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COUNCIL ON BLACK MINNESOTANS

2000 BIENNIAL REPORT

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COUNCIL ON BLACK MINNESOTANS

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MINNESOTA'S BLACK POPULATION

Over the last ten years, Black population growth in Minnesota has continued its rapid rate of increase. Minnesota's overall population grew by about 13 percent during the 1990's to about 4.9 million persons, but it appears that the Black population of the state has grown by more than 50 percent since 1990.

Although 2000 Census racial and ethnic data will not be available before March 2001, the latest official estimate of Minnesota's Black population -- based on adjustments to and projections from the 1990 Census figures -- is 148,596 in 1999, representing a 53.7 percent increase over the official 1990 count of 96,651 Black Minnesotans. Black Minnesotans represented 3.1 percent of the official estimated population of the state in 1999, as compared to 2.2 percent in 1990. People of color make up the fastest growing component of Minnesota's population, having increased from 5.2 percent of the state's population in 1990 to 8.8 percent of the population in 1999.

It is entirely possible that the official 2000 Census figures will show a significantly greater number of Black Minnesotans than the 148,596 estimated for 1999. The Minnesota State Demographic Center estimated the Black population of the state to be about 142,000 in 1995, and in 1998 projected the Black population of Minnesota to be 174,000 in 2000; 207,000 in 2005; and 237,000 in 2010. The U.S. Census Bureau, meanwhile, has projected somewhat slower Black population growth for the same period. According to the 1999 Statistical Abstract of the United States, the Census Bureau projects Minnesota's Black population at 158,000 in 2000; 185,000 in 2005; and 210,000 in 2010. Both sets of projections show dramatic growth from the official Minnesota Black population figures of 54,000 in 1980 and 96,000 in 1990. The Council expects that the 2000 Census will place the official Black population of Minnesota between 155,000 and 170,000.

Most of the state's Black population lives in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The latest metro-level Census Bureau figures estimate the Black population of the Twin Cities area in 1997 to be 126,000, or 4.5 percent of the region's 2.8 million people. Smaller Black communities can be found in and near Rochester, Duluth, St. Cloud, Moorhead, and Worthington. Especially rapid Black population growth is taking place in such Greater Minnesota counties as Carlton, Isanti, Chisago, and Crow Wing.

In March 2001, the Census Bureau will release disaggregated racial and ethnic population data for use in the decennial adjustments to congressional and legislative district boundaries. Redistricting must be complete in time for the 2002 election season. The Census Bureau will release additional detailed racial and ethnic population data in July 2001. This information from the 2000 Census will be indispensable for identifying and assessing Black socioeconomic and quality of life progress since 1990 in Minnesota and nationally.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES SINCE LAST REPORT

Since November 1998, the Council on Black Minnesotans has been actively engaged with a wide range of projects and issues of particular interest to Black Minnesotans. In the last biennium, the Council's staff level has declined from a peak strength of six full-time equivalents to its present complement of four, which has added new challenges to the task of covering a broad range of priorities and issues with limited resources. Nevertheless, the Council has still managed to cover a great deal of ground over the last two years.

A. Organizational Development and Activities in 1999-2000.

The Council on Black Minnesotans is composed of eleven citizen voting members appointed by the Governor and four legislative nonvoting members appointed by the two houses of the Minnesota Legislature. Broadly speaking, the primary functions of the Council are to:

- serve as a liaison between Minnesotans of African descent and state government;
- participate in policymaking that affect the interests and welfare of Black Minnesotans; and
- publicize the accomplishments and contributions of Black Minnesotans to the state.

The specific functions, duties, and powers of the Council are set forth in detail at Minn.Stats Section 3.9225, attached as Appendix 1 to this Report.

The Council normally meets on the second Tuesday of each month at its St. Paul office, and meets occasionally at other places in the state. The Council has met or attended functions in Worthington and St. Cloud in recent months. Although all eleven citizen seats on the Council are now filled, it has been several years since all such positions have been occupied. The last biennium has been characterized by a higher degree of turnover than usual, on both the board and staff levels -- only two of the citizen board members and three staff members were with the Council as of the time of its last biennial report.

