



COUNCIL FOR MINNESOTANS
OF AFRICAN HERITAGE



ENERGIZED *by* COMMUNITY

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of the African Heritage Community,

Thank you for the remarkable accomplishments of Y2024! This report highlights our work and achievements in a testament to collective strength and determination. Your unwavering support has fueled our optimism and the power we hold within ourselves to work together. Your active participation has energized and uplifted our community. We celebrate the triumphant strides made this past year.

Our journey ahead demands us to strengthen one another even more. We need to build bridges of understanding, foster economic empowerment, and weave the rich tapestry of our cultures as architects of destiny. I am pleased that the CMAH board is resolved to champion a new meaning to our work with a clear vision and strategic measures to enhance our engagement with community partners, executive and legislative partners, and the business community. Our staff, led by our executive director, Linda Sloan, a consummate administrator, has augmented their roles. They continue to invest in our future leaders by recruiting college interns. This extraordinary effort provides a glimpse of experience into the enormous aspirations of being a voice for our community.

Our ancestors' drumbeat resonates within us. It's a rhythm that calls us to action, regardless of our origin or ethnicity. Let us answer that call with open hearts and determined spirits. Let's continue to energize one another as one people. Thank you for your continued support and help on this journey.

Sincerely,



Wayne Doe, *Chair*

Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings Family,

2024 was indeed energized by community. We saw the impact of great collaboration cutting across cultures, geographies, parties, and sectors. We focused on statewide efforts to translate partnership engagements into meaningful change for Minnesotans of African Heritage. We made great progress.

Policy Change – Working together, Minnesota passed the African American Family Preservation Act. A big win for Black families, the legislation establishes new protections against unnecessary child removal and other harms of the child welfare system. The science around this legislation shows that just as evidence-based best practices are cornerstones of good governance, so too are organic community connections the heart of evidence-based practices. The legislation also shows that effective policymaking must be energized by the spirit of community.

Public Engagement – Our public engagement activities expanded in reach and scale. In February 2024, CMAH’s Day on the Hill program brought African Heritage constituents to the Capitol to dialogue with elected officials and other state leaders about community concerns. During the summer, CMAH worked to deepen our community outreach. This resulted in stronger bonds across the cultural networks of our constituency. In the fall, CMAH led and supported efforts to improve civic engagement and democratic participation. We organized events to educate our constituents and the broader public about voting rights and the electoral process.

We thank African Heritage community members and partner organizations for all the work they have done. Our gratitude also extends to the Walz-Flanagan Administration and the 2024 Minnesota Legislature for their spirit of collaboration.

Sincerely,

Linda Sloan, Executive Director
Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage



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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.



MISSION AND LANDSCAPE

SYSTEMIC CHANGE

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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 536,444 individuals that make up the African Heritage population, making it 9.3% of the state’s population.

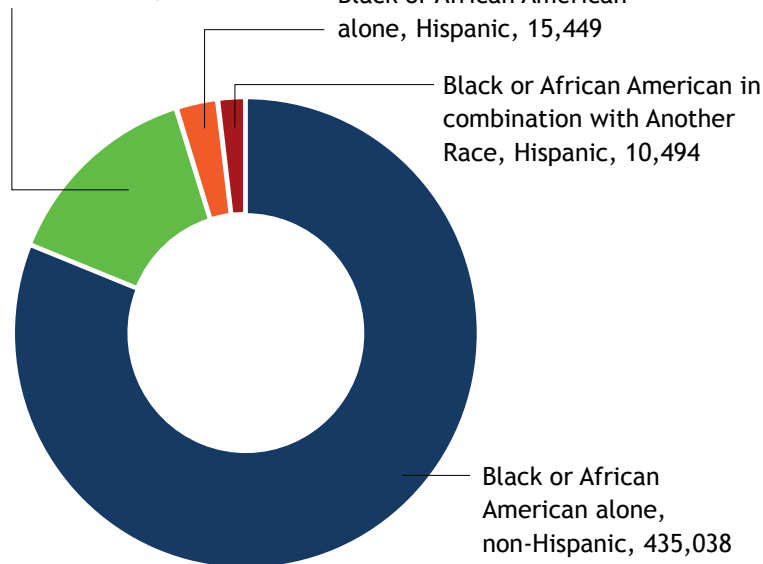
The African Heritage economy in Minnesota is valued at \$18 billion, which includes income and residential real estate. Real estate (homes) is valued at \$6 billion. The buying power as of 2023 was stated at over \$10 billion.

