



# YOUR VOICE YOUR FUTURE



COUNCIL FOR MINNESOTANS  
OF AFRICAN HERITAGE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of the African Heritage Community,  
As we march through another year, The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage (CMAH) remains unwavering in its commitment to represent our constituent communities. We continue to support equitable participation in the political, social, and economic resources, policies, and procedures of state government. Y24 must be defined by how much we increase our engagement and participation in the quality of life we envision. We are YOUR VOICE for YOUR FUTURE. This theme will continue to inspire us throughout 2024.

We stand together as one people, regardless of our valued differences, which we must always celebrate. You have consistently demonstrated resilience and tenacity in addressing issues that affect and impact us. We honor those who continue to lead and those who are stepping up and benefiting more and more from the clarion call of inclusion. The Black Legislative Caucus now has the most significant increase in membership in the Minnesota Legislature. YOUR VOICE translates into action from the canals of advocacy to the realization of change, but there is much more to do.

Our Y24 priority includes a robust community engagement effort to raise our voices, foster unity, and support advocacy for homeownership, healthcare outcomes, business and investment, and family and children’s well-being. As Chair of the Council, I am humbled and honored to serve along with council members, our executive director, and staff who are the leaders of this march forward.

Sincerely,

Wayne Doe, Chair  
Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage



CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR.....	INSIDE FRONT COVER	LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY REPORT.....	04
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.....	01	ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES/OUTREACH.....	10
ETHNIC COUNCILS STATUTE.....	01	2024 ACTIVITIES.....	13
MISSION AND LANDSCAPE.....	02		

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings,

What a year. What a legislative session. Legislators worked at a feverish pace and got a lot accomplished. Some commentators call it a “legislative session on steroids,” and our state leaders dub 2023 the Second Minnesota Miracle, referring to the Minnesota Miracle of 1973. Our Council agrees that Minnesota took bold steps in 2023.

At the core of the movement toward the Second Minnesota Miracle was the courageous commitment of communities and state leaders to advance racial equity and inclusion. We believe this was partly the product of the post-George Floyd movement for racial justice. Our Council and partners remain passionately committed to this work.

Miracles are born of good faith, hard work, and steadfast determination. After enduring the extreme hardships of civil unrest and pandemic emergency, Minnesotans produced unprecedented economic gains and multicultural diversity within the state government. Working diligently in our capacity as an advisory body for the state government, CMAH advocated for policy priorities we believed would move the needle forward on racial equity in Minnesota. That included measures to cut child poverty, expand early learning opportunities, invest in inclusive economic growth, universalize healthcare access, and strengthen resource capabilities for families and communities.

We thank our community and policy partners for working with us, including Governor Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan, the People of Color and Indigenous Legislative Caucus, and the United Black Legislative Caucus.

Onward and upward as your VOICE for your FUTURE.

Sincerely,



Linda Sloan, Executive Director  
Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage



CMAH STRUCTURE..... 14  
2023 FINANCIAL REPORT.....16  
COUNCIL MEMBERS.....17

A report to the legislature as requested by Minn. Stat. § 15.0145, Subd. 8

MINNESOTA STATUTE 15.0145 ETHNIC COUNCILS  
Subd. 8. Reports. A council must report on the measurable outcomes achieved in the council's current strategic plan to meet its statutory duties, along with the specific objectives and outcome measures proposed for the following year. The Council must submit the report by January 15 each year to the Chairs of the committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate with primary jurisdiction over state government operations. Each report must cover the calendar year of the year before the report is submitted. The specific objectives and outcome measures for the following current year must focus on three or four achievable objectives, action steps, and measurable outcomes for which the Council will be held accountable. The strategic plan may include other items that support the statutory purposes of the Council but it should not distract from the primary statutory proposals presented. The biennial budget of each council must be submitted to the Legislative Coordinating Commission by February 1 in each odd-numbered year.

A close-up photograph of a Black woman with curly hair, wearing a yellow shirt, shouting into a blue and white megaphone. The background is a blurred green field.

# amplify **YOUR VOICE** today

Four vertical bars in red, orange, yellow, and green colors, slightly overlapping each other.