In general, board and staff functions can be divided along the following lines: The Council board sets broad policy and identifies priorities, oversees the staff, and engages in strategic planning in order to maximize its effect within strict budgetary constraints. The Council staff implements and executes Council projects, pursues Council priorities and objectives, informs the Council board of opportunities and problems of interest or concern to Black Minnesotans, and handles the daily work of serving as a link between Black Minnesotans and state policy processes.

On the board level, the Council adopted formal bylaws, convened an organizational and strategic planning retreat in March 2000, and continues to work toward focusing on particular policy priorities. On the staff level, the introduction of Internet and e-mail capability two years ago has greatly facilitated research and communication capacity, but the single 14 kb connection that currently serves the four-person office is already obsolete. For several months, the Council has been trying to get DSL Internet service on each staff desktop, but line capacity limits in the Midway area of St. Paul have led to a significant delay.

Council staff underwent an internal roles and responsibilities analysis with the help of the Department of Administration's Management Analysis Division in 1999. Council staff has also emphasized the development of skills and expertise in many areas of interagency management, such as fiscal and data arrangements with the Department of Administration, financial and budget planning with the Department of Finance, and policy and research functions with the Governor's Office, Minnesota Planning, the other Councils of Color, and several state departments.

The Council will continue to seek effective working relationships with other state agencies and community organizations in order to fulfill the central objectives of its mandate. The following discussion illustrates how the Council has worked with state and other governmental bodies and community organizations on matters of concern to Black Minnesotans.

B. Legislative and Policy Activities in 1999-2000.

From the standpoint of policy development, the 1999-2000 biennium was characterized by the unusual circumstance of a three-way division of control in Minnesota's government -- the Republicans controlled the Minnesota House, the Democrats the Senate, and Independent Jesse Ventura the Governor's Office. At times in each of this period's two legislative sessions, it appeared that no substantial progress could be made on the most important issues before the state or on matters of particular concern to Black Minnesotans, due to the very real possibility of deadlock between the three major partisan interests involved. Despite this danger, each session yielded a well-balanced, if cautious, commitment of state resources to matters of public interest. The unprecedented material prosperity of the state throughout this period no doubt contributed to the ability of the state to find acceptable if not ideal compromises between the conflicting values of tax reform and reduction and increasing investment in state infrastructure and social problems. As difficult as it has proved to enact legislative and administrative approaches to statewide issues in 1999-2000, an atmosphere of fiscal constraint and budget deficits would have made the legislative task even more difficult; it has not typically been possible as it was in the last biennium to achieve substantial tax rebates while committing additional resources in such areas as public education, child care, and affordable housing.

As a part of the Executive Branch of state government, the Council has also been involved with policy development through the Governor's Big Plan and interagency policy development procedures coordinated through Minnesota Planning and the Department of Finance. The key challenge for the Council has been to bring policy initiatives of importance to Black Minnesotans to the attention of those key decisionmakers within each department who have the greatest influence over budget and policy planning priorities. At the same time, the Council works closely with such organizations as the African American Leadership Council, the Black Church Coalition, and African immigrant groups in order to refine its sense of policy priorities within the state's increasingly diverse Black communities, and represent those concerns to state officials.

An important function performed by the Council in 1999-2000 has been to monitor and report to the community on policy developments during the legislative sessions. For the first time, the Council has been able to follow bill introductions, committee actions, amendments, and final bills over the Internet, which has dramatically improved the Council's ability to stay current with a large volume of legislative information. The Council has also reviewed and submitted comments regarding line-item vetoes on omnibus bills, and the Governor has followed the Council's recommendations in nearly all cases.

The Council has been consulted on and participated in rulemaking and other policy activities concerning out-of-home placement of children, diversity in day care training, family conferencing, voter registration, law enforcement officer training, affirmative action in state employment, and health care issues of particular concern to people of color.

