

NCAAA

Nebraska Commission on African American Affairs

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY IMPACT REPORT

Leading through advocacy:
Influencing policy to expand access and
opportunity.

Prepared by : NCAAA Staff

2026



Message From the Executive Director

I am pleased to present the Nebraska Commission on African American Affairs Legislative Impact Report. In advance of the current legislative cycle, meaningful progress was made in elevating community priorities through sustained engagement with legislators, state agencies, and key community partners. This work reflects a thoughtful and coordinated approach to legislative engagement, supporting informed decision making throughout the session.



The Commission's efforts focused on supporting legislation across five core areas: crime and restoration, economic development, education, health and wellness, and housing affordability. These priorities represent key drivers of statewide stability and growth, with each policy action considered for its ability to strengthen systems, improve access, reduce barriers, and create tangible outcomes.

This report highlights both the legislative outcomes achieved and the strategies that supported their advancement. The progress reflected here is grounded in strong leadership, meaningful partnerships, and ongoing community engagement, with input from Commissioners, stakeholders, and community voices helping to shape advocacy efforts throughout the process.

Looking ahead, the Commission remains focused on strengthening the connection between policy and community priorities, expanding engagement, and maintaining a results driven approach to legislative work, with continued emphasis on measurable outcomes and transparent reporting.

Mogien "Mo" Boyd



Message From the Legislative Chair

The Commission's participation in this year's session resulted in real movement on issues that matter across Nebraska. Key pieces of legislation advanced in areas that touch everyday life, including public safety, economic opportunity, education, health, and housing.

That progress did not happen by chance. It reflects steady work, strong relationships, and a clear focus on what needed to move forward. Throughout the session, the emphasis remained on staying engaged, being prepared, and making sure important issues were part of the conversation when decisions were being made.

The results outlined in this report speak to what can be accomplished through consistent effort and a practical approach to the legislative process. They represent steps forward that will have a lasting effect across communities.

There is more work ahead, but this session established a strong foundation to continue building on.



Lawrence Chatters

Our Mission

To Advance the social, economic, and political well-being of the African American diaspora in Nebraska.

Our Vision

We envision a state where the African American diaspora thrives, empowered with the resources and opportunities necessary to experience prosperity and uplift their communities.

Legislative Focus

- Crime & Restoration
- Education & Youth Development
- Economic Empowerment
- Health & Wellness
- Housing Affordability



“Effective policy begins with listening, accountability, and a commitment to represent the priorities of the communities we serve.”

Tim Clark, NCAAAA Chairman

Population Insights

5.7%

African Americans and the diaspora make up approximately 5.7% of Nebraska's population statewide. Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

28%-29%

Black Nebraskans make up approximately 5% of the state's population but account for about 28% to 29% of the prison population. More than 2,500 youth were placed on probation in Nebraska in 2024. Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; The Sentencing Project; Vera Institute of Justice; Nebraska Judicial Branch

26.6%

In Nebraska, approximately 24% of Black or African American residents live below the poverty line, compared to about 11% statewide, according to U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey data. Source: U.S. Census Bureau (American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)

81%

Educational outcomes in Nebraska reflect measurable gaps in achievement. The high school graduation rate for Black students is approximately 81%, compared to about 89% statewide, and fewer than 30% of fourth grade students are proficient in reading. Sources: Nebraska Department of Education; National Assessment of Educational Progress

10.2%

Black mothers in Nebraska are 3.2 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes, and Black infant mortality is 12.5 per 1,000 births compared to 6.4 statewide. Approximately 10.2% of Black residents are uninsured, compared to 8.3% statewide. Sources: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; March of Dimes; U.S. Census Bureau

Advocacy Priorities

The Commission actively supported and helped advance key legislation through direct testimony, stakeholder engagement, and ongoing legislative monitoring.