2023 POPULATION OF BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN MINNESOTANS = 536,444

Black or African American in combination with Another Race, non-Hispanic, 75,463

Black or African American alone, Hispanic, 15,449

Black or African American in combination with Another Race, Hispanic, 10,494



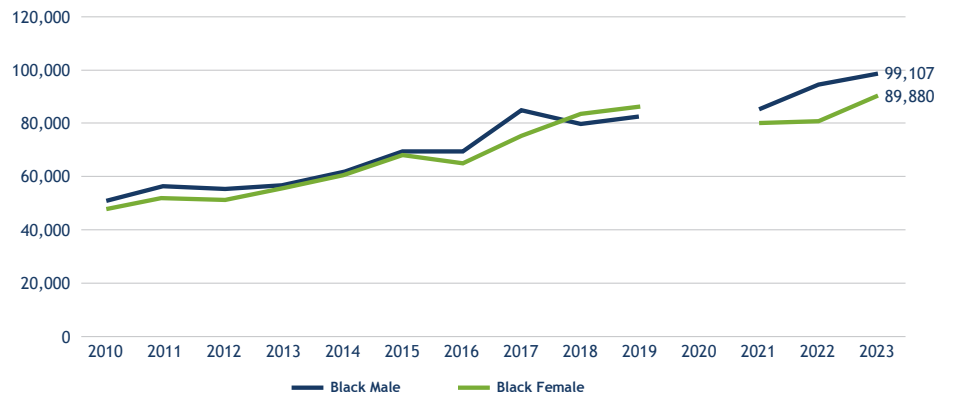
This spending power in small towns and large cities creates jobs and business growth. The African Heritage economy has monthly rental payments of \$80 million. Tax payments are valued at \$1.2 billion, which help pay for schools, roads, public safety, etc.

There are 46,110 Black-owned businesses in Minnesota; 2,110 Black-owned businesses in Minnesota have paid employees. Those businesses employed 33,129 employees in total and had a payroll equaling \$924 million. In addition to businesses with paid employees, there were 44,000 Black-owned “non-employer” businesses.

There are over 167,000 African Heritage people in the workforce generating \$58 billion output and supporting 300,000 jobs.

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

NUMBER OF BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN WORKERS AGE 16 TO 64 YEARS 2010-2023, MINNESOTA

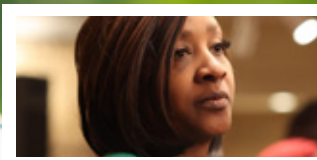


Sources: Minnesota State Demographer, US Census Bureau, Bruce P. Corrie, PhD, Economist, Concordia University, St. Paul, American Community Survey

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY REPORT

UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS

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2024 was a year resolutely dedicated to Black children and families. From targeted funding to community action to steadfast change, our collective efforts generated unprecedented success. 2024 was a community triumph:

1. Prioritizing investments in Black children and families
2. Passing the African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (AAFPA)
3. Attacking the Black housing crisis
4. Investing in equity-focused systems change

WE PERSEVERED...WE INVESTED...WE TRIUMPHED

The Minnesota Legislature usually focuses on policy reforms and supplementary funding items during the second year of legislative biennium. In the months prior to the 2024 Legislative Session, state leaders identified investments in childcare and infrastructure as top priorities.

In the state's February 2024 Budget and Economic Forecast, Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) reported that Minnesota will have a \$3.71 billion surplus at the end of the 2024-2025 biennium. But the news was mixed because MMB also projected a \$1.5 billion budget shortfall by 2027, meaning the state could spend \$1.5 billion more than it collects in revenue. Some state leaders responded by tempering expectations about spending for the 2024 Legislative Session, while others renewed their criticisms of the spending of the 2023 Session.