C. Community Activities in 1999-2000.

Throughout the last biennium, the Council was closely involved with planning for the 2000 Census. The Council worked with the Minnesota Census Roundtable, the multi-agency umbrella group charged with ensuring a complete count in our state. The Council also worked with local census offices in Minneapolis and St. Paul, the Kansas City Regional Office of the U.S. Census, and Minnesota Planning. The Council served as lead agency with the Minnesota Black Census Complete Count Committee with the special responsibility of making sure that the 5 percent undercount of Black Minnesotans in the 1990 Census is not duplicated in the 2000 Census returns. The success of these efforts will show up in the release of detailed data in March and July 2001, when official current demographic information about Black Minnesotans can be compared to the projections of the State Demographer.

Black Minnesotans have become more active in policy and community affairs over the last two years. The Lucille's Forum discussion series at a North Minneapolis restaurant has become an important public outlet for exchanging information with African Americans in the Twin Cities, and the Council is a frequent participant in these discussions. The Council typically conducts one or more legislative training sessions and Capitol tours for Black Minnesotans each year, which are very well attended. The spread of modern information technology to the Council and community-based organizations has both stimulated interest and strengthened the community's practical capacity for participation in public processes.

The rapid increase of African immigration to Minnesota over the last five years has resulted in a real need to recognize the interests and needs of African-born Minnesotans. Public agencies have made good progress in recognizing the distinctive problems of African immigrants in such areas as education, child care, housing, public safety, and cultural sensitivity, and many highly successful self-help groups have emerged in immigrant communities. Although a good approximation of Minnesota's African immigrant population will not be available until detailed analyses of 2000 Census data are released, it appears that African immigrants could represent 20 percent or more of the state's Black population. Over the last biennium, the Council has become increasingly involved with African immigrant issues and organizations, often by offering technical and organizational advice to emerging organizations and by promoting strategic connections between such groups and policymakers.

The Council over the last biennium has also continued its close involvement with such well-established organizations as the NAACP, the Urban Leagues of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and the Urban Coalition, as well as with numerous Black professional, community, and cultural organizations. The Council also continues to administer state support for the official Minnesota observance of the annual Martin Luther King holiday, through an independent Governor's Commission on the holiday observance.

POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM

The following list of issues and problems confronting Black people in Minnesota is not intended to serve as an exclusive list of issues that require attention in our state's public and private life. Instead, it is an illustration of some of the concerns important to many or most Black Minnesotans in the 2001-02 Biennium. State policymakers and Minnesota citizens in general are encouraged to give these matters careful thought, especially if they have not considered them before. No attempt is made to present these issues in terms of priority of importance.

A. General Issues.

The issues under this head are broad and persistent problems that can be seen as underlying factors in many of the specific issues facing Black Minnesotans today. Because these general problems reflect very complicated and often controversial historical, economic, and social factors, it is probably not realistic to regard these issues as amenable to meaningful resolution in the short or intermediate term. It is recommended instead that these issues be kept in mind as context when considering possible approaches or solutions to more specific problems, so that sound strategies can be formulated with an understanding of these underlying contextual factors.

1. *Structural Racism.*

This is a persistent problem that cannot be ignored or wished away. Structural racism, also known as "institutional racism", refers to the inequalities of treatment that do not necessarily reflect conscious prejudice or discriminatory intent, but that nevertheless inequitably work against the legitimate interests of Black people and other groups due to established social, economic, and public policy practices. To the extent that the word "racism" distracts from rather than contributes to a functional understanding of this concept, "embedded disadvantage" is a term that very nearly approaches the meaning of this instrument for understanding the persistence of Black disadvantages in the post-civil rights era.

Racial disparities continue to show up in measures such as access to educational opportunity, the job market, credit and finance, decent housing, criminal justice, children's welfare issues, environmental justice, and even life expectancy; and those disparities persist between races even when income, age, work experience, and other race-neutral factors are taken into account. When institutional or structural factors reflecting past discriminatory intentions or effects persist in contributing to current inequities, remedial

approaches at institutional or structural levels will be necessary to eliminate those inequities. Otherwise, strategies for action will overly emphasize symptoms rather than causes, and little or no lasting progress will be achieved. The growing interest in discussing reparations for America's unresolved legacy of slavery can probably best be approached within this head as well.

