOM expand its scope and participation to immigrants’ rights conferences
Build a legal defense resource

Accomplishments

Know your right information sessions
10 Informational Sessions in Communities.
7 Radio Campaigns
1 Newspaper campaign

Legal Clinics and Screening
2 Legal Clinics for help to apply for immigration benefits without fees
2 Screenings for eligibility to immigration benefits

Leadership Training: Community Navigators
5 Training Sessions
4 community leaders trained
2 enrolled in Basic immigration law curriculum

Immigration updates
Every month AFRICOM immigration committee updates the members of the Mayor’s Commission for African and Caribbean Immigrants’ Affairs on the latest news about immigration laws and immigrants’ integration networks.

Immigrant rights conference
In 2016, AFRICOM attended three nationwide conferences on immigration laws and immigration integration. Participating in these conferences helped build internal capacity and increase the coalitions knowledge and network with other regional and national organizations.
### Information Sessions

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<td>Oct-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov-16</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/7/17</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/14/17</td>
<td>Radio Xalaat, WURD am 900</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/20/17</td>
<td>Radio Haiti</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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**Screening and Legal Clinics**

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<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Capacity Building: Recognition and Accreditation**

AFRICOM is actively seeking accreditation and recognition with the Department of Justice Office of Legal Access Practice (OLAP) to enlarge its immigration legal services and offer better services to African and Caribbean immigrants.

Two accredited representative applications have been submitted.

Once approved AFRICOM will become the second African and Caribbean community-based organization to have the status.

With the recognition and accreditation, AFRICOM is projected to double its services and clients and establish a more financially sustainable program.

**Other immigration-related services**

Translation/interpretation: AFRICOM provided language assistance for 7 new arrivals with USCIS and social Security administration.

Referrals: Over 20 immigrants and refugees were referred to immigration agencies and lawyers for questions and consultations.

Letters of support: AFRICOM provided letters of support for 5 individuals and families applying for immigration benefits including: Legal Permanent Residence, family-based petitions, and adoption.

Immigration Resource Day: AFRICOM collaborated with the Paschalville Library Job Readiness program to host two immigration resource days in May and October 2016.

Stakeholders meeting with USCIS: AFRICOM attended 11 meetings with the United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS). The purpose of these meetings is to ensure AFRICOM has the latest information on immigration services and benefits: asylum, Female Genital Cut, BIA Accreditation process unit, Fee change stakeholders meetings, etc.
The health fair remains a vital opportunity for numerous African and Caribbean immigrants and refugees to receive not only basic medical services and information especially from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, but also other information related to education, immigration, health insurance, financial literacy.

Raphiatou Noumbissi, Chair Health and Social Service Committee.

Keeping the tradition alive, the Coalition of African and Caribbean Communities (AFRICOM) hosted its 16th annual Health, wellness and cultural fair on Saturday, August 27, 2016. For the 7th time, the fair took place at Kingsessing Recreation Center, located 4901 Kingsessing Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19144. The choice of this center as permanent home for the annual health fair is the result of the excellent partnership between AFRICOM and the Center’s management team and the need to make it easy for community members to participate,” says Eric Edi, AFRICOM’s Executive Director and C.O.O.

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Core Objectives

Ensure African and Caribbean communities have access to health services
Increase services to African and Caribbean Seniors
Focus on health awareness campaign and education
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Health Fair 2016

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This year, a children’s corner was erected and graciously manned by three female teenagers offering art work and face painting. The children who visited the corner received bags, crayons and pairs of sandals offered by the School District of Philadelphia. Aminata Sidibe, the co-chair of the health fair, and winner of the 2016 AFRICOM Award for outstanding service said that children and parents were happy to receive those giveaways. The soccer tournament, it brought together three teams representing: Nigeria, Mali and Sierra Leone. Unlike Mali and Nigeria, the Sierra Leone team was participating for the first time. Its young players all high school students were happy to take part to the event. They promised to be back next year. The Mali team won the 2016 championship after defeating the Young Lone Stars of Sierra Leone 2-0 and longtime rival Nigeria 3-2.

The fair record showed 15 agencies and organizations tabled at the event and 200 people including young children, youths, and adults registered. 60% of registered participants were females, which to the satisfaction of the organizers reflects the populations that AFRICOM has served for 15 years. The organizers of the fair were also proud that the Philadelphia Department of Public health community nurses offered HIV, hypertension, diabetes, and other tests. Their presence is a good thing because the purpose of the health fair is also to link uninsured immigrants and refugees to the Philadelphia health centers. Though the number of people, who took the blood test has not yet been communicated yet, it was good to see that some immigrants voluntarily submitted to the blood tests, thus underlining the relevance of the health fair. Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell, Philadelphia 3rd District, who also attended the event could not agree more as she praised AFRICOM’s persistent effort to improving health literacy among African and Caribbean immigrants and refugees.

As AFRICOM looks ahead to the 2017 edition, the health fair committee thanks all partners, sponsors, agencies and community-based organizations that helped organize the 2016 health fair. AFRICOM thanks the following sponsors: Allstate, the Philadelphia Corporation of Aging, Health Partners Plan, the Neighborhood Yes Fund, the Multicultural Community Family Services, the African Family Organization and Funtimes Magazine, the African Audio Video Market, for their financial contribution.

