BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC PLAN



Vision Strategy Plan Success

"A WORLD CLASS TRAINING ORGANIZATION"

2015 - 2019

Approved by the NBoD July 21, 2015

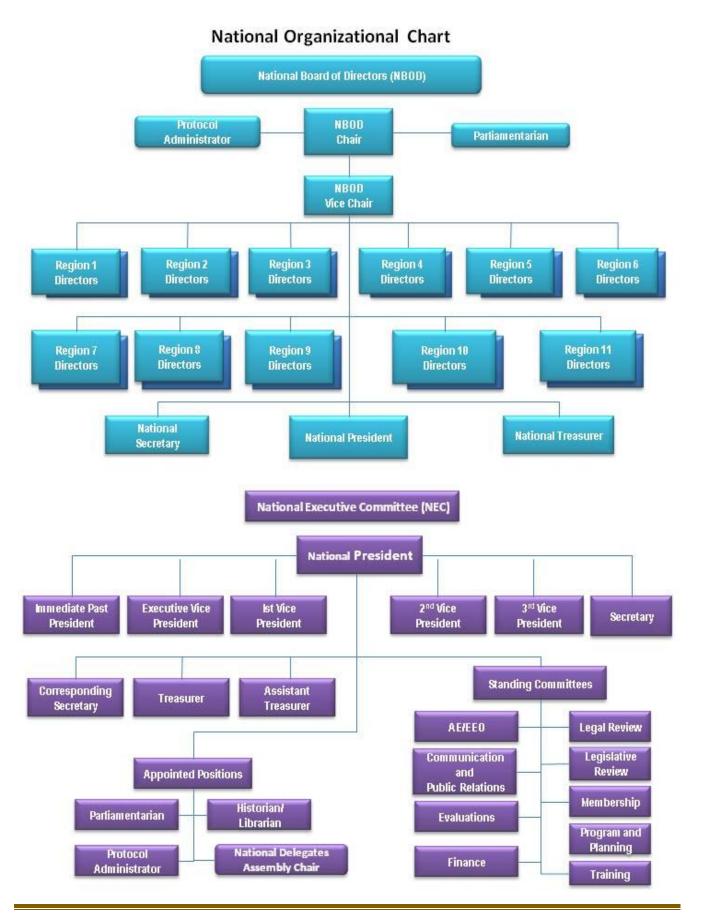


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One of America's Most Influential Organizations
"Thank You For Thinking BIG"
http://www.bignet.org

Message from the National Board of Directors Chair The Honorable Ms. B. Faye Stewart



Greetings My Fellow Blacks In Government Members:

It is with great pride that we the National Board of Directors (NBoD) present our 2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan. Strategic planning is like putting together a puzzle; it requires a significant amount of work before the project begins to take shape. However, with a purposeful strategy it can serve as a very valuable tool in orchestrating the future success of an organization. The Strategic Planning Committee was tasked with reviewing the current plan and updating it to reflect any changes in internal and external norms previously established. The committee assessed each phase of the plan and made adjustments accordingly.

We first established that an integral part of the strategic process was assessing how efficiently the organization was operating. We then performed a SWOT Analysis, which identified Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. The committee ultimately evaluated how well we were executing the organizational mission, realizing goals and effectively aligning financial resources with desired outcomes. In going through this process it became blatantly clear that we must take into consideration that there is a direct correlation between organizational goals and resources needed to achieve those goals.

Recent trends have made us keenly aware of the changing dynamics of a global and government economy. These changes have substantially impacted our ability to be responsive to constituents, due to constraints on our income streams. This is a primary reason why we are taking greater care in identifying how best we can serve you. Consequently, going forward greater emphasis will be placed in identifying programs and earmarking financial resources for programs which have a greater impact and/or meet the needs of a larger segment of our membership base. We are gearing up to do more with less in advocating on your behalf. In the coming months you will be asked to provide feedback on how we can better serve you. Your input matters, so we want to hear back from you!

Strategic planning can be an arduous task, but if we are going to be responsive to the needs of our members and serve you better, it's a task well worth our efforts!

We wholeheartedly thank you for your continued support, and Thank You For Thinking BIG!!!

Respectfully,

Ms. B. Faye Stewart Chair, National Board of Directors Blacks In Government, Inc.