Amidst the calls for fiscal restraint by state leaders across party lines, the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage focused on priorities that would help Minnesota tackle critical community needs. Our Council and community partners identified investments in Black children and families as top priorities; e.g., child welfare improvements and housing reforms. Across these and other initiatives, we sought to center evidence-based practices, particularly proposals to invest in scientifically proven, culturally relevant systems changes.

A HISTORIC WIN

In a historic win for bipartisanship, children and families, and good governance, Minnesota passed the African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act in 2024 (Chapter 117, SF716). This law establishes Minnesota as a leader in the movement to combat child welfare disparities and keep families together. Governor Tim Walz called the legislative victory a major step toward making Minnesota the best state for children.

The African American Family Preservation Act addresses failures that lead to overrepresentation of Black children in child protection. Black children are disproportionately impacted by the short-term and long-term harms of child removal and family separation. As Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan said, the new law responds to these inequities by working upstream to invest in family and kin relations, quality social and economic supports, and other protections that prevent child removal when it's in the best interest of the child.

LEADING THE CHARGE

CMAH was a leading partner in the 2023-2024 campaign to pass the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act. We collaborated with chief legislative authors, Senator Bobby Joe Champion and Representative Esther Agbaje, and lead community organizations, Village Arms and NAACP Minneapolis, to build, maintain, and move a statewide network of partners and resources.

We worked with state agencies and leaders, state lawmakers, local government stakeholders, Black-led organizations, and BIPOC-led organizations. Our campaign produced bipartisan, cross-cultural, and statewide support for passage of the historic policy and finance bill. The Minnesota Legislature provided \$14.78 million for initial administration of the AAFPA, including implementation of a phase-in program in Hennepin and Ramsey counties.



PARTNERS IN THE 2024 AAFPA CAMPAIGN

African and African American Leaders and Organizations

- Senate President Bobby Joe Champion
- House Assistant Majority Leader Esther Agbaje
- Kelis Houston, Village Arms
- NAACP Minneapolis
- Impacted Families (Including Former Foster Youth)
- Black Maternal Health Legislative Caucus
- United Black Legislative Caucus
- House Representative Walter Hudson
- Large Cross-Cultural Coalition of Black Community, Faith, and Professional Organizations

BIPOC Leaders and Organizations

- Minnesota Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council
- People of Color and Indigenous Legislative Caucus

Local/Regional Government Stakeholders

- Hennepin County Commissioners

- Ramsey County Commissioners
- Hennepin County Attorney's Office

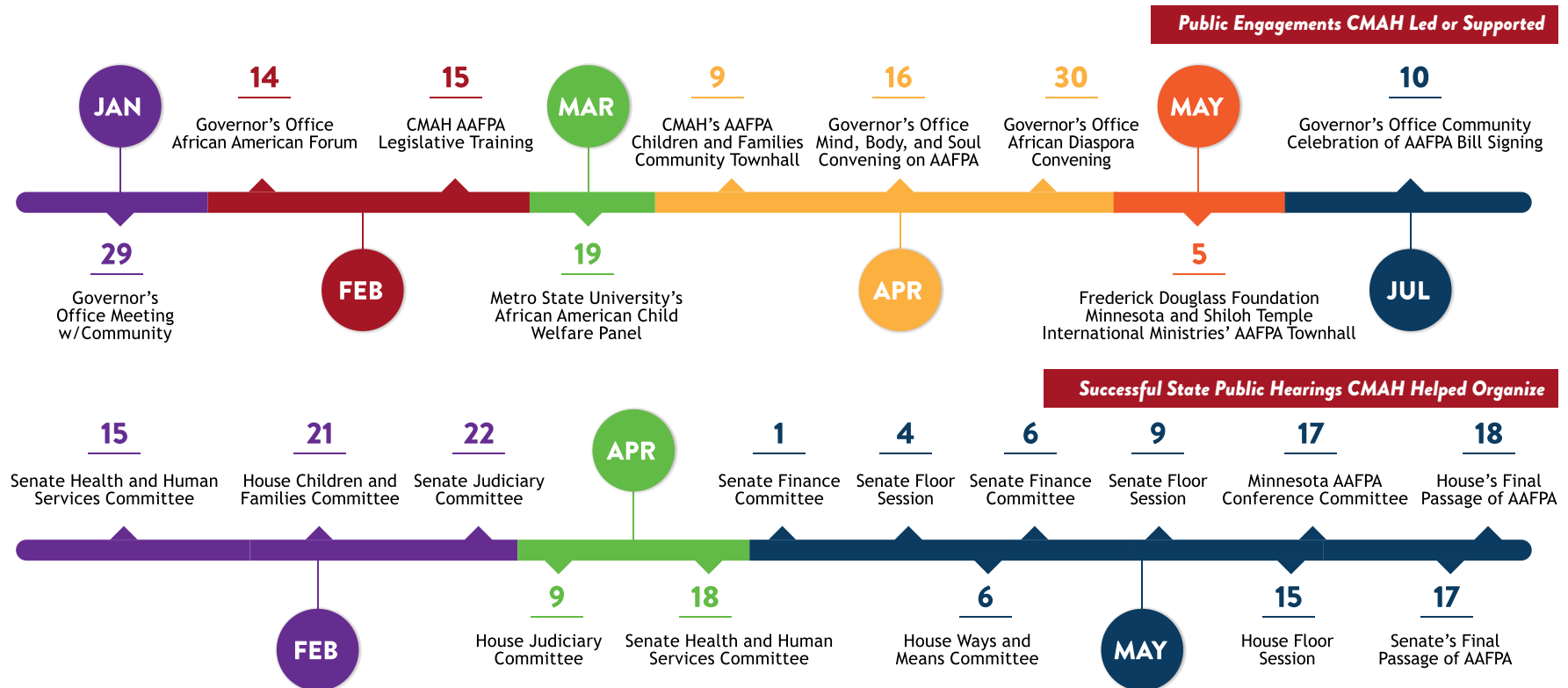
Minnesota State House and Senate Caucus and Committee Leadership

- Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy
- Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman
- Senate Health and Human Services Chair Melissa Wiklund
- House Children and Families Chair Dave Pinto

Walz-Flanagan Administration

- Office of Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan
- African American Child Well-Being Office
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- Office of Ombudsperson for Families
- Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson

AAFPA CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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CARVING OUT AN EQUITABLE APPROACH

Black Minnesotans are disproportionately burdened by high costs and housing instability. Although most Black households want to own a home, less than 3 out of 10 Black Minnesotans are homeowners. Black residents are more likely to be rent cost-burdened, which means they pay more than 30 percent of their income on rent. These economic hardships are shaped by durable histories of anti-Black policy and entrenched systems of underinvestment.



The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage partnered with the East Metro Civic Alliance and NAACP Saint Paul to advance community conversations about steps Minnesota should take to address the crises of Black housing instability. Constituents raised concerns about Black challenges related to high housing instability, low homeownership rates, and low participation as entrepreneurs and workers in the housing industry. Three key policy recommendations emerged from these conversations:

- i) Empower Black Minnesotans as consumers and producers in the housing economy.
- ii) Improve civil rights enforcement within housing finance and policy.

- iii) Use a targeted investment model to address the unique challenges that Black residents and other marginalized communities face in the housing sector.

To direct the state's attention to these recommendations, we helped facilitate meetings and other opportunities for community leaders and organizations to raise their concerns. We organized meetings with the Governor's Office, Minnesota Housing (the state's housing finance agency), and Representatives Michael Howard and Esther Agbaje (who served respectively as chair and vice chair of the House's Housing Committee in 2024).

These stakeholder engagements resulted in the drafting of three legislative bill proposals, two of which were introduced during the 2024 Minnesota Legislative Session.

- i) African American Affordable Homeownership and Workforce Utilization
 - a. HF5434 – Representative Howard (Chief Author)
- ii) Civil Rights Audit of Housing Finance
 - a. HF5415 – Representative Agbaje (Chief Author)
 - b. SF5487 – Senator Mohamed (Chief Author), Senator Oumou Verbeten (Co-Author)
- iii) Constitutional Right to Housing Proposal Using Targeted Investment Model (Draft)

In addition, CMAH supported community efforts to expand tenant rights, including a package of bills brought forward by Representative Agbaje and Senator Mohamed (SF3492). The package included protections related to eviction expungement, tenant screening (including use of ITIN number), tenant's right to organize, and source of income discrimination. While the latter measure was removed, other provisions in the package were passed and signed by Governor Walz (Chapter 118).



