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Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage

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AT A GLANCE

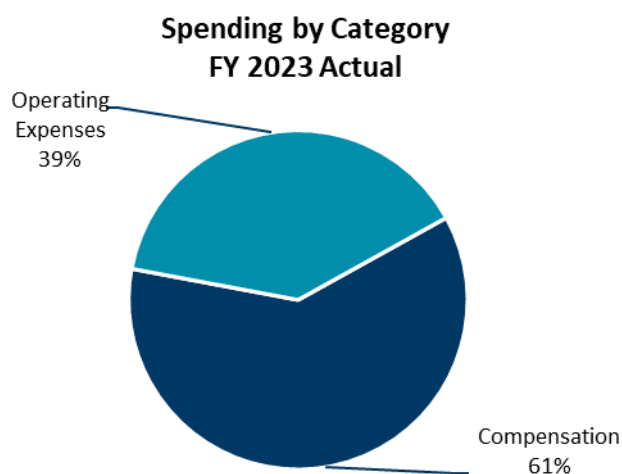
- The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage was established in 1980. It is one of three non-partisan ethnic councils governed under Minnesota Statute 15.0145. The Council is a representative body charged with advising the Legislature and Governor's Office on issues that impact the African Heritage population.
- The Council is comprised of 11 Governor appointees and 4 Legislative members. It is staffed by 5 full-time employees.
- The Council hosts several events per year including the African Heritage Day on the Hill, Session Debrief, and an Economic Policy Summit; the agency also advises on the Governor's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration.
- Approximately 505,000 Minnesotans are Black or African American, representing 8.8% of the state population (U.S. Census, Minnesota State Demographer). Note that these figures do not represent the full African Heritage population.

PURPOSE

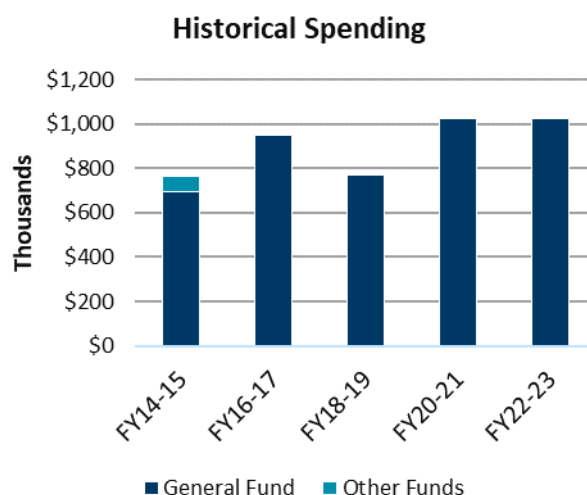
According to Minnesota Statute 15.0145, a council must work for the implementation of economic, social, legal, and political equality for its constituency. The council shall work with the legislature and governor to carry out this work by performing the following duties in this section:

- 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 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 currently 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 build and advance 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 partners with the appropriate partners to advance the agency’s position.

RESULTS

Measure name	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Statewide Outreach	Result	CMAH Bulletin Distribution	The number of individuals subscribing to our bulletin continues to increase by 10% annually. In June 2023, the number of subscribers was 5,437.	In June 2024, the number of subscribers was 6,128.
Legislative Advocacy	Quality	Bill Passing	CMAH worked for over 10 years to get the African American Family Preservation and Disproportionality Act (AFAFP) passed into law.	CMAH was integral to getting the AFAFP bill signed into law during the 2024 legislative session.
Advisory Role	Quantity	Statements and letters of support to the legislature and Governor	CMAH consistently submits around 20 letters of support to advocate for the passing of legislation impacting the African heritage community.	CMAH submitted 19 letters of support and statements to the legislature during the 2023 legislative session.

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