## OUR MISSION

The Minnesota Legislature empowered the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage to ensure 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. Generally, the Council is charged with the responsibility of:

- Advising the Governor and the Legislature on issues confronting people of African Heritage;
- Advising the Governor and the Legislature on statutes, rules, and revisions to programs to ensure people of

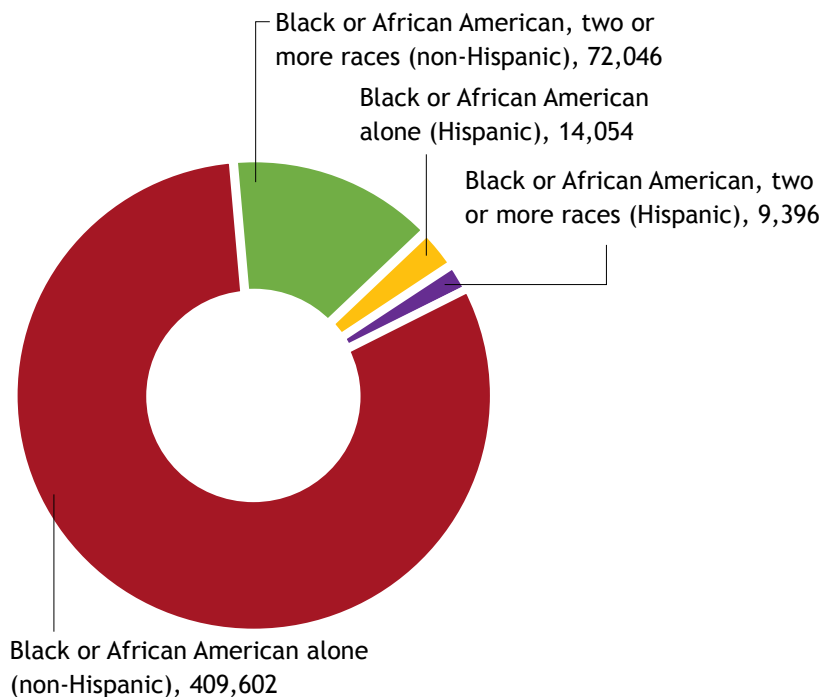
African Heritage have access to benefits and services provided to people in Minnesota;

- Serving as a liaison to the federal government, local governments, and private organizations on matters relating to people of African Heritage in Minnesota;
- Implementing programs designed to solve problems of people of African Heritage when authorized by statute, rule, or order; and
- Publicizing the accomplishments of people of African Heritage and their contributions to the state.

## LANDSCAPE OF THE AFRICAN HERITAGE COMMUNITY

The African Heritage community is the second largest population group in the state of Minnesota and consists of African Americans and African immigrants. There are approximately 505,098 individuals that make up the African Heritage population, making it 8.8% of the state's population. The African Heritage economy of Minnesota is estimated at \$14 billion, which includes income and residential real estate. There are over 20,000 Black-owned businesses with an annual payroll of half a billion dollars, providing 27,700 jobs to the community.

### 2023 POPULATION OF BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN MINNESOTANS = 505,098



The African immigrant community has increasingly been a strong contributor to the economy with an annual income of over \$2 billion. Entrepreneurship is a key component of this number, representing between 2,200 and 3,200 businesses. The African Heritage community is an economic engine helping to drive the labor force and growth in the Minnesota economy.

Note: Demographic data on African Heritage populations are challenged by undercounting.

## POPULATION GROWTH FULLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO BIPOC GROUPS

POPULATION CHANGE BY MAJOR RACE GROUPS, 2010-2020			
	2010	2020	Change
			2010-2010
<b>TOTAL POPULATION</b>	<b>5,303,925</b>	<b>5,706,494</b>	<b>402,569</b>
White non-Hispanic	4,405,142	4,353,880	-51,262
American Indian non-Hispanic	55,421	57,046	1,625
Asian/Pacific Islander non-Hispanic	214,856	300,081	85,225
Black/African American non-Hispanic	269,141	392,850	123,709
Hispanic/Latino (any race)	250,258	345,640	95,382
Other race non-Hispanic	5,947	20,963	15,016
Two or more races non-Hispanic	103,160	236,034	132,874
<b>All BIPOC</b>	<b>898,783</b>	<b>1,352,614</b>	<b>453,831</b>
	17%	24%	