SUPPORTING INVESTMENTS IN EQUITY-FOCUSED CHANGE

The Council reported and supported policy change proposals that would increase equity and inclusivity in the governance of Minnesota’s economic, education, health, and public safety systems.

ECONOMIC POWER:

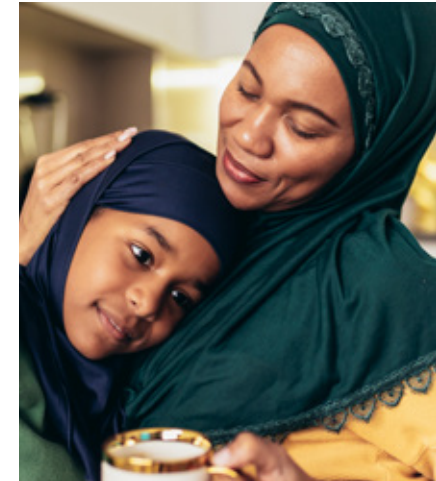
- Tracked and reported on policy reforms related to inclusive growth legislation, including the Minnesota Debt Fairness Act, Transportation Network Driver Protections, and Worker Misclassification.
- Provided feedback to MN DEED about community frustrations regarding limitations in the economic grant programs for businesses and workers.

EDUCATION EQUITY:

- Amplified community priorities regarding equitable participation in early learning, ethnic studies, financial literacy education, and full-service community schools.
- Continued partnership with state ethnic councils and Indian Affairs Council to push for investments that would close education opportunity gaps, including funding for the 2024 Increase Teachers of Color Act.

HEALTHY FAMILIES:

- Tracked and reported on efforts to address the social determinants of health outcomes, including the Birth Justice Collaborative and MinnesotaCare Public Option proposals.
- Supported community education and engagement efforts of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Implementation Office and the Office of African American Health.



PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Partnered with community leaders to develop methods for advancing reparative justice through state action during the 2025-2026 Minnesota Legislative Biennium, including strategies for building public support for the Minnesota Migration Act.
- Joined abolitionist efforts to end forced labor in Minnesota prisons, a campaign that seeks to align state law with Minnesota’s stated principles of corrective rehabilitation and direct state investments toward better strategies for addressing mental health, public safety, and social needs in marginalized communities.



ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES/OUTREACH

BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

ENERGIZED *by* **COMMUNITY**

While our commitment to engagements never wavers, we particularly honor the energy the community brought to 2024. Our outreach efforts revolved around:

1. CMAH Day on the Hill
2. Pro-Democracy Engagement
3. African Heritage Community Events and Stakeholder Meetings

CMAH DAY ON THE HILL

The Council hosted its annual African Heritage Day on the Hill program on February 23 at the Rotunda of the Minnesota State Capitol. Community members came together to learn about the legislative process and how to get engaged. The program included remarks from Lt. Governor Flanagan, Attorney General Ellison, Senate President Champion,

House Majority Leader Long, and other state dignitaries and community leaders. The event was co-hosted by the African American Leadership Forum, African Career Education and Resource Inc., Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter of The Links, Inc., and Greater Twin Cities Chapter of The Links, Inc.

PRO-DEMOCRACY ENGAGEMENT

Racial Data Equity

Minnesotans of African Heritage and other marginalized communities are impacted by undercounting and other inefficiencies in our demographic systems. Because population data informs public finance and policy decisions, racial undercounting contributes to systemic gaps between community needs and resource allocations.

CMAH continued our work with the Minnesota State Demographer, Dr. Susan Brower, and other partners on efforts to improve data accuracy and usage through equity and inclusion. In February 2024, the Council participated in community meetings organized by Minnesotans for the American Community Survey & 2030 Census (MACS). These included congressional visits with the offices of Representative Ilhan Omar, Senator Amy Klobuchar, and Senator Tina Smith. In July 2024, CMAH partnered with MACS to organize an African Heritage community meeting with US Census Bureau Director Robert Santos during the director's visit to Minnesota.

