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Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage

Agency Profile 1

Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage — Agency Profile

https://mn.gov/cmah/

AT A GLANCE

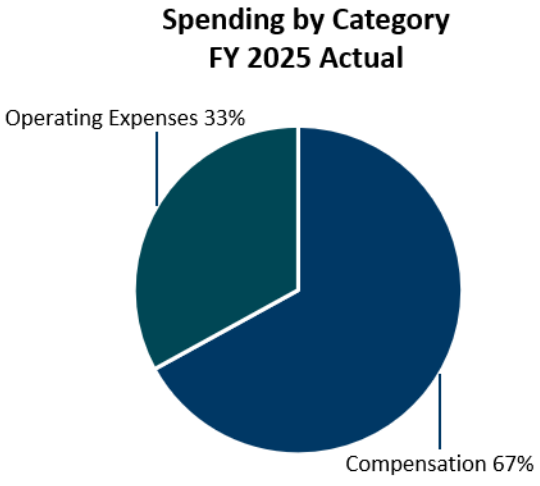
- The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage was established in 1980 as the Council for Black Minnesotans. It is one of three non-partisan ethnic councils governed under Minnesota Statute 15.0145. The Council is a representative body charged with advising the Legislature and Governor's Office on issues that impact the African Heritage population.
- The Council is comprised of 11 Governor appointees and 4 Legislative members. It is staffed with 5 full-time employees.
- The Council hosts several events per year, including the African Heritage Day on the Hill, Legislative Session Debrief, and an African Diaspora Bridging the Gap Series. The agency also advises several statewide bodies, including the Governor's Council on the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, Governor's Workforce Development Board, Minnesota Public Safety Advisory Council, Minnesota Cultural and Ethnic Community Leadership Council, and the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act State Work Group.
- Approximately 565,477 Minnesotans are Black or African American, representing 9.7% of the state population (U.S. Census, Minnesota State Demographer). Note that these figures do not represent the full African Heritage population.

PURPOSE

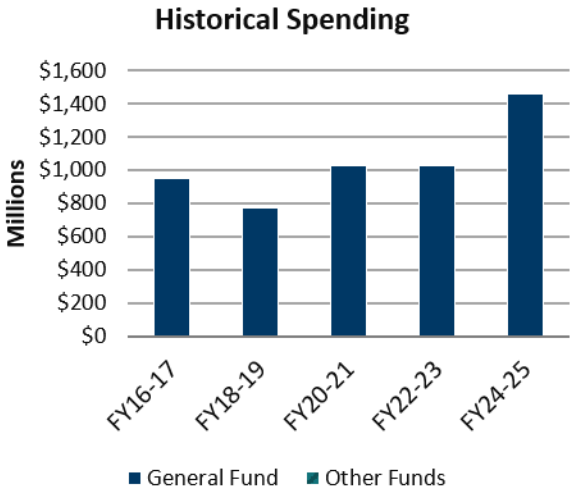
According to Minnesota Statute 15.0145, a council must work for the implementation of economic, social, legal, and political equality for its constituency. The council shall work with the legislature and governor to carry out this work by performing the following duties in this section:

- Advise the governor and the legislature of administrative and legislative changes needed to improve the economic and social condition of the African Heritage community.
- Advise the governor and the legislature of the implications and effect of proposed administrative and legislative changes on the African Heritage community.
- Serve as a liaison between state government and organizations that serve the African Heritage community.
- Facilitate studies designed to suggest solutions to the African Heritage community in the areas of education, employment, human rights, health, housing, social welfare, and other related areas.

BUDGET



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The Council is funded through an appropriation from the general fund, totaling $1,611,000 over the FY24-25 biennium. Other fund spending in prior years represents grants and external funding the Council received.

STRATEGIES

The Council achieves its mission through three key strategies:

Statewide Outreach – The Council targets five regions of the state (Twin Cities, Mankato, Rochester, Saint Cloud, and Duluth) with a goal of developing partnerships with community members to build and advance a shared legislative agenda.

Legislative Advocacy – The Council works with statewide partners, state departments, legislators, the Governor's office, local governments, and experts to develop and drive a legislative policy and budgetary agenda.

Advisory Role – When the Council has a position on a certain issue, we submit our advice in writing to the Governor and legislature with a request for specific action steps. The Council then collaborates with the appropriate partners to advance the agency's position and community priorities.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Statewide Outreach	Result	Communications and Community Engagement Initiatives	CMAH expanded outreach across African Heritage constituency, including hosting bridging and cross-cultural learning events and supporting external community-led programs. These initiatives are critical for CMAH's two-way dialogue with constituents, in our efforts to provide information and receive feedback regarding community concerns/priorities.	In 2025-2026, the CMAH Bulletin had 7,785 subscribers, which represents 20% increase. CMAH convened or supported over 100 events in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota.
Legislative Advocacy	Quality	Bill Movement or Passage	CMAH led and contributed to major legislative reforms in child welfare, education, and public safety.	In 2025-2026, CMAH supported community organizing to advance economic relief bills and to pass investments in health and housing affordability.
Advisory Role	Quantity	Letters, Statements, and Inquiries to the Governor and Legislature	CMAH submits policy letters/statements and supports community inquiries/requests.	In 2025-2026, CMAH submitted 50+ letters advising lawmakers and state leaders about legislation or policy actions.

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

This section is not applicable as the Council does not fund or implement evidence-based practices.

M.S. 15.0145 provides the legal authority for the CMAH. https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=15.0145