

July Meeting

Juneteenth

Rather than choosing a specific day, History Made by Us, a network of museums and historical organizations, has instituted a nationwide civic season running from Juneteenth through July 4, encouraging exhibitions, lectures, programs, and volunteering.

<https://www.thecivicseason.com/>

- Endorse legislation to promote a civic season through engagement in history and civic participation including paid holidays of Juneteenth and July 4th.

August Meeting

The commission identified three signature industries in the state of Kentucky--agriculture, bourbon, and equine--which historically have barriers to entry for underrepresented to engage.

Recommendation to promote access and opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, and business ownership in these areas.

- In equine, the Ed Brown Society requested state funding for an ongoing \$50,000 per year contribution to the scholars and fellows fund.
- In bourbon, Fresh Bourbon discussed challenges in the industry stemming from people's prejudices and misconceptions about their company. Particularly in banking, which is built largely on prior relationships and connections, Fresh Bourbon has encountered difficulties in securing capital and scaling their operation in ways that other companies have not. Mr. Edwards noted that the

federal government provided \$117 million to Kentucky to invest in underrepresented communities for innovation and opportunities. The state directed those funds to Keyhorse Capital, which has not been open to communication with Fresh Bourbon.

September Meeting

The commission heard testimony concerning the challenges of housing from several organizations including Jubilee Jobs, Habitat for Humanity, Commerce Lexington, and the private sector.

Endorse legislation:

- Budget consideration for subsidy for transitional housing, expanded case management services for reentering citizens and ensuring reentering citizens have work ready documents.
- Support local banks and urge regulators to recognize Community Reinvestment Act credits for affordable housing projects through collaborative investment funds.
- Renew investment in new market tax credit program to help banks deploy capital to housing projects.
- Extend the time-period for historic tax credit programs to allow for project completion.
- Create new Kentucky Low Income Housing Tax Credit to increase access to housing capital for developers.
<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/21rs/hb142.html>
- Increase investment in the Kentucky Affordable Housing Trust Fund/Rural Housing Trust Fund. (Currently \$6 under KRS 64.012)

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=54201>

- Expand access to state housing funds for workforce housing projects.
- Consider state tax credit program to support contributions to affordable housing organizations.

October Meeting

Access to primary care continues to be one of the biggest impediments for successful healthcare for geographical areas of Kentucky. Dr. Edward Miller presented several recommendations to increase long term health care benefits for Kentuckians.

- Invest in primary care infrastructure including recruitment and retention of medical students into primary care, integration of comprehensive primary care and strengthening a workforce pipeline.
- Improving the way we pay for care so that providers are paid for delivering the right care to the right patient at the right time.
- Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary care, moving closer to Medicare parity. (SB 54 directs Medicaid Services to study and examine Medicaid reimbursement rates)
- Endorse legislation to provide access to birthing centers which would expand access to postpartum coverage, services, and benefits as well as increase access for doula services.