2. *Racial Disparities in Quality of Life Indicators.*

There is hardly a measured economic or social index that does not show a glaring disparity in well-being between Black and white Minnesotans: average household income, home ownership rates, educational achievement, life expectancy, children in foster care, men in prison, and on and on. While there are some initiatives that seek directly to discover the causes and possible solutions to these disparities – for example, the African American Men's Study in Hennepin County, and the Minnesota Department of Health's project to study racial disparities in cardiovascular health -- there needs to be more attention focused on closing these gaps. In order to be effective, these efforts must seek aggressively to focus on the scope and nature of the issues within each substantive area, and also incorporate Black community input to make sure that a strong range of diagnostic and remedial views is reflected in policy recommendations.

3. *The New Black Demographics.*

Preliminary Census data show not only a dramatic increase in the overall number of Black Minnesotans, but also show that the fastest growing Black communities in Minnesota are found some distance away from Minneapolis and St. Paul. Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota and Scott Counties together have more than doubled their Black populations in the last decade, and even faster growth is seen in Greater Minnesota areas such as Carlton, Crow Wing, Isanti, Rice, Swift, and Waseca Counties. In some of these areas, Black communities as such have emerged for the first time only within the last ten years. Policymakers and local officials unaccustomed to working with Black constituencies will need to take their interests and views into account, and the Council and state officials will need to look beyond Minneapolis and St. Paul to make sure that Blacks in Greater Minnesota are included in policy processes. At the same time, we must remain aware of the factors within the Twin Cities themselves that tend to concentrate Black communities, poverty, and lack of opportunity in the same disadvantaged areas, and continue to address those problems.

B. Specific Issues.

Without losing sight of the general background factors and challenges mentioned above, here are some of the more specific issues that confront Black Minnesotans today. With respect to any one or more of these issues, there is a widespread sense within Black communities that there is no better time than the present, given our high prosperity, for taking steps that were postponed or rejected during previous periods of economic uncertainty. Just as it makes sense to tend to the physical infrastructure of a community during periods of surplus, it also makes sense to make wise investments in the social and civic fabric of a community when no hardship would result from doing so. The Council invites all Minnesotans to give careful consideration to the following issues:

1. *Welfare Reform in the Next Biennium.*

Although only about 4 percent of Minnesota's households are headed by African Americans, Black households represented about 30 percent of the state's MFIP caseload in December 1998, according to data recently released by the State Department of Human Services. Because about one-third of Minnesota's Black households with children are considered to be "working poor" (that is, earn less than 150 percent of the federal poverty threshold), Black Minnesotans are at a higher risk both of needing public assistance and of running into problems relating to exhaustion of the 60-month benefit limit after July 2002.

While there is no question that welfare rolls have fallen sharply due to sustained improvements in the overall economy and the new commitment to transitions from welfare to work, there is also no question that as many as 7,000 MFIP families will be expected to exhaust their 60-month benefit limits in the 2003 fiscal year. Many of these families will be Black Minnesotans. There is no time to lose in making sure that families most threatened by the exhaustion of their benefits have every opportunity to make a successful transition from welfare to work, or alternatively, have access to fair and humane exemption benefits where such a transition will not be possible. The transition to work must be made in such a way as not only to minimize the expenditure of public welfare benefits, but at least as importantly, to promote the creation of living-wage, career-path employment opportunities. Persons engaged in productive employment, even when not well paid, should receive public support where necessary in such areas as child care, housing, health care, and continuing education, so that participation in the workforce has no downside. Welfare reform should not result in the creation of a permanent service class of the working poor.

