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Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans

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<https://www.mn.gov/lgbtqia2s>

AT A GLANCE

The Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans works for the implementation of economic, social, legal, and political equality for Minnesota's community of people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender expansive, queer, intersex, asexual, and/or two-spirit. The Council, created in 2023, is made up of 12 Governor-appointed public voting members and up to 4 appointed legislators. The public voting members have a proven dedication and commitment to Minnesota's LGBTQIA2S+ community and possess a broad and diverse array of expertise that is beneficial to the Council's mission.

Minnesota has an estimated 267,600 residents who identify as LGBTQ+, according to a 2023 Williams Institute report using the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data from 2020-2021.¹

PURPOSE

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 15.0147, the Council must work for the implementation of economic, social, legal, and political equality for Minnesota's community of people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender expansive, queer, intersex, asexual, and/or two-spirit. The Council fulfills this mission by advising the Governor and legislature on issues confronting the LGBTQIA2S+ community, needed administrative or legislative changes, and the implications of proposed changes. The Council also conducts studies to identify issues and solutions and serves as a liaison between state government and organizations serving Minnesota's LGBTQIA2S+ community.

The Council was formed in 2023 and became operational in May 2024.

BUDGET

As a newly established agency, there is no historical spending. The Council has a General Fund appropriation of \$500,000 in FY24 and \$499,000 in FY25.

STRATEGIES

- **Research and Analysis:** Conduct studies designed to suggest solutions to the problems of Minnesota's LGBTQIA2S+ community in education, employment, human rights, health, housing, social welfare, and other related areas.
- **Community Engagement:** Engage with Minnesota's LGBTQIA2S+ community, advocates, and organizations to better understand issues impacting the community and to provide information, updates, and communication about the Council's activities.
- **Legislative Engagement and Advisory:** Develop and recommend policies and provide counsel to the legislature, staff, executive departments, and state agencies on legislative and administrative changes to better the lives of LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans.

RESULTS

The council will work over the coming months to develop a strategic plan and implement performance measures to gauge its progress on meeting the goals in that plan.

Legal Authority: Minn. Stat. § 15.0147 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/15.0147>) provides the legal authority for the Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans.

¹ Flores, A.R. & Conron, K.J. (2023). Adult LGBT Population in the United States. The Williams Institute, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

(Dollars in Thousands)

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

Expenditures by Fund

1000 - General			81	918	499	499	507	515
Total			81	918	499	499	507	515
Biennial Change				999		(1)		23
Biennial % Change						(0)		2
Governor's Change from Base								24
Governor's % Change from Base								2

Expenditures by Program

LGBTQIA2S Minnesotans Council			81	918	499	499	507	515
Total			81	918	499	499	507	515

Expenditures by Category

Compensation			29	320	253	257	261	273
Operating Expenses			52	588	236	232	236	232
Other Financial Transaction				10	10	10	10	10
Total			81	918	499	499	507	515

Full-Time Equivalents

			0.15	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
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(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				419				
Direct Appropriation			500	499	499	499	507	515
Balance Forward Out			419					
Expenditures			81	918	499	499	507	515
Biennial Change in Expenditures				999		(1)		23
Biennial % Change in Expenditures						(0)		2
Governor's Change from Base								24
Governor's % Change from Base								2
Full-Time Equivalents			0.15	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	Biennium 2026-27
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2025 Appropriations	499	499	499	998
Forecast Base	499	499	499	998
Change Items				
Operating Adjustment		8	16	24
Total Governor's Recommendations	499	507	515	1,022

Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans

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	8	16	16	16
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	8	16	16	16
FTEs	0	0	0	0

Recommendation:

The Governor recommends additional funding of \$8,000 in FY 2026 and \$16,000 in each subsequent year from the general fund to help address operating cost increases at the Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans.

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 on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans, this funding will help cover expected growth in employee compensation and insurance, rising rents, 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	8	16	24	16	16	32
Total All Funds	8	16	24	16	16	32

Fund	Component Description	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26-27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 28-29
GF	Operating Costs	8	16	24	16	16	32

Results:

This recommendation is intended to help the Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans address rising cost pressures and mitigate impacts to current levels of service and information to the public.