



"THE TIPPING POINT IS THAT MAGIC MOMENT WHEN AN IDEA,
TREND OR SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CROSSES A THRESHOLD,
TIPS, AND SPREADS LIKE WILDFIRE ."

Malcolm Gladwell

Iowa Commission on the Status of African Americans

Culver - Judge Administration



Preparing for 2009!

We hope that you find this newsletter informative as we explore all possibilities to keep our constituency and the general public informed about various matters that affect Black Iowa.

We are committed to helping the Culver/Judge Administration Create One Iowa with One Unlimited Future.

The past fiscal and calendar years have been replete with both triumphs and tragedies. On the national and international levels, millions are excited about the promise that the first African American president-elect seems to be willing to bring to the national office; on a more local level, we are still losing too many of our youth, our babies—either to domestic violence and sexual assault, or to a criminal marginalization of our youth via systems that create an illegitimate and unwarranted racial disparity.

The good news is this: via the Ongoing Covenant with Black Iowa (OCBI) Initiative and several state and private collaborations, we are working to address and redress our problems to help make Iowa stronger. On Monday, December 22, 2008, the Iowa Commission on the Status of African Americans shared the following proposals with Governor Culver:

2009 OCBI Proposals*

(We realize that some of these requests will now be tempered by our new economic realities)

- **Program Budget:** In addition to appropriating dollars for the current staff of the Division, there needs to be an ongoing line item for the development and implementation of programming (\$100,000) as well as appropriate clerical support (\$30,000);
- **MLK, Jr. State Observation:** The funding for the annual King Celebration should be borne by the State of Iowa and sponsored by the Division. This financial support would be supplemental to the above program budget, to the tune of \$30,000 to \$40,000;
- **Community Treatment Resource Center:** To reduce the racial disparity within all facets of the criminal justice system in Iowa, reentry programs designed to address the recidivism rate particularly of African American males and alternative-to-prison programs for nonviolent offenders must be put into place. In places where there is a critical mass of African Americans in the state, the establishment of reentry initiatives, including a physical structure within identifiable Black communities, need to be instituted. Each facility should cost approximately \$1.5 to \$3 million—depending upon local needs and location. Furthermore, staffing of these facilities should be appropriate in consultation with the Department of Correctional Services and community members; a minimum of two staff

persons, a supervisor and probation/parole officer would be about \$150,000, plus administrative and/or clerical support [*one model that is currently realizing success is Spectrum Resources (Jerald Brantley/Charles Spencer)—and they have submitted a proposal for statewide consideration*];

- OCBI Project: Support for the proposed five-year plan of the Ongoing Covenant with Black Iowa (OCBI), including annual gatherings such as the Summit and the hiring of community representatives in the ten target areas to help implement the multifaceted initiative to improve the quality of life of Black Iowans must be backed up by dollars supported by the Governor's Office and the state legislature to cover the multiyear project to the tune of \$250,000 per year;
- Educational and Recreational Afterschool and Summer Programs: Investing in minority children and youth must be exemplified on the state level by funding after school educational and recreational programs. These programs would offer tutoring, mentoring skills training, cultural growth, and physical fitness activities to attack the educational achievement gaps and to foster self-appreciation and social outlets that would eliminate the rail-to-jail syndrome. \$30 million (\$3 million per 10 targeted areas of the OCBI)

**[This printed 2009 OCBI Proposal language submitted by our current ICSAA Chair]*

There are other specific proposals, like this one originating with ICSAA:

- Micro Business Initiative (involving a micro loan program): We would like to introduce a government sponsored program in select cities that would administer loans of \$500-\$10,000. It is expected that \$50,000-\$100,000 of seed money per city will be needed, and administration of the fund would be citizen-based, much like the State of Arkansas "Good Faith Loan Program". This program was patterned after the highly successful Germeen Bank experiment in Bangladesh.

We will keep you updated about various ICSAA developments. Enjoy your holidays, and be safe.



Chester J. Culver, Governor

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The Ongoing Covenant with Black Iowa: Helping the Culver/Judge Administration Create One Iowa with One Unlimited Future