2. *Affordable Housing.*

Efforts to minimize dependence on public aid, particularly in the Twin Cities Metro Area, will face significant challenges due to the acute and apparently worsening shortage of affordable housing. According to the Minneapolis Area United Way's report "Self-Sufficiency 2000: An Examination of the Twin Cities Environment", the vacancy rate for two-bedroom apartments in the seven-county Metro Area fell from 6 percent in 1990 to less than 2 percent in 1998, where it has remained for two years. Reflecting the shortage of supply, average rents have increased sharply, by 5 percent alone in 1998. This rate of increase is about double the rate of increase in wages. Especially ominous for people making the transition from welfare to work is the fact that in 1998, the average hourly wage for the 20 jobs most commonly taken by welfare recipients was about \$8.75, while the average two-bedroom apartment in Minneapolis was considered affordable only for persons making at least \$15 per hour.

For prospective homeowners, the inflation in Metro Area housing prices presents an even greater obstacle, with median sales prices in the region having increased by 14.6 percent in 1997-2000, almost twice the national average of increase. Although recent 2000 Census data for the Twin Cities will not be available for a year or more, the Black Twin Cities home ownership rate in 1990 -- following a period of declining prices -- was only 31 percent, as compared to a white home ownership rate of 70 percent. Nationally, Black home ownership has risen to a recent high of 46 percent by 1999, but the Black households in the Twin Cities area are currently expected to reflect a much lower home ownership rate.

Although the Ventura Administration and the Minnesota Legislature have committed substantial resources to the state's affordable housing crisis in recent legislative sessions, the addition of new units to the Metro Area's affordable housing stock remains sluggish and trails demand by a considerable margin. Few suburban areas are making the commitment to affordable housing that are required by such mechanisms as the Affordable Communities program coordinated by the Metropolitan Council. It does not appear likely that market forces will serve the needs of persons earning less than several multiples of the federal poverty rate in either the rental or the home ownership markets. Policymakers are encouraged to find new ways to encourage the expansion of the area's affordable housing stock, particularly in suburban areas, perhaps even by means of additional state aid transfers or property tax reduction credits to communities that add a given number of affordable housing units.

3. *Economic Development.*

Although Black purchasing power in Minnesota increased by some 135 percent in the period 1990-99, substantial need remains for a wide range of economic development opportunities and assistance in Minnesota's Black communities. The July 2000 Report of the Governor's Working Group on Minority Business Development identified a number of barriers to full participation in the state's economy, particularly for emerging entrepreneurs from communities of color. On the positive side, the State Department of Trade and Economic Development offers a good variety of training and technical assistance programs throughout Minnesota that can help startup businesses get pointed in the right direction. A chronic problem that comes to the Council's attention, however, is that of access to startup capital -- sometimes as little as \$30,000 -- that can make the critical difference in making a business plan a viable reality. The Governor's Working Group specifically identified the state as an important potential capital source or guarantor for new entrepreneurs, and we encourage the Legislature to commit the resources necessary to implement this recommendation.

Another means of promoting business development in Black and other communities of color around the state will be to more aggressively identify and recruit minority contractors in state and local government purchasing. According to the Governor's Working Group, "minority business enterprises" or MBE's have obtained only the tiniest conceivable fraction of state contracts in many areas. For example, in 1995-97, barely one-tenth of one percent of almost \$800 million in highway construction contracts went to MBE's, when MBE's represented almost 12 percent of the eligible firms. All public entities should renew their commitment to inclusiveness in public contracting.

4. *Public Safety and Criminal Justice.*

Two issues in particular stand out under this head -- the apparently widespread practice of racial profiling in law enforcement, and the persistent over-representation of African American men in Minnesota's prisons.

The current legislative session will feature several bills directed at studying and preventing the improper targeting of people of color in pretextual traffic stops and other law enforcement interventions, and we have recently learned that the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, which licenses law enforcement officers and agencies, plans to incorporate the prevention of racial profiling into its training and continuing education rules. Whatever approaches to the prevention of racial profiling in Minnesota are eventually adopted, it is important for the sake of public confidence in law enforcement processes that such measures reflect public input, concerns, and experiences, so that full accountability can be assured.

