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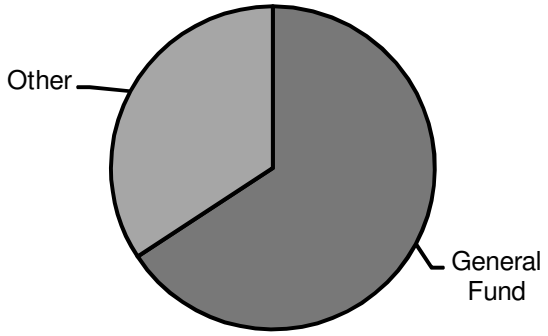
Agency Purpose

The Council on Black Minnesotans (CBM) addresses the need for people of African heritage to fully and effectively participate in and equitably benefit from the political, social, and economic resources of this state. With the insistence and support of the African American community, the council was created by the Minnesota Legislature in July 1980 (M.S. 3.9225). Its primary purpose is to advise the governor and legislature on the nature and intensity of issues confronting the state's Black populations.

At a Glance

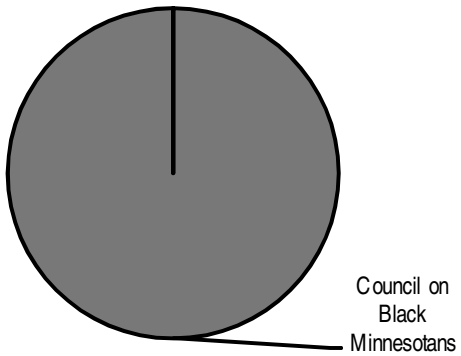
- Serves Minnesota's fast growing Black population of about 247,500 residents, based on 2009 estimates. This represents a 13.4% increase from 2005 estimates. Over 90% of the council's constituents are residents of the Twin Cities metropolitan area, with smaller constituent groups located in and near Rochester, Duluth, St. Cloud, Mankato, Moorhead and Worthington.
- Serves Minnesota's growing African immigrant population estimated at 60,000 - 90,000 residents.
- Collaborates with an institutional constituency of education, health and human service and research organizations with similar values, concerns, target populations and objectives.
- Addresses needs of a population that is disproportionately impoverished with complex social, political and economic problems, which are exacerbated by a lack of equal access and opportunity, and institutional and individual racism.
- Addresses social, political, and economic disparities and strives to be an instrument to create institutional and social change.

Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Fund



Source: Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS)

Est. FY 2010-11 Expenditures by Program



Source: Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS)

Strategies

The council is a policy-oriented agency that uses a community mobilization and involvement model. Prior to the creation of the council, there was no state or local agency responsible for advising and educating policy makers on issues relevant to Black Minnesotans, researching and analyzing the broad spectrum of issues affecting Black Minnesotans, or educating Black Minnesotans regarding specific policy issues and the value of political and policy participation. The formation of the council was critical for Black Minnesotans because, historically, this population has been, and continues to be, underrepresented in the legislature and has had limited access to the office of the governor or other policy makers.

The council's advice to policy makers must be well founded, accurate, and representative of its constituencies. To facilitate these functions, the council is made up of 13 public members appointed by the governor with the understanding that they must be broadly representative of Minnesota's Black communities. Four ex-officio

legislative representatives are also members of the council and participate in setting the agenda and priorities of the agency.

Operations

The council operates as a liaison between state agencies and individuals seeking access to state Government. CBM participates in policy-making processes that affect the interests and welfare of Black Minnesotans and recommends new laws or changes in existing laws to the governor and legislature that may benefit Black Minnesotans. In order to effectively advise the governor, legislators, and other policy makers, the council has organized community legislative/policy dialogues. The council also sponsors and promotes issue/policy-oriented educational programs. Another important function of the council is to increase the awareness and practice of "cultural responsibility" throughout the state of Minnesota, its institutions and its citizens. It also publicizes the accomplishments of Black Minnesotans and their contributions to the quality of Minnesota life.

Specific functions of the council include monitoring government and private sector agencies, programs and policies to determine their impact on Black Minnesotans and other populations of color. It also conducts primary and secondary research on the extent to which Black Minnesotans benefit from current policies/programs and the extent to which disparities exist. Conducting research has provided the council with information that allows it to identify existing community needs and resources and set organizational priorities. A significant barrier to the accomplishment of these functions, however, is the current status of available data or information. Most agencies, state or local, public or non-profit, do not collect data in a manner that allows the council to determine the extent to which Black Minnesotans participate in and benefit from existing programs and policies. Correcting this condition is a primary objective of the council.

The council has collaborated on programs to address the needs of its constituencies. Through collaboration and cooperation, it is involved in about 70 ongoing committees and organizations addressing such issues as out-of-home placement of children, teen pregnancy, hunger, health, affordable housing and homelessness, economic development, education, drugs, violence, childcare, HIV/AIDS, crime, the status of African American males, tobacco usage prevention/reduction, employment, the status of Black veterans, poverty, police community relations (including racial profiling), and the unique concerns of native African communities. Collaborative organizations include:

- Minneapolis and Saint Paul branches of the Urban League and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- Commission on Minnesota's African American Children
- Minnesota African American Tobacco Education Network
- Minneapolis and Saint Paul African American Leadership Council/Summit
- University of Minnesota Medical School and Minnesota Private College Council
- Office of Minority and Multicultural Health, Minnesota Department of Health

An annual function of the council involves assisting the governor's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission in managing and overseeing the observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King holiday and celebration. More specifically, the council assists in the planning and presentation of programs and events designed to promote the ideals of Dr. King.