These efforts contributed to the passage of critical measures that impact African American and diasporic communities across Nebraska.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

72

Bills
Monitored

32

of Direct
Testimony

19

Policy
Achievements

15

Legislative
Update
Distributed

8

Advocacy
Campaigns
Distributed

12

Legislative
Engagement
Opportunities

2026 Legislative Advocacy Wins

CRIME & RESTORATION

LB 741: Improves representation and strengthens oversight within key state advisory bodies addressing racial profiling and child welfare policy.

LB 751: Strengthens statewide data collection and coordination to address gaps in reporting and investigation of black women and children missing persons cases.

LB 962: Provides structured support services for justice-involved youth to improve reentry outcomes and long-term stability.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LB 847: Expands apprenticeship opportunities and strengthens workforce development pathways.

LB 921: Strengthens worker protections by improving notification requirements and support during layoffs and workforce transitions.

LB 1044: Modifies business development incentives to support innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth.

LB 1086: Expands access to financial assistance programs that support workforce training and credential attainment.

LB 1205: Increases access to grant funding for business development and innovation initiatives.

2026 Legislative Advocacy Wins

EDUCATION

LB 966: Expands access to school meals to reduce food insecurity and support student health and academic success.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

LB 722: Expands access to substance use treatment services by allowing dedicated behavioral health funding to support individuals in need of care.

LB 912: Establishes a training endorsement to expand the community health workforce and improve access to care at the local level.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

LB 768: Expands financing tools and authority to support the development of affordable and workforce housing across Nebraska.

LB 838: Enhances protections against financial exploitation, improving safeguards for vulnerable and senior populations.

LB 938: Creates a framework to support local infrastructure development and community investment through designated districts.

LB 1067: Strengthens funding mechanisms to expand housing development and improve access to affordable housing.

LB 1135: Enhances local authority to redevelop vacant and underutilized properties to support community revitalization.

NCAAA Target Legislation

In collaboration with our state delegation, Nebraska enacted two bills addressing the makeup of the Racial Profiling and the Nebraska Children's Commission and missing black women and children.

LB741, sponsored by Terrell McKinney, updates the membership of the Racial Profiling Advisory Committee and the Nebraska Children's Commission. The changes are intended to strengthen oversight and ensure these bodies operate with broader perspectives and effective accountability in areas related to law enforcement practices and child welfare.

LB751, sponsored by Ashlei Spivey, requires a study to improve how missing persons cases involving Black women and children are reported and investigated. The study is expected to identify gaps in current systems, enhance coordination among agencies, and support more consistent investigative practices.

Special thanks to Senators Terrell McKinney and Ashlei Spivey for their work and leadership in helping to advance these critical pieces of legislation



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2026 Legislative Engagement

During the 2026 legislative session, the Commission maintained a consistent and strategic advocacy presence focused on advancing priority legislation and keeping stakeholders informed.

The Commission produced and distributed 15 weekly legislative updates to more than 100 community partners and stakeholders, providing timely insights on key bills, hearings, and policy developments. In addition, the Commission led targeted legislative advocacy campaigns, conducted in-person meetings with lawmakers and stakeholders, and delivered in-person testimony on priority legislation to ensure community perspectives were represented throughout the legislative process.

The Commission also convened regular legislative committee meetings to review, analyze, and discuss proposed legislation, supporting informed decision-making and alignment with its policy priorities.

Throughout the session, the Commission leveraged social media platforms to expand outreach and engagement, increasing visibility of legislative priorities and providing accessible updates to a broader audience.



Advocacy Day Training

The Nebraska Commission on African American Affairs held its first Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. & Malcom X Advocacy day on March 26, 2026. The purpose of the event was to educate, engage, and empower community members to participate constructively in Nebraska's policy making process while advancing the Commission's legislative priorities. Additionally, participants were given the opportunity to provide input on issues pertaining to the Commission's strategic focus areas.

100% of event survey participants reported that their understanding of the legislative process improves and that they would increase their legislative engagement in the future.

“Advocacy Day was a powerful reminder that the people can influence extraordinary change through unity and action. It was an honor to be part of this and I look forward to continue standing with my brothers and sisters as we continue to strive for our families and communities.”

Jason Wittmer
ACLU