Sources: Minnesota State Demographer, US Census Bureau, Bruce P. Corrie, PhD, Economist, Concordia University, St. Paul, American Community Survey

# set **YOUR VOICE** in motion

Our work is focused on setting voices in motion with passionate policy action, specifically with these initiatives: 1) advancing CMAH's racial equity agenda; 2) fighting against racial disparities in health outcomes; 3) investing in inclusive economic growth; 4) investing in equitable participation in education; and 5) fighting for safer and stronger communities. Significant progress was realized.

## **ADVANCING CMAH'S RACIAL EQUITY AGENDA**

The 2023 Minnesota Legislature began on two historic fronts—a landmark \$17 billion budget surplus and the most diverse membership in Minnesota's history. Legislators of African Heritage increased their representation in House and Senate leadership. Additionally, Senators Zaynab Mohamed, Erin Maye Quade, and Claire Oumou Verbeten became the first three self-identifying Black women senators in the history of the state.

## **NOTABLE AFRICAN HERITAGE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS**

Rep. Esther Agbaje - *House Assistant Majority Leader*

Sen. Bobby Joe Champion - *Senate President*

Rep. Lisa Demuth - *House Minority Leader*

Sen. Omar Fateh - *Chair, House Higher Education*

Rep. Hodan Hassan - *Chair, House Economic Development Committee*

Rep. Athena Hollins - *House Majority Whip*

Rep. Mohamud Noor - *Chair, House Human Services Committee*

CMAH collaborated with partners to convert the cultural diversity and economic surplus into meaningful movement for racial equity. We worked with the People of Color and Indigenous Caucus in the House and Senate to amplify the voices of underserved communities in deliberations about the uses of the surplus. We shared our ideas about equitable public investment strategies with state leaders, including

the offices of Gov. Walz, Lt. Gov. Flanagan, House Speaker Hortman, and Senate Majority Leader Dziedzic.

Furthermore, a variety of racial diversity, equity, and inclusion measures were addressed:

- CROWN Act—bans race-based hair discrimination (Passed in 2023)
- Defense of DEI—CMAH partnered with other ethnic councils to defend DEI and provide policy recommendations amidst attacks on affirmative action
- Driver’s License for All—permits undocumented Minnesotans to obtain a driver’s license, thereby increasing economic fairness and public safety (Passed in 2023)
- Juneteenth Legislation—establishes Juneteenth, June 19, as a state-recognized holiday (Passed in 2023)
- Racial Data Equity—CMAH joined community and government partners to push for greater equity in race and ethnicity data collection, including calling for direct investments in African Heritage communities as agents of population data and knowledge
- Restore the Vote—Makes formerly incarcerated Minnesotans eligible to vote while on probation and represents the largest expansion of voting rights in Minnesota since voting age was lowered to 18 (Passed in 2023)

### **FIGHTING AGAINST RACIAL DISPARITIES IN HEALTH OUTCOMES**

Our council submitted written testimony during committee hearings, floor debates, and conference negotiations in support of provisions that fight racist structures and improve equal access to healthcare. We also supported the legislative proposals of the Black Maternal Health Caucus. Below are measures included in the health budget that passed in May 2023.

### **ELIMINATE RACIAL DISPARITIES IN HEALTH OUTCOMES**

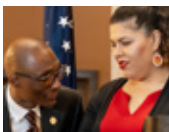
- Create an Office of African American Health and African American Health State Advisory Council at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
- Establish a right for a pregnant person to have a designated support person while receiving healthcare
- Establish the Health Equity Capacity Building Grant Program at MDH
- Provide funding for the African American Babies Coalition
- Provide funding for the African American Health Special Emphasis Grant Program
- Re-establish Community Solutions for Health Child Development Grant Program

### **REDUCE COSTS TO UNIVERSALIZE QUALITY CARE**

- Expand MinnesotaCare eligibility to undocumented Minnesotans
- Implement a MinnesotaCare Public Option Plan
- Conduct an analysis of the benefits and cost of a universal healthcare financing system
- Establish a center for healthcare affordability
- Develop a plan for a direct payment system for medical assistance and MinnesotaCare

