

[mn.gov/cmah/](http://mn.gov/cmah/)

**AT A GLANCE**

- The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage was established in 1980. We are one of three Ethnic Councils governed under Minnesota Statute 15.0145 that includes the Asian and Latino councils.
- The Minnesota State Demographer estimates the Minnesota African Heritage population in Minnesota at 425,197.
- The Council is comprised of 11 appointees from the Governor, 4 Legislative members and staffed by 3.5 fulltime employees. Currently the Council has 8 members appointed by the Governor, 2 active Legislators and we are fully staffed.

**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 duties in this section. Duties in this section include:

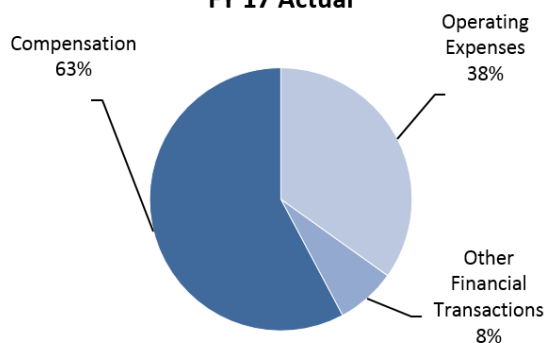
- Advise the governor and the legislature of administrative and legislative changes needed to improve the economic and social condition of the African Heritage community.
- Advise the governor and the legislature of the implications and effect of proposed administrative and legislative changes on the 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.

The Council for Minnesotans of African heritage contributes to the following statewide outcomes:

- **A thriving economy that encourages business growth and employment opportunities for all Minnesotans.**
- **All Minnesotans have the education and skills needed to achieve their goals.**
- **All Minnesotans have optimal health a clean, healthy environment with sustainable use of natural resources.**
- **Minnesota has strong and stable families and communities regardless of their background.**
- **All people in Minnesota are safe.**

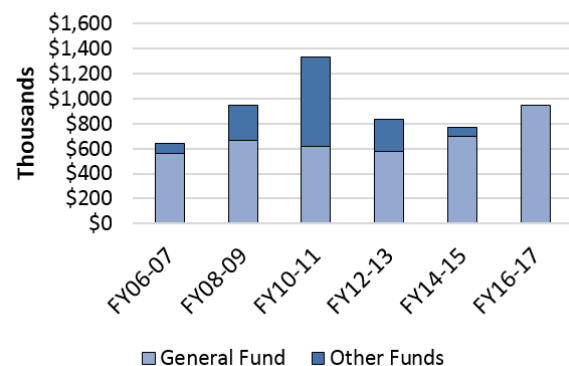
**BUDGET**

**Spending by Category  
FY 17 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

**Historical Spending**



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The Council is funded through an appropriation from the general fund. Other fund spending in prior years represents grants and other external funding the Council has received. For example, during the FY2010-11 and FY2013-14 biennia the Council partnered with Blue Cross and Clearway to address tobacco use in the African Heritage community, and with the Department of Human Services on foster care and adoption initiatives.

In FY17 compensation accounted for 54 percent of the Council’s spending. It should be noted that the Council has undergone several staff changes in the last five years, and as of September 2018 is fully staffed for the first time in over a year. Moving forward, the Council anticipates that compensation will represent at least 75% of spending.

### STRATEGIES

Our work ensures that families have access to the Council as a resource. Through the Council, our constituents advocate for policies that encourage a thriving economy, access to education, health and a sustainable environment. Our work focuses on making sure Minnesota families are safe, stable, and have a Council that advises the Governor and legislature on their behalf. The Council achieves its mission through three strategies:

**Statewide Outreach** – We currently target 4 regions of the state (Twin Cities, Rochester, Saint Cloud and Duluth) with a goal of developing relationships and partnering with our constituents in those areas to build and advance a shared agenda.

**Legislative Advocacy** – The Council works with our statewide partners to build a legislative policy and budgetary agenda. We then work hand in hand with our partners and lawmakers to advance our 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. We then partner with the appropriate authorities to advance our position.

### RESULTS

| <i>Type of Measure</i> | <i>Name of Measure</i>  | <i>Previous</i> | <i>Current</i> | <i>Dates</i>                |
|------------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Quantity               | Statewide Outreach - Increase email/call and volunteer list to 1,000 through in person outreach   | 80              | 1,700          | 2017 & Jan. – Sept. 2018    |
| Quantity               | Advisory Role - The Council submitted nine statements to the Governor’s office and Legislators. Two of our positions were adopted and taken action on | N/A             | 9              | Jan. – Sept. 2018           |
| Results                | Legislative Advocacy - Two of the 5 issues on our Legislative Agenda earned hearings and were debated in the State House                              | 1               | 2              | 2017 Session & 2018 Session |

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M.S. 15.0145 provides the legal authority for the CMAH. (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=15.014>)