Voter Education and Voting Rights

Minnesotans of African Heritage are impacted by exclusions and underrepresentation in our electoral processes and systems. These challenges weaken the power of Black Minnesotans in the economy and government. CMAH supported outreach on community measures to expand civic participation and voting rights, including the legislative proposals of Common Cause Minnesota and other partners.

In addition, CMAH worked with Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon and several community organizations to create opportunities that empower voter education and participation. Our primary goal was to inform individuals about their voting rights, the significance of their participation in the democratic process, and the tools necessary to become active and engaged voters.

Guiding Principles for Community Engagement and Voter Empowerment

Cultivate Community Ownership of the Democratic Process

- Encourage Open Dialogue
- Provide Leadership Training
- Promote Collective Action

Respond to Barriers that Prevent Community Participation

- Provide Information about How to Register to Vote
- Work with Trusted Local Organizations to Build Relations and Foster Confidence
- Accommodate Accessibility, Language, and Transport Needs

CMAH's Voter Education Campaign Activities

Back-to-School Events

- Crossroads Elementary School, August 27, 2024
- Jordan Area Community, August 29, 2024
- Lind-Bohanon Neighborhood Association, August 30, 2024
- Som-Fest: Somali Culture & Music Night, August 31, 2024

September Events

- Festival and Fire Muster Block Party, September 5, 2024
- HCMC Health Fair, September 7, 2024
- Urban League's Black Women and 2024 Vote, September 9, 2024
- Rondo Community Library, September 10, 2024
- Sabathani Community Center, September 14, 2024
- Lutunji's Palate Bakery & Café, September 15, 2024

- National Voter Registration Day in Minnesota High Schools, September 17, 2024

October and November Events

- Minnesota Election Protection Volunteer Orientation, October 2, 2024
- Minnesota Expungement Clinic, October 5, 2024
- “Your Vote Counts” Volunteer Training, October 7, 2024
- CMAH Voter Registration Education Sessions, October 9-10, 2024
- PICA Head Start Voter Education Presentation, October 17, 2024
- Women’s Business Expo Voter Engagement, October 26, 2024
- Journie’s Selma Screening and Voter Registration, November 1-2, 2024

AFRICAN HERITAGE COMMUNITY EVENTS AND STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

The Council conducted extensive community engagement activities during summer and fall 2024. A key goal of this work was to grasp community data and trends to inform the Council’s public policy priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session. We sought to expand outreach across cultural and geographic segments of the African Heritage constituency.

Community Meetings that CMAH Facilitated or Co-Facilitated

Community Brainstorm and Brunch on Minnesota’s Housing Crisis

- Partners: EMCA, NAACP
- Details: November 9, 2024, Hallie Q. Brown Center

African Immigrant Stakeholder Meeting Related to Immigration and Mental Health

- Partner: Restoration for All, Inc.
- Details: November 26, 2024, Virtual

African American Stakeholder Meeting Related to Economic, Environmental, and Food Justice

- Partners: OneMN.org, Project Sweetie Pie
- Details: December 2, 2024, Virtual

Exploring Reparations (Minnesota Migration Act)

Community Conference

- Partner: Black Lives Matter Minnesota
- Details: December 10, 2024, NorthPoint Conference Center



Community Events that CMAH Supported

- Minnesota Soul, May 25, 2025
- African Mental Health Summit, July 12-14, 2024
- Oromo Community Leadership Meeting, July 17, 2024
- Oromo Sport Federation of North America, July 26, 2024
- Organization of Liberians in Minnesota (OLM), July 27, 2024
- National African Leadership Conference, August 1-2, 2024
- Little Africa Fest, August 4, 2024
- Black August National Reparations Conference, August 9-10, 2024
- OLM Youth Back to School, August 24, 2024
- Black State Fair, August 26-30, 2024
- Togolese Festival Day, August 31, 2024
- Ethiopian Community Leadership Meeting, September 7, 2024
- African Mental Health Youth Summit, September 12, 2024
- African Fashion Week, September 14, 2024
- Afro Fest, September 21, 2024
- Governor’s Office African Diaspora Convening, September 25, 2024
- Overcoming Racism Conference: Reparations in Action, November 8, 2024

The following 2025 timeline of activity forecasts the program structure of the Council.