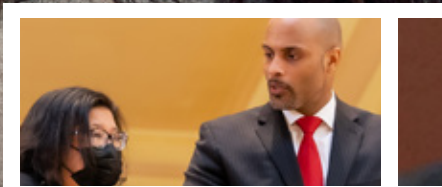
### **SUPPORT CULTURALLY RELEVANT HOLISTIC WELLNESS PROGRAMS**

- Advance harm reduction and rehabilitative practice in the treatment of substance use disorder
- Continue a public awareness campaign about harms of colorism and skin-lightening products
- Establish a comprehensive drug overdose and morbidity prevention program
- Establish a task force on pregnancy health and substance use disorders
- Fund the Emmett Till Victims Recovery Program to address historical trauma in the Black community



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY REPORT

invest in  
**YOUR VOICE**



## INVESTING IN INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

CMAH worked with African Heritage constituents and other community partners to advance legislation that grows the economic capacities of marginalized communities. Our priorities were proposals related to economic and social protections for children and families as well as direct investments in the economic power of Black businesses, organizations, and workers.

### i) ANTI-POVERTY REFORM

The US federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic increased household income and decreased poverty. Specifically, an expanded child tax credit in 2021 provided targeted, timely support to low- and moderate-income families. It lifted almost 3 million children out of poverty and led to the largest decrease in child poverty on record.

The expiration of the expanded child tax credit and other relief programs in 2022 resulted in the largest one-year increase in child poverty on record. Children of color experience disproportionately higher rates of poverty. Almost 18 percent of Black children experience poverty, compared to 7.2 percent of non-Hispanic white children.

Drawing on research about the anti-poverty implications of the expanded child tax credit, our Council supported the Governor's tax proposal and advocated for legislation that increased tax credits for children, families, and renters in Minnesota.

### ii) FAMILY SUSTAINING GROWTH INITIATIVES

#### Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST)

Increase access to earned sick and safe time by allowing workers to accrue up to 48 hours of paid leave each year to recover from illness, care for a dependent, or address other matters of health and safety.

#### Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML)

Establishes a statewide paid family and medical leave program in Minnesota and represents a critical effort to address long-standing gendered and racial inequalities in access to paid leave.

#### Transportation Network Drivers Worker Protections

Establishes rights protections, including wage requirements, for drivers who work for transportation network companies. After passage by the House and Senate, the bill was vetoed by Governor Walz with the promise to improve the proposal and repass it in 2024.

#### Women's Economic Security Act Reform

Strengthens workplace protections for pregnant and lactating employees, expands employment opportunities for high-wage and high-demand jobs, and reduces gender pay gap through increased enforcement of equal pay laws.



### iii) OVERCOMING THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF STRUCTURAL RACISM

Resources and opportunity and maximizing investments in striving entrepreneurs (PROMISE) Act:

- Provides \$125M in FY24-25 to support businesses and organizations impacted by structural racism

Targeted population workforce development grants:

- Provides \$50M in FY24-25 to support workforce development in communities of color

Related jobs/labor budget provisions:

- Capacity building grants for community organizations
- Clean Economy Equitable Workforce Grant Program
- Labor Education Advancement Program (LEAP) Grants
- Office of New Americans (ONA)
- Diversity and inclusion training for small employers
- Emerging Developer Fund program
- Job and entrepreneurial skills training grants

### **INVESTING IN EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION**

To close the structural opportunity gaps in the education system, Minnesota must build new cultures of inclusion in schools and equip Black students and families with stronger education capabilities. Our council advocated for education investments that keep Black students in the classroom, reduce their class sizes, and increase funding for early learning opportunities.

#### **i) FULL, EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION IN EARLY LEARNING**

High-quality early childhood development and education programs are beneficial because they boost readiness for K-12 and increase labor productivity for parents. Equitable access to quality child care and early learning opportunities also helps reduce racial and socioeconomic disparities in the long term.

However, federal and state data show that students of African Heritage are more likely to be disciplined with suspensions and expulsions than other students. Black boys and girls are disproportionately punished in ways that detach them from high-quality learning environments. They are removed from classrooms through in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions, and expulsions at rates that exceed their percentage in K-12 enrollment.