Message from the National President The Honorable Ms. Darlene H. Young



Greeting Members of Blacks In Government,

I'm appreciative that the National Board of Directors committee on Strategic Planning has taken the opportunity to present an operational strategic plan that augments our plight as African Americans serving the public sector as a World Class Training Organization.

This organization plan will focus on four major areas:

- 1) Communication Flow
- 2) Financial Accountability
- 3) Advocacy
- 4) Membership

Members should always remember our Preamble in the Blacks In Governments' National Constitution which states:

We believe that Blacks in government should have the opportunity for full, complete and equitable access to jobs, education, advancement, housing and health services, and that they must have recourse in adverse situations without discrimination because of race.

We further believe that Blacks should unite in order to obtain and secure the rights and privileges of full citizenship participation. It is necessary to develop a mechanism for inclusion, growth and power for all present and future Black employees in Federal, State and local governments.

Therefore, we, the members of Blacks In Government (BIG), in order to act as an advocate for the employment and general welfare of Blacks employed in Federal, State and local governments and to establish a national network of Black Federal, State and local government employees, do hereby establish this constitution for a national organization of Blacks in Government.

Finally, BIG's Goals and Objectives:

- 1) To be an advocate of equal opportunity for Blacks in government.
- 2) To eliminate practices of racism and racial discrimination against Blacks in government.
- 3) To promote professionalism among Blacks in government.
- 4) To develop and promote programs which will enhance ethnic pride and educational opportunities for Blacks in government.
- 5) To establish a mechanism for the gathering and dissemination of information to Blacks in government.
- 6) To provide a nonpartisan platform on major issues of local, regional, and national significance that affect Blacks in government.

This is the foundation that this organization will move the paradigm forward by actively using this Strategic Plan from the National, Regional and Chapter level.

Thanks for the vision to successfully use this strategy plan to continue to enhance the plight of African Americans in the Federal, State and Local vicinities.

Darlene H. Young National President

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE						
NBoD Chair	Honorable Ms. B. Faye Stewart	Region VI	Houston Area Chapter			
NBoD Vice Chair	Mr. Darrell G. Porter	Region VI	Austin Chapter			
Committee Chair	Ms. Edna P. White	Region IX	Sun City Desert Chapter			
	Mrs. Michelle Blackmon	Region VIII	Denver Center Complex Chapter			
	Mr. Wesley Jarmon	Region XI	FCC Benjamin Hooks Chapter			
	Ms. Cheryl Peterson	Region X	VA Puget Sound Chapter			

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

"Develops the National Strategic Plan and oversees the implementation. Responsible for updating the plan as goals are met and new goals are established."

COMMITTEE MESSAGE

The Strategic Planning Committee is pleased to release the Blacks In Government Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2015 through 2019. The Strategic Plan reflects a new strategy to address the shift in paradigm that has impacted BIG and the Federal, State and Local governments.

Economic restraints and a training program built on inclusion are paramount to the future of Blacks In Government. The success of our Strategic Plan depends on the daily efforts of approximately 6,400 dedicated members, located in 11 Regions across the nation, working homogeneously to meet our goals and objectives. In creating the Strategic Plan, we sought the input of the delegates and all levels of the organization. As a result, the plan is a true reflection of our membership and all those who share an interest in the goals and objectives of BIG.

These lean budgetary times require BIG prioritizing its objectives and goals and being realistic in identifying strategies and setting results based accountability measures. Thus, while this plan is forward-thinking, it assumes that **NTI** revenue and budgetary resources must be supplemented over the next three years, with additional funding provided from fundraising, grants and increased membership.

FOUR MAJOR FOCUS AREAS

Four focus areas underlie the Strategic Plan, as we have tried to address ways to make the organization more transparent and encourage Results-Based Accountability. *The focus areas are as follows:*

☑ Communication Flow

☑ Financial Accountability

✓ Advocacy

✓ Membership

<u>Communication</u>: It is critical to the successful execution of this strategic plan that communication is clear, open and flat. Information must flow from our leadership to committee, from committee to committee and to all levels of the organization timely and with integrity.