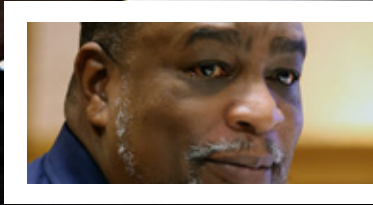
2025 ACTIVITIES

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 16 – 20	The Governor’s 39th Annual Statewide Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration	The Council, the Governor’s MLK Day Council, and the Office of Equity, Opportunity, and Accessibility
JANUARY 14	Legislative Session Begins	The Council engages lawmakers on issues that affect the Council’s constituents.
MARCH 4	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 19	Legislative Session Ends	The Council starts prepping for the session debrief and statewide summer outreach efforts.
JUNE 19	Juneteenth	Juneteenth events
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	FY26 Begins	The staff closes out FY25 and finalizes FY26 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

COLLECTIVE TRIUMPH

ENERGIZED *by* COMMUNITY



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 2024, 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

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

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



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/

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





2024 financial report

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

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

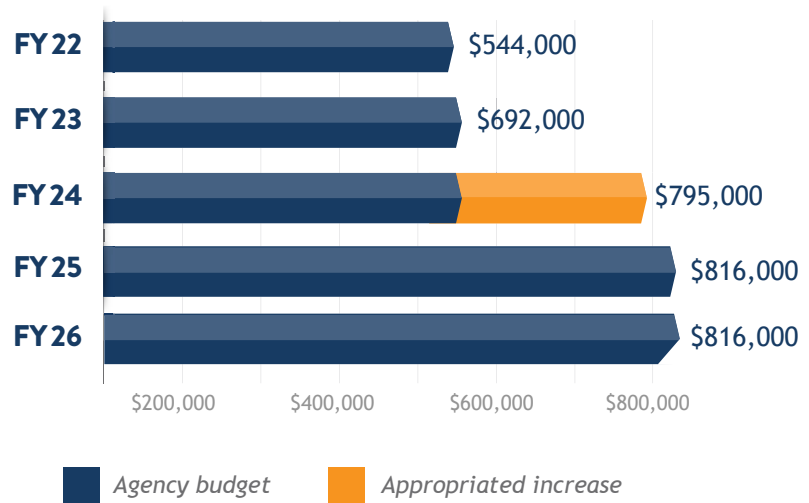
AGENCY STAFFING

The Council started 2024 with three full-time employees (FTEs). In June, we hired Lolita Davis Carter as our new Legislative and Policy Director and MJ (Momojah) Lansana as our new Community Engagement Director. We are thankful for the talents and expertise they’ve brought to the Council. In October, Theodore Rose was promoted to Managing Director of Policy. We are thankful for his continued leadership in policy advocacy at the Council.

CALENDAR YEAR 2024/25 BUDGET

The Council started fiscal year 2024 with an appropriation of \$795,000. Expenditures were at \$531,080 and were lower than expected due to salary savings and the use of virtual meetings. The Council started fiscal year 2025 with an \$816,000 appropriation. With the two new staff members hired in 2024, the Council expects for expenditures to be in line with the appropriation. The Council will start fiscal year 2026 with the same appropriated amount of \$816,000. Since fiscal year 2025 is the second year of the biennium, funds will not be carried over into 2026.

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

Andre Dukes, *Member*

Term ends 01/04/2027

Jude Nnadi, *Member*

Term ends 01/04/2027

Ellena Kaine-George, *Member*

Term ends 01/03/2028

Victor Obisakin, *Member*

Term ends 01/03/2028

Cindy Devonish, *Member*

Term ends 01/03/2028

Gloria Atika, *Member*

Term ends 01/03/2028

We also thank Alfreda Daniels Jusemai and Mayor Hollies Winston for their 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)

CMAH Staff

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Ash Musana, *Office Manager*

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Lolita Davis Carter, *Legislative and Policy Director*

Lolita.DavisCarter@state.mn.us

MJ (Momojah) Lansana, *Community Engagement Director*

MJ.Lansana@state.mn.us

Haimanot Tadesse, *Intern*

Izabella Andor, *Intern*



COUNCIL FOR MINNESOTANS
OF AFRICAN HERITAGE