The following are measures CMAH supported to boost equity in early education opportunities:

- Ban on K-3rd grade dismissal (Including in-school and out-of-school suspensions)
- Funding for non-exclusionary discipline (trauma-Informed student and family support services)
- Increased funding for early learning scholarships
- Provisions that diversify teacher workforce and student support personnel

#### **ii) GROWING EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN K-12 AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

CMAH worked with community members and partner organizations to advocate for investments in Black students and families across primary, secondary, and tertiary education systems.



##### **Culturally Relevant Education**

Community-based after-school programs

Ethnic studies

Full-service community schools

Increase Teachers of Color Act

##### **Education Resource Capabilities**

Financial literacy education

General education formula increase and class size reduction

READ Act (science of reading)

Support for participation in rigorous coursework

##### **Higher Learning Support Structures**

North Star Promise Program (free tuition for families making less than \$80K)

Emergency assistance for post-secondary students

Increase in living and miscellaneous expense allowance

Student Parent Support Initiative

Underrepresented Student Teacher Grants



# use **YOUR VOICE** wisely

## **FIGHTING FOR SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES**

African Heritage children and families are disproportionately burdened by structural disadvantages in Minnesota's child welfare, housing, and public safety systems. Our constituents seek changes that strengthen social resources for households, neighborhoods, and the public cultures they form.

### **i) CHILD WELFARE AND FAMILY PRESERVATION**

The African American Family Preservation Act (HF912/Agbaje, SF716/Champion) was introduced but did not receive a hearing in 2023. Our Council is working with community and policy stakeholders to prepare this legislation for hearings and passage in 2024.

Race and poverty create problems for child welfare. Race and poverty also limit the system's ability to prevent abuse, remove children from abusive settings, and provide support for families who want to protect their children. The African American Family Preservation Act establishes funding provisions and policy standards to address these systemic failures.

### **ii) COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

Here are some provisions CMAH supported in the public safety budget:

- Clean Slate Act
- Community crime and violence prevention funding (\$70M)
- No-knock warrants prohibition
- Office of Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls
- Extreme risk protection orders or “red flag laws” (gun safety)
- Universal background checks (gun safety)

### **iii) EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ELECTORAL REFORM**

Here is the pro-democracy legislation that CMAH supported:

- Automatic voter registration
- Preregistration for 16- and 17-year-olds
- Restore the Vote

### **iv) HISTORIC HOUSING BUDGET**

CMAH tracked and reported on the following landmark housing legislation:

- Expansion of tenants' rights protections
- Funding for affordable housing construction
- Funding for first-generation homebuyer assistance
- Funding to develop rental and single-family housing
- Funding for rental assistance

# make **YOUR VOICE** heard



CMAH continues to be a passionate voice for Minnesotans of African Heritage. By listening, learning, and leading with a mission-based focus, much was accomplished in 2023. We heard the issues and concerns that matter most to our constituents. We made sure those issues were at the forefront of all our community engagement and policy efforts.

## COMMUNITY SURVEY

In partnership with Management Analysis and Development, CMAH concluded a two-year survey of African Heritage community priorities on public policy. The study asked community members to share their views on specific challenges that disproportionately impact Minnesotans of African Heritage. CMAH staff conducted outreach through



various channels, including the CMAH website, listservs, social media, and other engagement methods. Here are the key findings:

### Health Equity

- The majority of respondents said the lack of culturally specific mental health services (86 percent) and cost of childcare (85 percent) are serious health issues facing the African Heritage community
- Many said increasing access to culturally relevant mental health services (85 percent) is a very effective strategy to address health issues in the community
- Nearly three-fourths said expanding Minnesota Care eligibility (74 percent) is a very effective strategy

### Economic Development

- The majority of respondents said cost of living (90 percent) and income inequality or poverty (89 percent) are some of the most serious economic issues in the community
- Eighty percent of respondents said homelessness and housing instability are serious economic issues in the community
- Over three-quarters said prioritizing people of color and other underserved communities in workforce development (81 percent), increasing the minimum wage annually (79 percent), and supporting women of color entrepreneurs (78 percent) are very effective strategies to address economic issues facing the community