<u>Finance</u>: If this organization is to be fiscally responsible, it is imperative that the treasurer and FAOC develop a Financial Plan that provides oversight for short and long range spending. All spending must be revenue driven and adhere to policy. Spending must be evaluated for efficiency and effectiveness. Budgets must be flexible and spending managed by cost analysis. In order to maintain the intrinsic value of Blacks in Government, the Treasurer, FAOC, Program oversight, Time and Place and Personnel committees should interact consistently to do cost analysis and provide data to the NBoD to make informed financial decisions.

<u>Advocacy</u>: Our advocacy role should define Blacks In Government as a World Class Training Organization focused on career development and establishing a coordinated Government–Wide initiative to promote diversity and inclusion IAW Executive order 13583.

Partnerships with DoD, OPM and other government agencies should be continued to share strategies and resources. As we redefine and strengthen our relationships with the agencies Executive Order 13583 provides a common lexicon for chapters and agencies to engage in dialogue that addresses EEO statistical data indicating disparities in promotions, awards, details, disciplinary actions, hiring, retaining and firing of government workers as captured in MD 715. Also, to establish a better rapport with all state and local governments to ensure these agencies comply with their respective laws and guidance when dealing with African American employees.

<u>Membership</u>: It is a known fact that the most critical part of Blacks In Government is its members. Our focus should be to consistently retain and recruit members at the federal, state, and local levels. It is also our goal to clearly identify, implement, and communicate initiatives that will show the current and potential members the benefits of being an active member of BIG. Our attempt is to show the members and others that BIG can greatly improve the implementation of its programs, financial position, and advocacy efforts when we have an increasing and strong membership. Our belief is that we are "Strength in Numbers."

RATIONALE FOR REVISION

The revision of the Strategic Plan is designed to enhance the natural nexus between Blacks In Government's Purpose, Vision, Mission, Goals/Objectives, Programs and Strategies. It attempts to link us to our internal and external resources, stakeholders and provide pathways and/or clearer alignments to achieve the organization's vision, with a Results Based Accountability system. This system uses indicators that measure input, process, output and outcomes. These indicators can be identified for our programs, services, and initiatives. In pursuant of Blacks In Government Organization Policy and Procedures Manual Policy #2:14: Subject: Simplified Strategic Plan Reporting Requirements herein lies these revisions for identifiable reports and reporters, timelines, responsibilities and quantitative measures. These efforts will greatly assist us in reaching our goals of Equity, Excellence and Opportunity.

ORGANIZATIONAL DESCRIPTION

Blacks In Government® (BIG) was established in 1975 and incorporated in 1976 by a small group of African Americans at the Public Health Services which is a part of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in the Parklawn building in Rockville, Maryland. The organization was viewed as essential to the Black civil service employee, based on a wide assortment of racially motivated problems faced by the HEW Black employees in Rockville. Initially, it was thought that the umbrella organization would address only the problems at the Federal level. However, it was soon determined that State, County, and Municipal Black employees were faced with the same general type of employment problems. Nonetheless, Blacks In Government was organized in 1975 and incorporated as a non-profit organization under the District of Columbia jurisdiction in 1976. BIG has been a national response to the need for African Americans in public service to organize around issues of mutual concern and use their collective strength to confront workplace and community issues. BIG's goals are to promote EQUITY in all aspects of American life, EXCELLENCE in public service, and OPPORTUNITY for all Americans.

Purpose	An advocate of equal opportunity and professional development for Black government employees at the Local, State and Federal government levels and others dedicated to justice for all.				
BIG Vision	Member focused, world class enterprise, recognized for excellence.				
BIG Mission	Enable all present and future Black employees in Local, State, and Federal governments to have the ability to maximize their career opportunities and provide a mechanism for inclusion, growth and advocacy.				
BIG Guiding Principles	 Be Accountable Commit to Excellence Act with Integrity Take Responsibility Work as a Team Remain Loyal and Dedicated 				

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

BIG functions as an employee support group, an advocacy group and a resource group for Black civil servants.

The stated goals are:

- **I.** To be an advocate of equal opportunity for Black in Government.
- **II.** To eliminate practices of racism and racial discrimination against Blacks in Government.
- **III**. To promote professionalism among Blacks in Government.

- **IV**. To develop and promote programs which will enhance ethnic pride and educational opportunities for Blacks in Government.
- V. To establish a mechanism for the gathering and dissemination of information to Blacks in Government.
- **VI.** To provide a nonpartisan platform on major issues of local, regional, and national significance that affect Blacks in Government.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal I: To be an advocate of equal opportunity for Blacks in Government.