As for disparities in incarceration rates between white Minnesotans and those of African descent, Human Rights Watch singled our state out in 2000 as one of the most extreme examples in the United States. Blacks are incarcerated at a rate more than 12 times their proportion of the state's population, and Black males are 26 times more likely than white males to reside in a Minnesota correctional facility. At the same time, it should be noted that the incidence of Black incarceration in Minnesota is little more than half the national average of 4,630 per 100,000; our state has just about the lowest overall incarceration rate in the nation. An important objective for all concerned in the criminal justice, probation, and social services systems should be to lower the Black incarceration rate to under 200 per 100,000, not only through the application of unbiased law enforcement and criminal sentencing practices, but through the effective implementation of crime prevention and rehabilitative services in African American communities, especially for young men coming out of prison.

5. *Out-of-Home Placement and Children's Issues.*

Very serious problems persist in the delivery of family intervention services and the placement of children in Minnesota's African American communities. According to a 1999 report of the Legislative Auditor, African American children were twice as likely on a national basis as white children to be in out-of-home placements, but in Minnesota, African American children were six times more likely to have been removed from the family home. The duration of such placements also tended to be about 10 percent longer on average for Black children than for the overall total in placement.

Another problem of particular concern to social service professionals is the inordinate number of Black families involved in termination of parental rights. One factor contributing to this problem is the current practice in Minnesota of requiring "concurrency planning", or steps preliminary to termination of parental rights, after six months of placement, as opposed to the twelve months mandated by federal law. It appears that Black families are disproportionately caught in our state's preference for certainty of termination over family preservation. The Legislature is urged to amend the appropriate statutes to make sure that family preservation services are given an entire year to work before committing to termination of parental rights.

6. *African Immigrants' Issues.*

It will be at least several months before accurate figures describing the number of African immigrants in Minnesota will be released by the Census Bureau; current estimates range wildly between 12,000 and 60,000. The

true number no doubt lies between these two extremes. It is entirely possible that 20 to 25 percent of Minnesota's Black population was born in Africa.

The Council is very much interested in helping these new Americans make a successful transition to full and successful participation in Minnesota's economic, social, and cultural life. Many barriers to this transition remain to be addressed, however. Many African immigrants are seriously underemployed because their professional or educational credentials in their nations of origin are not recognized here. Differences in language, religion, diet, and customs can profoundly complicate things like day care arrangements or workplace relationships, which makes economic self-sufficiency that much harder to achieve. The typically larger size of many African immigrant families also makes it much harder than it even would be otherwise to find suitable housing, particularly rental units of four or more bedrooms.

The Council is working toward providing for expanded representation of African immigrants on the Council board, and encourages the state to consider an advisory task force to make a comprehensive inventory of African immigrant needs with suitable recommendations. At the same time, all levels of government concerned with quality of life issues for individuals and families are also encouraged to consider how to better deliver services to African immigrant clients and constituents.

SPECIFIC COUNCIL ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT BIENNIUM

A. Organizational and Technical Action Goals.

1. Streamline and improve information flows between Council membership and staff, between the Council and the community, and between the Council and other state agencies.
2. Strengthen and expand the Council's information technology capacity, including a Council on Black Minnesotans website.

B. Community Action Goals.

1. Keep Black Minnesotans informed of legislative and public policy developments.

2. Increase opportunities for individuals and groups to work effectively on public policy issues.
3. Form effective alliances with other communities of color and low-income populations on issues of common concern.

C. Greater Minnesota Action Goals.

1. Extend the Council's contacts and effectiveness with Black communities outside the Twin Cities metro area.
2. Include Greater Minnesotans of African descent in state and local policy activities.
3. Help improve the climate of tolerance and respect for diversity so that citizens and visitors of African descent can feel safe and comfortable anywhere in the state.

D. Legislative and Policy Action Goals.

1. Improve the Council's effectiveness in advising the Governor and Legislature on public policy issues, legislation, and rulemaking.
2. Strengthen connections between Black community initiatives and components of the Governor's Big Plan.
3. Help Black Minnesotans refine their familiarity with public policy processes.
4. Help address the needs and interests of African immigrant communities.