Another important function of the council is to promote the representation, accountability, and effective leadership of Black Minnesotans in policy-making processes. This is accomplished through the identification of individuals as community assets, and matching individual skills with volunteer opportunities on Boards, Commissions, and Task Forces.

Key Goals & Measures

It is important to note that the Council does not operate specific programs and is involved in governmental and other public policy processes primarily from an education, advocacy and monitoring perspective. The goals/objectives of the Council on Black Minnesotans are described below:

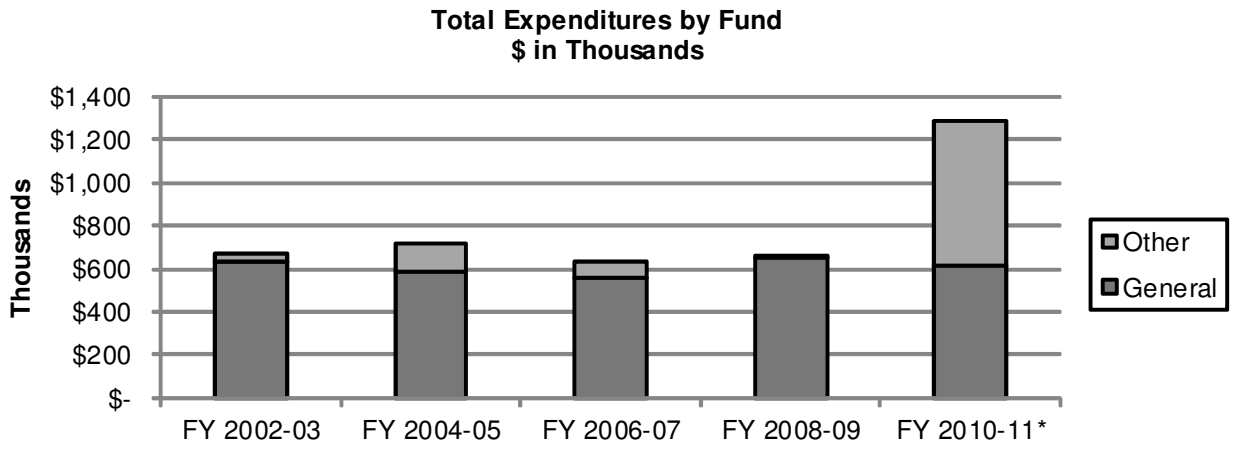
- Reducing the level of racial disparities and disproportionalities experienced by Minnesotans of African descent through education, collaboration and advocacy.
  Measure: Number of events sponsored or co-sponsored by the council. Events are identified by substantive issue area, by type of event, and by attendance at the events.

- Increasing the knowledge of policy makers at all levels and among Minnesotans of African heritage about critical issues impacting populations of color, American Indians and the impoverished of Minnesota, with a particular focus on researching and addressing the extent to which public policy and individual and institutional racism have caused and continue to perpetuate racial disparities and disproportionalities.
  Measure: Number of critical analyses of legislative and policy-based reports relating to policy impact on populations of color, American Indians and the impoverished in Minnesota.

- Increasing civic engagement among African and African Americans through collaboration. This includes voter registration, educational activities, and conducting research that promotes involvement with decision making entities impacting the existence of populations of color, American Indians and the impoverished of Minnesota.
  Measure: The number and names of collaboration participants.

- Promoting solutions through collaboration and by representing the interests of Black Minnesotans and advocating for their benefit.
  Measure: Participating in the decision making processes on issues affecting Black Minnesotans by providing testimony and advice to the governor, legislators, the judiciary and administrative committees and initiatives.

Budget Trends



** FY 2010-11 is estimated, not actual*
Source data for the previous chart is the Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS) as of 10/01/10.

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current FY2010	Current FY2011	Governor Recomm. FY2012	Governor Recomm. FY2013	Biennium 2012-13
Direct Appropriations by Fund					
General					
Current Appropriation	311	307	307	307	614
Recommended	**311**	**307**	**307**	**307**	**614**
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2010-11					-0.6%
Expenditures by Fund					
Direct Appropriations					
General	308	310	307	307	614
Statutory Appropriations					
Miscellaneous Special Revenue	291	551	150	0	150
Gift	22	17	17	22	39
Total	**621**	**878**	**474**	**329**	**803**
Expenditures by Category					
Total Compensation	325	335	278	233	511
Other Operating Expenses	296	543	196	96	292
Total	**621**	**878**	**474**	**329**	**803**
Expenditures by Program					
Council On Black Minnesotans	621	878	474	329	803
Total	**621**	**878**	**474**	**329**	**803**
Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)	**4.1**	**4.2**	**3.5**	**2.8**	

Dollars in Thousands

	Actual FY2010	Budgeted FY2011	Governor's Recomm. FY2012	Governor's Recomm. FY2013	Biennium 2012-13
Non Dedicated Revenue:					
Total Non-Dedicated Receipts	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Dedicated Receipts:					
Grants:					
Miscellaneous Special Revenue	303	520	150	0	150
Other Revenues:					
Gift	19	17	17	17	34
Total Dedicated Receipts	**322**	**537**	**167**	**17**	**184**
Agency Total Revenue	**322**	**537**	**167**	**17**	**184**