Strategies:

- a) BIG will communicate with government agency officials (and all other employers) the purpose of BIG at least twice per year.
- **b**) BIG **will** create events that would advertise and encourage all minorities to join BIG at the National and Regional levels.
- c) BIG will examine the annual OPM Report Card on federal government and other agencies to compare the statistics to determine the trends of minority employees as it relates to recruiting, promotions, demographics, etc.

Goal II: To eliminate practices of racism and racial discrimination against Blacks in Government.

Strategies:

- a) BIG will meet with agency management officials to point out practices of racism and racial discrimination against Blacks (and other minorities) in government and offer solutions to eliminate unfair practices.
- **b)** BIG **will** use the MD 715 reports to show patterns of racism and racial discriminatory practices at agencies.

Goal III: To promote professionalism among Blacks in Government.

Strategies:

- **a)** BIG's **will** ensure the National Training Institute (NTI) creates and designs venues to offer its members a wide variety of professional development training.
- **b)** BIG **will** ensure that obtaining and enhancing professional development training should be the goal of every employee in the public or private sector.
- c) BIG will offer all of its members the opportunity to become involved in some phase of professional development training on an annual basis.

Goal IV: To develop and promote programs which will enhance ethnic pride and educational opportunities of Blacks in Government.

Strategies:

- a) BIG will promote programs that emphasize ethic pride to its members and to communities that value this Organization by having its own programs during Black History Month and by supporting other Black History Month programs.
- **b)** BIG **will** promote ethnic pride by providing information through the use of pamphlets and brochures at the NTI and other programs BIG sponsors about its own rich history, its members, and the challenges that BIG has faced to advocate equal opportunity in the workplace.

c) BIG will monitor and track government members who complete the Darlene H. Young Leadership Academy on their career advancement opportunities on an annual basis.

Goal V: To establish a mechanism for the gathering and dissemination of information to Blacks in Government.

Strategies:

- a) BIG will gather and disseminate information by using various tools i.e., email & all other electronic communication venues to keep BIG members informed on issues and activities that impact government employees
- b) BIG will develop methods to evaluate the quality of information received by it members.

Goal VI: To provide a nonpartisan platform on major issues of local, regional, and national significance that affect Blacks in Government.

Strategies:

- a) BIG will stay informed about legislative affairs that are important to its members and reports that may be at various stages of approval; and communicate the impact that certain legislative documents would have on public policy that affect BIG members.
- **b)** BIG will emphasize voter education, voter registration, and the need to get out and vote in record numbers.
- c) BIG will assist with organizing those activities independently and with other organizations.

FOCUS AREAS SPECIFIC GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND MILESTONES

FOCUS AREA COMMUNICATION FLOW					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Goal 1 - Institute visits by the National President to at	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
least two Regional Council meetings annually.					
Goal 2 - Enhance the mechanism for gathering and	Ongoing	On-	On-	Ongoing	Ongoing
disseminating information to Blacks In Government		going	going		
membership.					
Objective 2a: Survey the membership on how they would					
like to get information.					
Objective 2b: Create a calendar of events/activities, i.e.,					
NEC and NBoD meetings, visits, etc., and share the results					
to the membership.					
Goal 3 - Continue all current interest groups/activities,	40%	50%	10%	Ongoing	Ongoing
periodically evaluating the need for new					
groups/activities and eliminating groups that have out-					
lived their useful purpose.					
Objective 3a: Consider restructuring of the group to appeal					
to a wider audience.					
Objective 3b: Foster self-government by groups					
responsible for setting up meetings and agendas of the					
greater interest and benefit to the membership.					

