

Dr. Peggy S. Hicks

Summary of Qualifications

- Effective administrator with over thirty years of experience in community organizing, grant writing, non-profit and community development, and advocacy experience. Recent grant reviewer former federal grant reviewer Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority(ICJIA) R3 grant, also former grant reviewer with the Department of Justice, Juvenile Justice Division grant division.
- Adept multi-task, sought-after community consultant, influencer, and thought leader.
- Minority and female small business owner.
- Twenty-five plus years of experience administering federal, state, and city-funded programs. Administered grants from Illinois Department of Health and Human Services, United Way, Summer Youth Grants, Block Grant, AmeriCorps VISTAS grants, Drug-free community mini-grant, and numerous others.
- Served as Project Evaluator for numerous at-risk after-school projects (AmeriCorps Vista, God's Gym in-school(alternative program), Department of Human Services Summer Youth Works grant, Drug Awareness grant, AAMOU mentoring program, and H1NI health grant, and other evaluation projects with Oliver Consulting. Evaluation work SWOT analysis for several not for profits.
- Current consulting contract with AAMOU COVID-19 grant, Illinois Department of Public Health, Angel Family Ministries, Fox Valley Vision Organization, Illinois Black Providers Network, Accion Latina USA, Enlace, Few Good Day's, JET petitions, and various others.
- Previous contracts include the Illinois Public Health Breast Cancer Screening project to improve minority access, marketing for a major wireless service. A former consultant to Illinois Area Project, Project USA, Anti-Bullying Project, Afterschool STEM, East Aurora District 131, Century 21 program, AAMOU Summer STEM, College and Career Readiness, and numerous others. Oliver Consulting, REM Services, Latina Accion USA, Chicago Area Project, and Illinois Area Project.
- Over twenty-plus years of government and community relations. Worked also, as a consultant for the Illinois Department of Public Health (H1N1 Community Outreach Project), Chicago Area Project (Summer Youth Employment Pneed), developed a need's assessment for Mayor Sam Payton of Pembroke Township and provided consulting services to numerous faith-based institutions.
- Doctoral in Philosophy, Community Psychology, Dissertation Equity in Education: Urban Teachers, MultiCultural Style, Liberating Pedagogy, Empathy with Students. The focus of my dissertation was to understand if teachers understand the lived life of students of color from low-income communities. I am inspired to increase educational opportunities for students from low-income families and decrease the achievement gaps of minority students in Illinois. Additionally, encouraging a liberating and culturally relevant pedagogy.

- A talented strategical person with fifteen plus years in non-profit organizational development and grant writing experience, developed ongoing needs assessments and strategic plans, wrote bylaws, program plans, and completed 501(c) 3 status for several organizations. Organized and founded a college mentoring group called YoBac.
- Spent numerous years organizing neighborhood groups and residential councils. Former appointed member of the State of Illinois Poverty Commission.
- Strong community leader, currently Chairman for Aurora Community Resource Team & Team Illinois Aurora, a state community stakeholder group. During my leadership, I secured \$900,000 for a new daycare facility and additional funding for other crucial not for profits. Current President of the Fox Valley Christian Ministerial Alliance(FVCMA), a religious organization that empowers the community and parishioners. (First Female elected,2017)
- Hosted numerous Foundation Café events where over seventy-seven (77) organizations attended to get the latest grant writing techniques. Able to secure Keynote Speaker Joyce Thomas from President Obama's Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships office. Organized and facilitated numerous Leadership Development Workshops and had a significant leadership role in helping Katrina victims in Aurora.
- Served as a member of the Aurora Concerned Citizen and Department of Justice mediation team. Completed FBI community training and received a certificate. Former Chairman of the City of Aurora Civil Service Commission served two terms as Vice-Chairman.

Professional Experience

Hicks-Wrights Organization, 522 North Lake Street, Aurora, IL 60506

President

7/1/2019-to Present

- Current consultant for Illinois Department of Public Health, Fox Valley Vision Organization, AAMOU AIM project, AAMOU Family First Project, Healthy and Equity Group, and the Black Provider Network.
- Developed and implemented after-school STEM and STEAMRAH programs for elementary students at risk. The program is currently funded by East Aurora School District 131.
- Key consultant early learning, mentoring, healthy equity, students in crisis, and S.T.E.M.
- Develop and manage marketing and outreach efforts for private and not-for-profit organizations. Designed key operational plans and key action steps.
- Provided research, data collection, market research, surveying, grant writing, and technical assistance to various entities in Kane County.
- Essential evaluator for AAMOU Census contracts through 2020 through the City of Aurora.
- Served as a community crisis manager addressing tough community issues with other stakeholders.
- Strategical Planning, Board, and Staff training.
- Grant writer and evaluator for various not for profits.
- Organized and hosted special events, connecting organizations with key government and foundation personnel.
- Hired key staff for outreach and marketing efforts around education and social service issues.
- Image and branding consulting, public relations, and literature design for various businesses, campaigns, and not for profits.

Peggy Hicks Consulting
President/CEO

5/1/2009-present

- Consulting services to small nonprofits, schools, businesses, and governmental entities.
- Key project evaluator, and consultant manager for AAMOU Century 21 program, Summer jobs and Mentoring program, Accion Latina Anti-Bullying, and numerous others.
- Educational Outreach, Data collection, and Survey design for numerous non-profits.
- Grant writing and new program development for NGOs.
- Organized and hosted community networking events.
- Developed a minority community health prevention outreach campaign.
- community relations, Special events, and overall event planning.
- SWOT and assessment mapping for key funders and community stakeholders.
- Political and Community consulting, managing campaigns, and advocacy work. Former political consultant, Aurora Township candidates, and other local races.
- Develop an operation plan for campaigns, polling, campaign literature, media, and radio relations.

Illinois Coalition for Community Services, 522 North Lake Street, Aurora, IL 60506

Community Development Specialist

8/8/1998 to 4/30/2009

- Identified community needs.
- Organized neighborhood groups and community committees to resolve community issues.
- Planned and hosted seminars and workshops around identified issues.
- Strategic planning and developed annual need assessments.
- Research and data collection for grants and youth statistics.

Other Professional Experience

Political Strategist and Managed Field operations for numerous political candidates.

Foster Parent of the Year Aunt Martha

IMHRA

Illinois African-America Family Advisory Council, 2011-2014

Former Poverty Commissioner

First Female Elected President of Fox Valley Christian Ministerial Alliance 2016-present

Organized YO'Bac 2000

Organized events and mobilized groups along all racial lines.

Team Illinois Aurora Community Resource Foundation, President, 2012-2018

FVCMA general Member 2011

FVCMA President 2019-present

Other Professional Work Experience

Hicks & Lark Construction, President/C.E.O 1996-1999

Carlton Family Services, 202 Campbell Street, Geneva IL

Family Support Specialist

1997 to 2009

West Aurora High School, 1201 West New York Street, Aurora, IL 60506

Clinical Intern/Masters Level

11/01/2002 to 5/2003

Related Professional Experience

President, Fox Valley Christian Ministerial Alliance (First Female elected)

Chairman of Team Illinois Aurora

Center for Family Services, Mentor

Naperville YMCA, Site Director, After School Programs

Aunt Martha's Organization, Professional Specialized and Treatment Foster Parent 12 years

Education

Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice, Aurora University, Aurora, IL - 1982

Master of Arts, Human Service Counseling, National Louis University, Lisle, IL - 2004

Doctorate in Philosophy/ Community Psychology, National Louis University-2020