Samuel Cole, Public Relations Officer
Tel: (267) 815 7536
Email: livn2liveagain@gmail.com
Facilitating Communities Access to Health Centers

AFRICOM helped over 60 African and Caribbean families and individuals get service at Health Centers by writing referrals to prove that they reside in Philadelphia.

AFRICOM referred 25 families and individuals to African Family Health Organization (AFAHO)

AFRICOM conducted a yearlong community wide campaign of awareness and education on autism and other unaddressed health issues

Health Fair 2016

Number of Registered Children: 35

Registered Participants: 201

Number of People Screened: 24

Countries of origin: 11
Trinidad & Tabago, Liberia, Sierra Leone, USA, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Cameroon, Ghana, Haiti, Senegal, Grenada, St. Vincent, Mali

Number of Participating Agencies: 22
Business Development
AFRICOM assisted 6 immigrants in locating resources to launch their business, promoted loan access programs through FINANTA and Women Opportunities Resource Center (WORC), and promoted a dozen African and Caribbean immigrant-owned restaurants.

Job Readiness
AFRICOM helped over 10 job-seekers with their resumes, facilitated the application and acceptance of 2 students to attend Job Corps program, and promoted job fairs in collaboration with the Paschaville Library Initiative.

Housing
AFRICOM assisted 5 African immigrants in finding temporary or permanent housing and referred 3 immigrant families to Home counseling agencies for services regarding heat and electricity.

Senior citizens
AFRICOM provided technical assistance and financial support to 3 senior citizens-oriented agencies and services:
AGAPE African Senior Center, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging and the Land Bong Mines Senior Citizens Services.
AFRICOM collaborated with Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) in exploring ways to make services accessible to African and Caribbean seniors, and supported three fundraising events benefiting adult citizens.

Public Department Benefits
AFRICOM helped 15 individuals apply for health insurance and 19 immigrant families apply and obtain SNAP benefits.
The soccer tournament remains the attraction of the health fair and an effective way to conduct health outreach!!! Three teams participated in the tournament this year: Nigeria, Mali, Sierra Leone

Mali 2016 Champion

Nigeria 2016 2nd Place

Sierra Leone Lone Star 2016 3rd Place
Education and Culture

Core objectives

Establish a directory of ESL programs
Collaborate with Philly-OIA on cultural programs and events
Participate in and collaborate with institutions on promoting African and Caribbean cultures
Promote volunteer program
Organize college access workshops for high school students
Create a children program through ticketsforkids

Culture


AFRICOM also sponsored the Penn Museum of Archeology Cultural Event in March 2016.

AFRICOM also presented at the City of Philadelphia, Unity Cup Final Exposition Fair on November 5, 2016 at Citizens’ Bank Park.

AFRICOM spearhead the African and Caribbean communities’ participation in the Bartram’s Garden Community Fund advisory and grantmaking board.
Coalition of African and Caribbean Communities | 19

Education

The first inaugural College Access workshop took place on December 3, 2016 at the Houston Hall, University of Pennsylvania. The event was put together and coordinated by Ms. Christiana Kallon, the Black Women Graduate Association and AFRICOM. Drexel University, Temple University and University of Pennsylvania admission representatives attended the workshop. 35 people attended the event of which 22 high school students, both males and females.

Children’s Program

AFRICOM worked with the School District of Philadelphia to promote awareness of Head Start program in Philadelphia. In June 2016, AFRICOM established a new program in collaboration with www.ticketsforkids.org to offer free tickets to children aged 4 to 17 to attend cultural, entertainment and sports events. AFRICOM has distributed 500 tickets in 2016.

Volunteer Program

AFRICOM’s volunteer Program attracted a pool of students from Philadelphia High schools, colleges, and universities: Romario Brown (Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School-SFACS – Operations), Christiana Kallon (University of Pennsylvania - Education and grant writing), Natalie Dixon (Temple University - Health Fair), and The Black Women Graduate Association (University of Pennsylvania - college Access).

ESL

AFRICOM referred 30 new and limited-English proficient immigrants and refugees to ESL programs and developed a booklet of ESL services in the Philadelphia area.
Linking Hands

AFRICOM collaborated with local and statewide agencies and organizations.

AFRICOM helped Dr. Camille Ragin and the Fox Chase Cancer Prevention Program recruit participants among African and Caribbean immigrants and refugees. 20 participants were recruited.

AFRICOM assisted a high school student, Romario Brown from Sankofa Academy Charter School in conducting and completing his senior research on Jamaican immigrants.

AFRICOM advised and helped a team of researchers from the University of Pennsylvania recruit participants among Ghanaian immigrants.

AFRICOM served as a site of observation for Kristiana Kallon, a Graduate Student at the University of Pennsylvania. She researched the impacts of community organizations on the lives of African and Caribbean immigrants.

Policy


AFRICOM partnered with numerous organizations to craft policies regarding:

- Dream Act
- Drivers’ License for all Pennsylvanians
- Insurance for all children in Pennsylvania
Research and Policy

Research

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## Finances

### Summary

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Total: $28,405
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Balance</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Beginning Balance</td>
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<td>12/31/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending Balance</td>
<td>11,632.14</td>
<td>12/21/06</td>
</tr>
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