

Table of Contents

Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage

<i>Agency Profile</i>	1
Agency Expenditure Overview	3
Agency Financing by Fund	4
Agency Change Summary	5
<u>Change Item(s)</u>	6
<i>Operating Adjustment</i>	6

AT A GLANCE

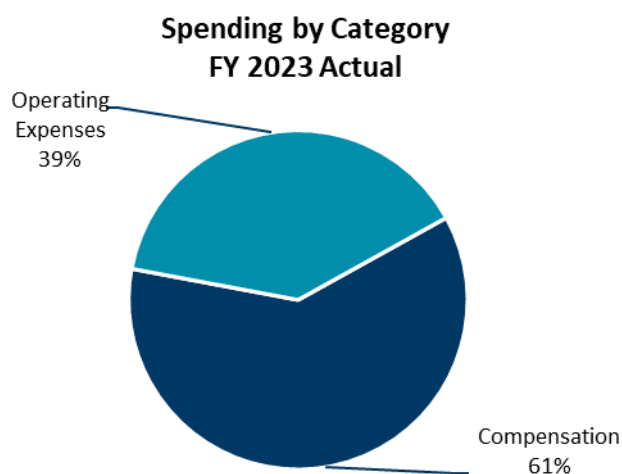
- The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage was established in 1980. It is one of three non-partisan ethnic councils governed under Minnesota Statute 15.0145. The Council is a representative body charged with advising the Legislature and Governor's Office on issues that impact the African Heritage 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

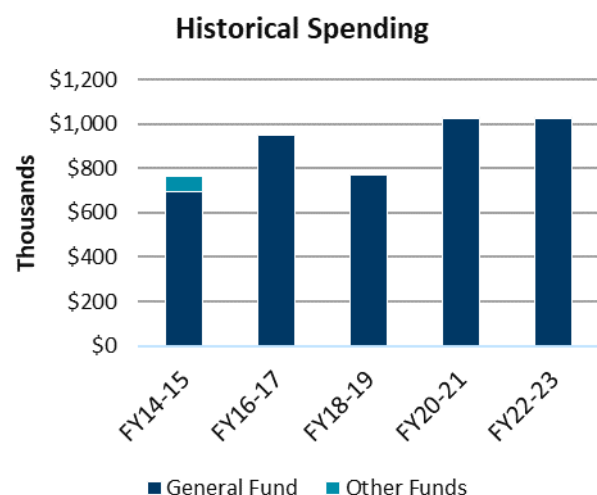
According to Minnesota Statute 15.0145, a council must work for the implementation of economic, social, legal, and political equality for its constituency. The council shall work with the legislature and governor to carry out this work by performing the following duties in this section:

- 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>

African Heritage, Council for Minnesotans of

Agency Expenditure Overview

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY22	Actual FY23	Actual FY24	Estimate FY25	Forecast Base FY26 FY27		Governor's Recommendation FY26 FY27	
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Expenditures by Fund

1000 - General	404	624	536	1,075	817	817	828	840
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue	9	1						
Total	413	625	536	1,075	817	817	828	840
Biennial Change				572		23		57
Biennial % Change				55		1		4
Governor's Change from Base								34
Governor's % Change from Base								2

Expenditures by Program

African Heritage Council	413	625	536	1,075	817	817	828	840
Total	413	625	536	1,075	817	817	828	840

Expenditures by Category

Compensation	321	381	410	642	629	641	640	664
Operating Expenses	92	244	125	433	188	176	188	176
Total	413	625	536	1,075	817	817	828	840

Full-Time Equivalents

3.89	4.10	3.95	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25
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African Heritage, Council for Minnesotans of

Agency Financing by Fund

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
1000 - General								
Balance Forward In		146		259				
Direct Appropriation	544	552	795	816	817	817	828	840
Transfers Out		60						
Cancellations		14						
Balance Forward Out	140		259					
Expenditures	404	624	536	1,075	817	817	828	840
Biennial Change in Expenditures				582		23		57
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				57		1		4
Governor's Change from Base								34
Governor's % Change from Base								2
Full-Time Equivalents	3.89	4.10	3.95	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25

2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue

Balance Forward In	10	1						
Balance Forward Out	1							
Expenditures	9	1						
Biennial Change in Expenditures				(10)		0		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				(100)				
Governor's Change from Base								0
Governor's % Change from Base								

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)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	Biennium 2026-27
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2025 Appropriations	816	816	816	1,632
Base Adjustments				
Minnesota Paid Leave Allocation		1	1	2
Forecast Base	816	817	817	1,634
Change Items				
Operating Adjustment		11	23	34
Total Governor's Recommendations	816	828	840	1,668

Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage

FY 2026-27 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: Operating Adjustment

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Fund				
Expenditures	11	23	23	23
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	11	23	23	23
FTEs	0	0	0	0

Recommendation:

The Governor recommends additional funding of \$11,000 in FY 2026 and \$23,000 in each subsequent year from the general fund to help address operating cost increases at the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage.

Rationale/Background:

The cost of operations rises each year due to increases in employer-paid health care contributions, FICA and Medicare, along with other salary and compensation-related costs. Other operating costs, like rent and lease, fuel and utilities, and IT and legal services also grow. This cost growth puts pressure on agency operating budgets that remain flat year to year.

Agencies face challenging decisions to manage these rising costs within existing budgets, while maintaining the services Minnesotans expect. From year to year, agencies find ways to become more efficient with existing resources. For FY 2026-27, agencies will need to continue to find additional efficiencies and leverage management tools to help address budget pressures. Holding open vacancies in certain programs or delaying hiring in other programs are examples of ways agencies manage through constrained operating budgets. Such decisions are difficult and must be weighed against a program's ability to conduct business with less staffing and its impact to service delivery.

This recommendation provides additional resources to help address these cost pressures and pay for agency operations.

Proposal:

The Governor recommends increasing agency operating budgets to support current services. For the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage, this funding will help cover expected growth in employee compensation and insurance, IT services, and other operating costs.

Dollars in Thousands

Net Impact by Fund	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26-27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 28-29
General Fund	11	23	34	23	23	46
Total All Funds	11	23	34	23	23	46

Fund	Component Description	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26-27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 28-29
GF	Operating Costs	11	23	34	23	23	46

Results:

This recommendation is intended to help the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage address rising cost pressures and mitigate impacts to current levels of service and information to the public.