

## Agency Purpose

The state Council on Black Minnesotans addresses the need for people of African heritage to fully and effectively participate in and equitably benefit from the political, social, and economic resources, policies, and procedures 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. Section 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. 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 little access to the office of the governor or other policy makers.

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, researching and analyzing the broad spectrum of issues affecting Black Minnesotans and advocating on their behalf, or to educate and reeducate Black Minnesotans regarding specific policy issues and the value of political and policy participation.

The council's advice to policy makers must be well founded, accurate, and representative of the will 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.

## Core Functions

The council operates as a liaison between state agencies, individuals, and organizations seeking access to state government. It 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 African Americans and Africans in the state of Minnesota. 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. The council also conducts primary and secondary research and sponsors and promotes issue/policy-oriented educational programs.

In order to effectively advise the governor, legislators, and other policy makers, the council has organized community legislative/policy dialogues. It also conducts primary and secondary research to get information 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 is

## At A Glance

Minnesota's fast growing Black population is the council's primary client constituency and is the state's largest non-European ethnic/cultural group.

- ◆ In 2005 it was estimated that there were 218,500 residents who were Black Minnesotans – this represents a 28% increase over the state's Black population in 2000.
- ◆ The council's client constituency also includes one of the largest African immigrant populations in the United States, nearly 50,000.
- ◆ The vast majority of the council's constituencies, nearly 92%, are residents of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.
- ◆ Smaller Black communities can be found in and near Rochester, Duluth, St. Cloud, Mankato, Moorhead, and Worthington.

The council also has an institutional constituency of health and human service and research organizations with similar values, concerns, target populations, and objectives.

Overall, the populations served by the council are disproportionately impoverished and have experienced a multitude of complex and inter-related problems; social, political, and economic. These conditions are both caused and acerbated by a lack of equal access and opportunity, and institutional and individual racism. The council was created to address the disparities associated with these conditions and be an instrument to create institutional and social change.

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 would allow the council to determine in a precise fashion 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 established 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 increased/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, etc.

## **Budget**

**Revenues:** The total budget for agency personnel and operational costs of the council on Black Minnesotans for FY 2005 is \$278,000. Of this amount, \$10,000 (3.6%) is allocated specifically for the Dr. Martin Luther King holiday and celebration. The remaining \$268,000 is considered the agency's designated budget. A direct appropriation from the state of Minnesota is the council's sole revenue source for this year.

**Expenditures:** Over 77% (\$213,400) of the council's operating budget is used to fund 3.3 full-time equivalents. for FY 2007. The remaining \$54,600 (roughly 20%) funds traditional agency operating costs (e.g. rent, travel, communications, supplies, and equipment).

### **Contact**

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2008-09
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	
<b><u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u></b>					
<b>General</b>					
Current Appropriation	278	278	278	278	556
<b>Forecast Base</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>556</b>
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2006-07					0%
 <b><u>Expenditures by Fund</u></b>					
<b>Direct Appropriations</b>					
General	261	298	278	278	556
<b>Statutory Appropriations</b>					
Misc Special Revenue	74	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>556</b>
 <b><u>Expenditures by Category</u></b>					
Total Compensation	242	217	211	210	421
Other Operating Expenses	93	82	67	68	135
<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>556</b>
 <b><u>Expenditures by Program</u></b>					
Council On Black Minn	335	299	278	278	556
<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>556</b>
 <b><u>Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)</u></b>					
	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.5</b>	

*Dollars in Thousands*

	Actual FY2006	Budgeted FY2007	Current Law		Biennium 2008-09
			FY2008	FY2009	
<b><i>Non Dedicated Revenue:</i></b>					
<b>Total Non-Dedicated Receipts</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b><i>Dedicated Receipts:</i></b>					
<b>Grants:</b>					
Misc Special Revenue	30	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Dedicated Receipts</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Agency Total Revenue</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>