### Education Equity

- A shortage of teachers of African Heritage (89 percent) and racial disparities in academic achievement (88 percent) are seen as serious issues facing the community
- Most said increasing the percentage of teachers of color (86 percent) and providing high-speed internet and

instructional technology to students at home and school (80 percent) are very effective strategies to address educational issues facing the community

### Public Safety and Policing

- The majority of respondents said mistrust of police and peace officers (83 percent), use of excessive force or police brutality (82 percent), and lack of police accountability (80 percent) are serious problems facing the community
- Most said funding accessible mental health or substance abuse treatment facilities (83 percent), creating an independent body to investigate and prosecute officer-initiated use of force cases (83 percent), increasing investment in community development (82 percent), and requiring officers to report when excessive force is used by other officers (81 percent) are very effective strategies to address public safety and policing issues in the community

### Family and Communities

- Over two-thirds of respondents said lack of youth development programs (70 percent) and racial discrimination in child protective services (70 percent) are serious problems facing the community
- Most respondents said funding youth after-school and summer enrichment programs, apprenticeships, and job training, as well as other youth development programs (89 percent) is a very effective strategy to address community issues
- A majority of respondents also said improving services to address issues facing families and children of African Heritage (79 percent) is an effective strategy to address family and community issues facing the African Heritage community

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

### Day on the Hill

Abundance was the theme for the Council's Day on the Hill, held on Monday, March 13 in partnership with the African American Leadership Forum and The Links (Minneapolis-St. Paul and the Greater Twin Cities chapters). Despite having to reschedule the event due to a major snowstorm, over 200 attendees gathered in the Capitol rotunda to hear the Council's legislative priorities and remarks from Lt. Governor Flanagan and Attorney General Ellison, Senator Champion, Representative Agbaje, Representative Clardy, Representative Frazier, Representative Hassan, Representative Hollins, Representative Hussein, Representative Noor, and Representative Richardson.



Performances by award-winning gospel artist Jovonta Patton and national orator Junauda Petrus were also a highlight.

### Juneteenth Jubilee

In recognition of Juneteenth becoming an official state holiday, the Council partnered with Senator Champion's office to host its first Juneteenth celebration on June 15. This event was planned as a full day of speakers, music, vendors, and fun. Due to adverse weather, the outdoor portion of the event was cancelled, but a robust press conference was held with Governor Walz, Attorney General Ellison, Speaker Hortman, Senator Champion, Representative Richardson, Mayor Carter, Chief Equity Officer Dr. Burrage, CMAH Executive Director Linda Sloan, Nothando and Vusumizu Zulu, community leaders, and others.

### Greater Minnesota Strategy

The Council kicked off its greater Minnesota strategy by supporting Assistant Commissioner Abdiwahab Mohamed's open house in St. Cloud. This event proved to be a great opportunity for community engagement. It also gave our communications director the chance to build relationships with the African Heritage community.

The Council then partnered with Nashauna Johnson Lenoir and Journie to host a listening session in Rochester on October 28. Over 50 community constituents met with a panel of legislative leaders and CMAH to discuss issues affecting the African Heritage community in Rochester. The panel consisted of Representative Agbaje; Senator Boldon; Representative Hicks; Council Chair Wayne Doe; and Vice Chair Carl Crawford, Chief Human Rights Officer, City of Duluth. Common themes were structural racism, mental health, health disparities, illiteracy, and underemployment (especially in the African immigrant community), inadequate funding/resource allocation, and inequitable appropriation disbursement/grants.

### Twin Cities Metro Listening Sessions

The Council hosted several virtual constituent listening sessions throughout the year to learn about issues affecting the African Heritage community. Common areas of discussion were lack of affordable housing, police accountability, community violence, homelessness, homeownership, and education inequities. The results of these discussions helped to shape CMAH's 2024 legislative priorities.



The following 2024 timeline of activity forecasts the program structure of the Council.

