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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. 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:

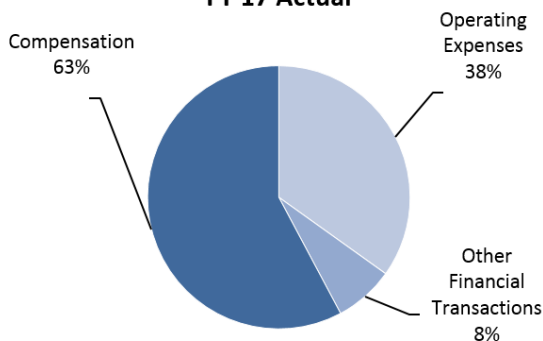
- Advise the governor and the legislature of administrative and legislative changes needed to improve the economic and social condition of the African Heritage community.
- Advise the governor and the legislature of the implications and effect of proposed administrative and legislative changes on the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

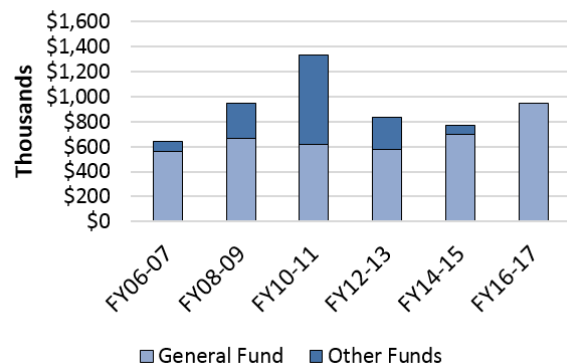
BUDGET

**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

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

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY16	Actual FY17	Actual FY18	Estimate FY19	Forecast Base FY20 FY21		Governor's Recommendation FY20 FY21	
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>								
1000 - General	513	437	247	562	407	407	681	682
Total	513	437	247	562	407	407	681	682
Biennial Change				(142)		5		554
Biennial % Change				(15)		1		68
Governor's Change from Base								549
Governor's % Change from Base								67

Expenditures by Program

African Heritage Council	513	437	247	562	407	407	681	682
Total	513	437	247	562	407	407	681	682

Expenditures by Category

Compensation	211	238	146	328	304	311	502	520
Operating Expenses	302	167	101	231	100	93	176	159
Other Financial Transaction		33		3	3	3	3	3
Total	513	437	247	562	407	407	681	682

Full-Time Equivalent

	2.27	2.61	1.81	3.55	3.50	3.50	6.00	6.00
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(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY16	Actual FY17	Actual FY18	Estimate FY19	Forecast Base FY20 FY21		Governor's Recommendation FY20 FY21	
1000 - General								
Balance Forward In		48		156				
Direct Appropriation	396	401	403	406	407	407	681	682
Transfers In	150							
Cancellations		11						
Balance Forward Out	33		156					
Expenditures	513	437	247	562	407	407	681	682
Biennial Change in Expenditures				(142)		5		554
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				(15)		1		68
Governor's Change from Base								549
Governor's % Change from Base								67
Full-Time Equivalents	2.27	2.61	1.81	3.55	3.50	3.50	6.00	6.00

2403 - Gift

Balance Forward In	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Receipts	0	0	0					
Balance Forward Out	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	Biennium 2020-21
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2019 Appropriations	406	406	406	812
Base Adjustments				
Pension Allocation		1	1	2
Forecast Base	406	407	407	814
Change Items				
Expand Operations		274	275	549
Total Governor's Recommendations	406	681	682	1,363

Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage

FY 2020-21 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: Expand Operations

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
General Fund				
Expenditures	274	275	275	275
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	274	275	275	275
FTEs	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5

Recommendation:

The Governor recommends additional funding of \$274 thousand in FY 2020 and \$275 thousand each year thereafter to expand the capacity of the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage.

Rationale/Background:

The Minnesota Legislature created the Council on Black Minnesotans in 1980 to ensure that people of African heritage fully and effectively participate in and equitably benefit from the political, social, and economic resources, policies and procedures of the State of Minnesota. In 2015, the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage (Council) was created out of the restructuring of the state's ethnic councils.

MN Statute 15.0145 charges the Council with the following duties:

- Advise the Governor and the Legislature on issues confronting the African heritage community.
- Serves as a liaison between state government and organizations that serve the African heritage community.
- Perform or contract for the performance of studies designed to suggest solutions to the problems faced by Minnesotans of African heritage.
- Report on the measurable outcomes achieved in the Council's strategic plan to meet its mandated duties.

Since its restructure in 2015, the Council has struggled to maintain effective levels of staffing. As a result, the agency has lost the capacity to perform certain duties, including:

- The Council's staffing structure accounts for 3.5 FTEs. The Council currently has a .5 Legislative Coordinator who operates at full time capacity 6 out of 12 months a year. The Council requires 1 FTE to execute its legislative duties.
- The Council has a duty to conduct research and report on activities, concerning the African heritage community. Currently, these duties are divided between 3.5 FTEs. 1 FTE is needed to fully execute reporting and research duties.
- Adjusting the staff structure will require acquiring vacant office space in the Council's suite. This space will be used to house unpaid interns and a Research Analyst. This space is available and accessible within our current suite.

Proposal:

The Governor recommends additional funding for the Council to maintain and enhance the delivery of current services. The increase will allow the Council to fully fund its Legislative Coordinator year round, add a dedicated research analyst to help fulfill its statutory responsibilities, and add a new staff person to focus on expanding the

Council’s statewide outreach strategy. The additional funding will also enable the Council to modify its office space to accommodate the new staff and activities.

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Compensation	\$198	\$209	\$209	\$209
Operating Expenses	76	66	66	66
Total	274	275	275	275

The FY 2020-2021 biennial recommendation of \$549,000 represents a 67% increase to the Council’s current budget. This proposal will adjust the staff structure of the Council to provide the basic capacity to execute its duties. The full time Legislative Coordinator will lead the Council’s legislative strategy, which is a core function of the Council. The Research Analyst will empower the Council to tell a more complete story behind legislation, demographic, economic, and social trends in the community. The new outreach position will help guide the creation of a narrative report focused on the state of the African Heritage community and community driven policy recommendations to address racial disparities. The shift in staffing will require the agency to occupy the full suite which will provide space for unpaid interns who are an additional resource to Council’s constituency.

IT Related Proposals:

N/A

Equity and Inclusion:

Statute requires the Council to “work for the implementation of economic, social, legal, and political equality for its constituency.” The Council represents a statewide constituency of 425,197 African and African American Minnesotans. This community is diverse and located across the state. While most live in Hennepin and Ramsey County, the number of African and African Americans in Greater Minnesota are growing. Kandiyohi, Stearns, and Nobles County have all seen a substantial shift in population. As these changes happen all over our state, the structure of the state’s ethnic councils continue to be an important tool to increase equity and inclusion.

Results:

The Council achieves its mission by utilizing three key strategies. Advising the Legislature and Governor, building and advancing a legislative agenda and statewide outreach. This proposal will fully staff the Council’s legislative strategy and enhance the agency’s ability to advise lawmakers using the information gathered from the Council’s outreach program.

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
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Quality	Advisory Role - The Council submitted nine statements to the Governor’s office and Legislators. Two of our positions were adopted and acted on by the Governor’s office	NA	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	Session 2017 – Session 2018

Statutory Change(s):

N/A