

Anti-Racism Commission

2022 Report



Prepared by:

Office of the Director

Illinois Department of Public Health

December 2022

THE ANTI-RACISM COMMISSION

Public Act 102-0209 states a 15-member Anti-Racism Commission be created that is comprised of both legislative and community members.

Commission Purpose

- (1) Identify and propose statewide policies to eliminate systemic racism.
- (2) Advance equitable solutions for Black and Brown people in Illinois.

Commission Tasks

1. Working to create an equity and justice-oriented state government.
2. Assessing the policy and procedures of state agencies to ensure racial equity is a core element of state government.
3. Developing and incorporating into the organizational structure of state government a plan for education efforts to understand, to address, and to dismantle systemic racism in government actions.
4. Recommending and advocating for policies that improve health in Black and Brown people and support local, state, regional, and federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism.
5. Working to build alliances and partnerships with organizations that are confronting racism and encouraging other local, state, regional, and national entities to recognize racism as a public health crisis.
6. Promoting community engagement, actively engaging citizens on issues of racism, and assisting in providing tools to engage actively and authentically with Black and Brown people.
7. Reviewing all portions of codified state laws through the lens of racial equity.
8. Working with the Illinois Department of Central Management Services to update policies that encourage diversity in human resources, including hiring, board appointments, and vendor selection by agencies, and to review grant management activities with an eye toward equity and workforce development.

9. Recommending policies that promote racially equitable economic and workforce development practices.
10. Promoting and supporting policies that prioritize the health of all people, especially people of color, by mitigating exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma in childhood and ensuring implementation of health and equity in all policies.
11. Encouraging community partners and stakeholders in the education, employment, housing, criminal justice, and safety arenas to recognize racism as a public health crisis and to implement policy recommendations.
12. Identifying clear goals and objectives, including specific benchmarks, to assess progress.
13. Holding public hearings across Illinois to continue to explore and to recommend action needed by the General Assembly.
14. Working with the Governor and the General Assembly to identify the necessary funds to support the Anti-Racism Commission and its endeavors.
15. Identifying resources to allocate to Black and Brown communities on an annual basis.
16. Encouraging corporate investment in anti-racism policies in Black and Brown communities.
17. The commission shall submit its final report to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than December 31, 2022. The commission is dissolved upon the filing of its report.

Progress to Date – Accomplishments

- This is a newly established commission and as of December 9, 2022, 10 of the 15 commission positions have been filled.
- The first commission meeting was held December 12, 2022.
- The 2022 report has been submitted.

- Next meeting is to be held in 2023.