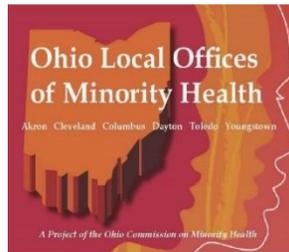


Ohio Commission on Minority Health Local Offices of Minority Health Project



In 1987, the Ohio Commission on Minority Health was the first effort of its kind in the nation with the creation of a state agency focused on addressing the health disparities of Ohio's racial and ethnic populations. With the increasing growth State Offices of Minority Health, in 2005 the OCMH piloted the creation of the National Association of State office of Minority Health – (NASOMH) to promote and protect the health of racial and ethnic minority communities, tribal organizations and nations, by preventing disease and injury and assuring optimal health and well-being. Having a national strategy established, in 2007 the OCMH moved to create an infrastructure and presence at the local level through the establishment of the Local Offices of Minority Health within urban areas in Ohio. These offices are located in Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, and Youngstown.

This initiative became the first of its kind by a state agency in the nation. In an effort to develop a model for the nation, the OCMH spearheaded the creation of national performance standards and/or core competencies for Local Offices of Minority Health in collaboration with NASOMH.

The four (4) competencies of the local offices of minority health are as follows:

Monitor Health Status:

- Attentively monitor the vital statistics and health status of racial/ethnic minority communities disproportionately at higher risk than the total population for disease and injury.
- Assess and monitor health care workforce diversity.
- Identify existing structural and systemic barriers/threats to quality public health and health care delivery, receipt and utilization for racial/ethnic minority communities.
- Develop health status and service utilization database on/for racial/ethnic minority communities.
- Regularly disseminate information on health status, access, utilization, costs, and outcomes of healthcare for racial and ethnic communities.
- Publish fact sheets; use website for data, analysis, etc., link to pertinent documents developed by others)
- Gather, stimulate, coordinate and analyze health status and then translate solutions through action via the remaining three (3) competencies.

Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.

- Enhance community awareness strategies to address the health and health related issues of racial/ethnic minorities.
- Ensure the development of culturally and linguistically appropriate health promotion/education, materials, messages, and social marketing campaigns for racial/ethnic minorities.
- Facilitate appropriate assessment and evaluation of health promotion/disease strategies tailored for racial/ethnic minority communities.

Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems

- Engage racial/ethnic communities in planning, development, and evaluation of beneficial programming designed for the communities.
- Seek potential federal, state, local, and private funding sources to support the development and implementation of relevant programs and services for minority communities.
- Provide training and ongoing technical assistance to ensure the fiscal, programmatic, and administrative viability for minority and minority serving organizations to provide relevant services.
- Establish strategic and mutually beneficial alliances with public/private entities that further federal, state, local racial/ethnic minority communities and nation's goals for good health.
- Facilitate the development of multi-cultural coalitions to adequately address the health of racial/ethnic communities.

Develop Policies that support individual and community health efforts.

- Develop public health policies and practices that are culturally and linguistically appropriate based on on-going monitoring of health status and needs of racial/ethnic minority communities.
- Develop mechanisms by which public health program and service resources are allocated based on multiple data sources (quantitative and qualitative).
- Establish demonstrable strategies and measurable objectives (as a component of quality improvement) to ensure the health needs and perspectives of racial/ethnic minority communities are integrated into all domains of the public health and human service systems.

In addition, each LOMH is required to develop an advisory council that is responsible for the administration of the LOMH activities. This council must have representation of the racial and ethnic populations that are the primary focus on the Ohio Commission on Minority Health: African American, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and American Indian. The Advisory council must support efforts to achieve the four core competencies, which were developed by the National Association of State Offices of Minority Health. Given the content and policy level focus of the core competencies, it is essential that the advisory council has representation from the systems, which impact health.

The Ohio Local Offices of Minority Health, a grant program extension of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health are dedicated to eliminating health disparities in minority communities through monitoring and reporting the health status of minority populations, informing, educating and empowering people, mobilizing community partnerships and actions and developing policies and plans to support health efforts.

The Commission does not certify Local Office of Minority Health and does not have a certifying or licensing authority in the State of Ohio.

Due to limited funding, the Commission is unable to expand this effort to other cities. The Commission continues to seek potential funding streams to stabilize the current six local offices of minority health and to expand to other counties in Ohio.