Goal 4 - Establish mechanism for small groups to	25%	40%	10%	15%	10%
brainstorm on topical issues.					
Objective 4a: Allow the membership to request to be part of the groups.					
Objective 4b: Allow a topic of interest to be raised by the membership.					
Objective 4c: Establish a mechanism for the membership to submit topics of interests through the BIGNET.					
Goal 5 - Develop methods to evaluate the quality of information received by the membership.	30%	25%	20%	10%	15%
Objective 5a: Posting to the BIGNET and quarterly newsletters, etc.					
Objective 5b: Surveys of the membership at all levels, e.g., regions, chapters, individual members.					
Objective 5c: Standardize reports and management tools to provide transparent, consistent management data across					
programs to measure progress and identify bottlenecks in program activities.					
Goal 6 - Continue to improve the interoperability of the BIGNET website for optimum functionality and content.	30%	50%	10%	5%	5%
Objective 6a: Make the BIGNET more open and accessible to the membership by significantly expanding the amount of information available online about the programs, our funding and our progress.					
Objective 6b: Use of Facebook and You Tube platforms to disseminate information for optimum transparency.					
Objective 6c: Use traditional media outlets (trade shows, speaking venues, community events and other organizations.					

FOCUS AREA FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Goal 1. Increase revenue from new sources	10%	20%	20%	20%	20%	
by at least 10% the first year and						
afterwards, 20% annually						
Objective 1(a) – Rent office space in national						
office building to other organizations,						
professionals, and businesses						
Objective 1(b) – Use the BIG Website for						
small businesses and organizations to						
advertise - Ongoing						
Objective 1(c) – Encourage new and						
innovative ideas to raise money to pay the						

aganization debts Ongoing					
organization debts Ongoing	C 1 1 1				
Currently, the various fundraising initiatives	Completed				
sponsored by the JFK Chapter designated to					
pay the mortgage on the national					
headquarters.					
Loans and donations from chapters, regions,	Completed				
and BIG members.					
Objective 1(d) – Increase membership dues at					
all levels. The will provide additional					
unrestricted revenue.					
Goal 2. Reduce operating costs and NTI	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
obligations by at least 15% annually					
Objective 2(a) - The FAOC and/Board review					
hotel and other contracts prior to the National					
President and National Treasure signing them.					
Note: The reason is to make sure that the					
terms and conditions are beneficial and					
affordable to BIG. Also, ensure that an					
escape clause is in each contract and BIG					
shall use the escape clause to its benefit.					
Objective 2(b) – The NEC and Board ensure					
that the appropriate process is followed to					
make sure that the requested expenditure is in					
the approved budget and there are actual					
funds available before the obligation is made.					
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Goal 3. Improve overall oversight of					
financial operations by the NEC and Board					
daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and					
annually Objective 2(a) The NEC and Board around	Dailer	Daile	Dailer	Dailer	Daile
Objective 3(a) - The NEC and Board ensure	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily
that the appropriate process is followed to					
make sure that the requested expenditure is in					
the approved budget and there are actual					
funds available before the obligation is made.					
Use approved expenditure request forms.	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1
Objective 3(b) – The FAOC conduct the	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly
quarterly credit card review and report to the					
Board the results of its review.					
Objective 3(c) – The Board shall make sure	Annually	Annually	Annually	Annually	Annually
that the bid for the annual audit go out no					
later than the end of the calendar year. This					
will expedite the audit.					
Objective 3(d) – The NEC and Board honor	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
BIG's obligation to repay loans from regions,					
chapters, and individuals.					
Objective 3(e) – Hire a Financial Advisor to	Annually	Annually	Annually	Annually	Annually
provide financial consulting to BIG in order					
to sustain the organization.					

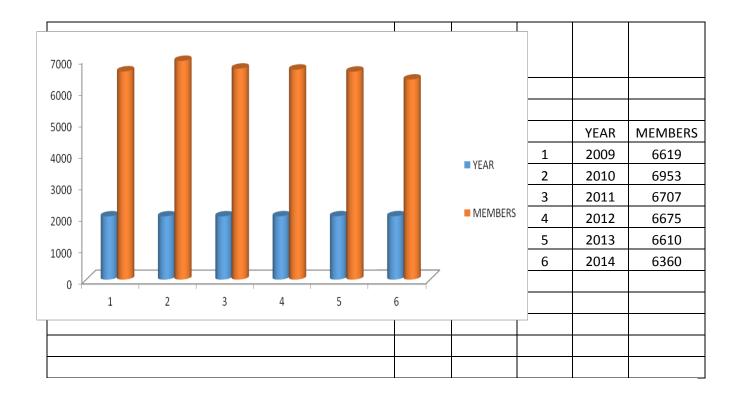
FOCUS AREA ADVOCACY					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Goal 1. Advocate via BIG programs					
Objective 1a – NEC, Regions, and Chapters distribute information emphasizing BIG's advocacy programs via the internet and other media. This emphasis should be done on a quarterly basis. The advocacy programs are on Appendix A (SWOT) Strengths of this plan.	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly
C-12 Eliminata mandiana di mandiana					
Goal 2. Eliminate practices of racism and racial discrimination against Blacks					
in Government at the federal, state, and					
local levels. The BIG programs to					
address this goal are on Appendix A					
(SWOT) Strengths of this plan.					
Objective 2a – Region and chapter EEO Chairs report to the NEC EEO Chair of the effectiveness of the programs on Appendix A (SWOT) Strengths.	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly

FOCUS AREA MEMBERSHIP (RECRUIT, RETENTION, BENEFITS)					
	Year 1 12/31/ 2015	Year 2 12/31/ 2016	Year 3 12/31/ 2017	Year 4 12/31/ 2018	Year 5 12/31/ 2019
Goal 1 - Recruit					
Objective 1a - Increase regular member by for the first year and 10% every year afterwards	5%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Objective 1b - Chapters and regions become more visible and sponsor projects and programs in line with overall BIG goals in their respective areas.					
Objective 1c - Chapters aggressively recruit former members of their chapters via one-on-one -contact, email, and other media.					
Objective 1d - Chapters recruit from current and previous at-large membership listings.					
Objective 1e - Chapters and regions aggressively recruit state and local employees. Chapters, regions and BIG National sponsor workshops, training sessions, and other initiatives that address the needs of the state and local government employees.					
Goal 2 - Retention					

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Objective 2a - Retain membership numbers	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
at a rate of 90% per year					
Objective 2b - Chapters and regions become					
more visible and sponsor projects and					
programs in their respective areas that are in					
line with BIG's vision and goals.					
Objective 2c - Chapters involve all members					
in chapter projects and programs on a					
consistent basis.					
Objective 2d -All chapter and region leaders					
establish and maintain frequent					
communication with their members via					
newsletters, emails, telephone, and other					
means of communication.					
Goal 3 - Benefits To The Members					
Objective 3a - Clearly identify the benefits to	On-	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	On-
current and potential members of BIG.	going				going
Objective 3b –NEC (Evaluation and	12/2015	12/2016	12/2017	12/2018	12/2019
Membership Committees) create and provide					
a survey to all regions to distribute among					
their respective chapters seeking feedback					
from current members and potential					
members in reference to the benefits they					
want from BIG. National and regions should					
establish a deadline for the members and					
potential members to respond and report					
their inputs. If desire by the Board, other					
surveys can be done 2016 and 2018.					
3b - BIG National President and Executive	9/30/2015	4/15/2016	4/15/2017	4/15/2018	4/15/
Committee report on the results of the	1/15/2016	7/15/2016	7/15/2017	7/15/2018	2019
survey; establish a plan of action; and report		10/15/2016	10/15/2017	10/15/	7/15/
the status to the Board on a quarterly basis		1/15/2017	1/15/2018	2018 1/15/2019	2019 10/15/
addressing the question "How would it				1/13/2019	2019
benefit me for joining BIG?"					1/15/
					2020
Notes:					
1. Per the membership data provided by the					
BIG National Office, membership					
decreased during the last six years as					
depicted in the graph below:					
2. The NEC will be asked to provide					
Quarterly membership data to the Strategic					
Planning Committee in order to properly					
measure our progress.					<u> </u>

Revision Date: July 21, 2015

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APPENDIX A: SWOT

THE OPERATION OF BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT

STRENGTH, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THREATS

OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
➤ TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP FROM ALL	➤ REDUCTION OF GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL
FEDERAL AGENCIES, STATE AND LOCAL	SUPPORT
GOVERNMENTS	
	REDUCTION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM
NEW REVENUE SOURCES TO HELP PAY	CORPORATE SPONSORS
BILLS, DEBTS, AND PROGRAM EXPENSES	
	➤ A NEGATIVE IMAGE OF BIG AMONG
INCREASE CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP	FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL
	GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
INCREASE BIG'S VISIBILITY AMONG	
SMALL BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS	➤ A NEGATIVE IMAGE OF BIG AMONG THE
THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES	COMMUNITY



CONTINUALLY EVOLVING