DATE	EVENT	DESCRIPTION
JANUARY	Council Meeting	The Council presents its Annual Report and timeline of activity for the year.
JANUARY 15	Annual Report Due	The Annual Report is due to governing committees and the legislative library.
JANUARY 11 – 15	The Governor and Lt. Governor’s 38th MLK Day Celebration	The Council, the Governor’s MLK Day Council, and the Office of Equity, Opportunity, and Accessibility
FEBRUARY 12 – – MAY 20	Legislative Session	The Council engages lawmakers on issues that affect the Council’s constituents.
FEBRUARY 23	African Heritage Day on the Hill	This event elevates the leadership of Minnesotans of African Heritage at the Capitol.
MARCH	Spring Break	The Council holds in-district meetings.
MAY 20	Session Ends	The Council starts prepping for the session debrief and statewide summer outreach efforts.
JULY	Council Retreat	The Council holds training and strategic planning sessions for its leadership and staff.
JULY	Session Debrief	The Council holds a community event with the United Black Legislative Caucus, offering an analysis of the legislative session.
JULY	Begin FY25	The staff closes out FY24 and finalizes FY25 financials.
JUNE – SEPTEMBER	Summer Statewide Outreach Program	The Council works with constituents to host roundtable discussions on issues affecting constituents.
SEPTEMBER	Legislative Training	The Council holds legislative training for community members.
NOVEMBER	Fall Policy Summit	The Council hosts a policy summit focused on community-derived solutions to issues facing constituents.

CMAH STRUCTURE

watch  
**YOUR VOICE**  
grow



## COMMITTEES

In addition to advising legislative leaders in the enactment of legislation, the Council collaborated with executive branch agencies to provide input on bringing racial equity to state services and administrative policies and practices. In 2023, the Council partnered with the following agencies:

### Cultural and Ethnic Community Leadership Council Minnesota

Department of Human Services  
444 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155 [mn.gov/dhs](https://mn.gov/dhs)

### Governor's Council on the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Governor's Office  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155  
[mn.gov/governor](https://mn.gov/governor)

### Violent Crime Coordinating Council

Minnesota Department of Public Safety  
445 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, MN 55101  
[dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/Pages/violent-crimes-coordinating-council.aspx](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/Pages/violent-crimes-coordinating-council.aspx)



### Governor's Workforce Development Board Racial Equity Committee

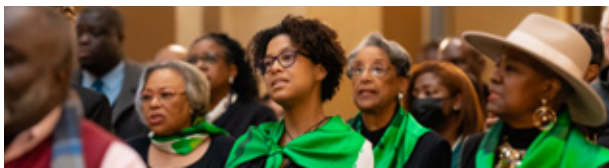
Minnesota Department of Employment and  
Economic Development  
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E200, St. Paul, MN 55101  
[mn.gov/deed/](https://mn.gov/deed/)

### State Transportation Plans Policy Advisory Committee

Minnesota Department of Transportation  
395 John Ireland Blvd., MS 440, St. Paul, MN 55155

### Ensuring Police Excellence and Improving Community Relations Advisory Council

Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training  
[post.state.mn.us/dps.mn.gov/entity/post/meetings/Pages/advisory-council.aspx](https://post.state.mn.us/dps.mn.gov/entity/post/meetings/Pages/advisory-council.aspx)





## MINNESOTA HOUSE

Rep. Esther Agbaje, District 59B  
Rep. Mary Frances Clardy, District 53A  
Rep. Lisa Demuth, District 13A  
Rep. Cedrick Frazier, District 43A  
Rep. Hodan Hassan, District 62B  
Rep. Athena Hollins, District 66B  
Rep. Walter Hudson, District 30A  
Rep. Samakab Hussein, District 65A  
Rep. Mohamud Noor, District 60B  
Rep. Ruth Richardson, District 52B

## MINNESOTA SENATE

Sen. Bobby Joe Champion, District 59  
Sen. Omar Fateh, District 62  
Sen. Zaynab Mohamed, District 63  
Sen. Clare Oumou Verbeten, District 66  
Sen. Erin Maye Quade, District 56

