



# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

## **Purpose of the Organization**

The District of Columbia Commission for Women serves as an advocacy organization for individual empowerment and social, economic and gender equity. The Commission works together with the District of Columbia Office on Women's Policy to assess the status of women and girls and recommend strategies for improvement.

## **Objective**

To foster economic and social equity and an improved quality of life for women and their families, through constructive partnerships and service as the community's liaison to District government.

## **Background**

The District of Columbia Commission for Women was established by Executive Order in 1967 as the DC Commission on the Status of Women, and authorized by law in 1978 as a permanent unit of government within the Executive Office of the Mayor.

The Commission is comprised of twenty-one (21) Commissioners appointed by the Mayor to represent the city's eight (8) wards and overall female population. Commissioners work without compensation, and lend a vast amount of experience and expertise in community services, education, law, health and social welfare. Each Commissioner is responsible for a committee or task force assignment intended to define and articulate women's issues and facilitate solutions.

The Commission serves as a clearinghouse for women's concerns, as well data, best practices, relevant programs, policies and research. Its outreach activities and community-based services involve partnering with individual stakeholders, government agencies and non-government organizations to ensure that District government envisions its programs and services through a gender lens, maintains fairness in its policies and applies resources in a way that ensures women and girls throughout the city have the support they need to reach their full potential.

The District's unique jurisdiction affords the Commission its role as local and state representative to the National Association of Commissions for Women.