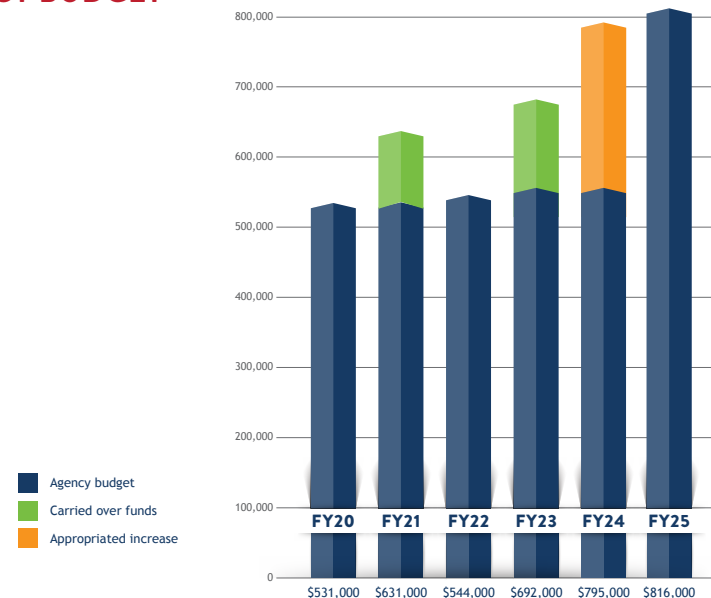
## AGENCY STAFFING

The Council started the year with four full-time employees (FTEs). In the 2023 legislative session, we received an appropriation to hire another legislative and policy director and a community engagement director to better serve the African immigrant community. In October, we experienced turnover. Community Engagement and Communications Director Florkime Paye moved on to another opportunity. We express our gratitude for her committed service to the community and the Council.

## CALENDAR YEAR 2023/24 BUDGET

The Council started fiscal year 2023 with the \$552,000 appropriation and \$140,000 in rollover funds from fiscal year 2022. These rollover funds included salary savings as well as savings due to hosting all meetings and events virtually. In fiscal year 2023, the Council successfully advocated for an appropriation increase of \$243,000 to add two FTEs. This led to the total budget appropriation for fiscal year 2024 increasing to \$795,000. Since 2024 is the beginning of a biennium, there were no funds carried over. The Council will start fiscal year 2025 with the appropriated amount of \$816,000. Since fiscal year 2025 is in the middle of the biennium, funds may be carried over into 2025.

## AGENCY BUDGET



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage comprises 15 members, as stated in Minn. Stat. § 15.0145 subd.

2. Eleven members of this council are public members appointed by the Governor, and four members of this council are legislators. The council will comprise the following:

- The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage must include members who are broadly representative of the African Heritage community of the state. The council must include at least five women. At least three members must be first- or second-generation African immigrants, who generally reflect the demographic composition of these African immigrants, as determined by the state demographer.
- Four legislators are voting members of each council. The Speaker of the House and the House minority leader will each appoint one member to each council. The Subcommittee on Committees of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration will appoint one member of the majority caucus and one member of the minority caucus to each council.
- The governor may appoint a commissioner of a state agency or a designee of that commissioner to serve as an ex-officio, nonvoting member of a council.

### Governor Appointees

**Wayne Doe**, *Chair*

Term ends 01/04/2027

**Carl Crawford**, *Vice Chair*

Term ends 01/04/2027

**Twauna Mullins**, *Treasurer*

Term ends 01/04/2027

**Yolonde Adams-Lee**, *Secretary*

Term ends 01/06/2025

**Abdirahman Dahir**, *Member*

Term ends 01/05/2026

**Alfreda Daniels Juasemai**, *Member*

Term ends 01/01/2024

**Andre Dukes**, *Member*

Term ends 01/02/2027

**Hollies Winston**, *Member*

Term ends 01/01/2024

**Jude Nnadi**, *Member*

Term ends 01/04/2027

**Dr. Nerita Hughes**, *Former Chair*

Term ended 06/30/2023

*We thank Dr. Hughes for her exceptional years of service to CMAH's mission*



### Legislative Members on the Council

**Sen. Omar Fateh (District 62)**

(Minnesota State Senate)

**Rep. Cedric Frazier (District 43A)**

(House of Representatives)

**Rep. Walter Hudson (District 30A)**

(House of Representatives)

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(through 10/23)

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COUNCIL FOR MINNESOTANS  
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