Appendix 1 - Minn.Stats. Section 3.9225**Minn.Stats. Section 3.9225 COUNCIL ON BLACK MINNESOTANS.**

Subdivision 1. Creation. A state council on Black Minnesotans consists of 11 members appointed by the governor. The members of the council must be broadly representative of the Black community of the state and include at least five males and at least five females. Membership terms, compensation, removal of members, and filling of vacancies for nonlegislative members are as provided in section 15.0575. Because the council performs functions that are not purely advisory, the council is not subject to the expiration date in section 15.059. Two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker and two members of the senate appointed by the subcommittee on committees of the committee on rules and administration shall serve as nonvoting members of the council. The council shall annually elect from its membership a chair and other officers it deems necessary.

Subd. 2. Definitions. For the purpose of this section, the term "Black" describes persons who consider themselves as having origin in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

Subd. 3. Duties. The council shall:

- (a) advise the governor and the legislature on the nature of the issues confronting Black people in this state;
- (b) advise the governor and the legislature on statutes or rules necessary to ensure that Black people have access to benefits and services provided to people in this state;
- (c) recommend to the governor and the legislature any revisions in the state's affirmative action program and other steps that are necessary to eliminate the underutilization of Blacks in the state's work force;
- (d) recommend to the governor and the legislature legislation to improve the economic and social condition of Black people in this state;
- (e) serve as a conduit to state government for organizations of Black people in the state;
- (f) serve as a referral agency to assist Black people to secure access to state agencies and programs;
- (g) serve as a liaison with the federal government, local government units, and private organizations on matters relating to the Black people of this state;
- (h) perform or contract for the performance of studies designed to suggest solutions to problems of Black people in the areas of education, employment, human rights, health, housing, social welfare, and other related areas;
- (i) implement programs designed to solve problems of Black people when authorized by other statute, rule, or order;
- (j) review data provided by the commissioner of human services under section 257.072, subd. 5, and present recommendations on the out-of-home placement of children. Recommendations must be presented to the commissioner and the legislature by February 1, 1990; November 1, 1990; and November 1 of each year thereafter; and
- (k) publicize the accomplishments of Black people and their contributions to this state.

Subd. 4. Review of grant applications. All applications by a state department or agency for the receipt of federal funds which will have their primary effect on Black Minnesotans shall be submitted to the council for review and recommendation at least 30 days before submission to a federal agency.

Subd. 5. Powers. The council may contract in its own name, but no money shall be accepted or received as a loan nor indebtedness incurred except as otherwise provided by law. Contracts shall be approved by a majority of the members of the council and executed by the chair and the executive director. The council may apply for, receive, and expend in its own name grants and gifts of money consistent with the power and duties specified in subdivisions 1 to 7.

The council shall appoint an executive director who is experienced in administrative activities and familiar with the problems and needs of Black people. The council may delegate to the executive director powers and duties under subdivisions 1 to 7 which do not require council approval. The executive director serves in the unclassified service and may be removed at any time by the council. The executive director shall recommend to the council, and the council may appoint the appropriate staff necessary to carry out its duties. Staff members serve in the unclassified service. The commissioner of administration shall provide the council with necessary administrative services.

Subd. 6. State agency assistance. Other state agencies shall supply the council upon request with advisory staff services on matters relating to the jurisdiction of the council. The council shall cooperate and coordinate its activities with other state agencies to the highest possible degree.

Subd. 7. Report. The council shall prepare and distribute a report to the governor and legislature by November 15 of each even-numbered year. The report shall summarize the activities of the council since its last report, list receipts and expenditures, identify the major problems and issues confronting Black people, and list the specific objectives which the council seeks to attain during the next biennium.

APPENDIX 2
RECEIPTS FY 1999-2000

General Fund	715,000
Federal Fund	1,000
Gift Fund	<u>45,851</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$761,851</u>

Note: *The receipts and expenditure data for the 1999-2000 Biennium in Appendices 2 and 3 are based on unaudited figures received from the Office of Fiscal Services of the Department of Administration, which provides administrative services to the Council as provided under Minn. Stats. Section 3.9225, subd. 5.*

APPENDIX 3**EXPENDITURES FY 1999-2000**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Salaries & Benefits	\$468,842
Overtime Pay	8,255
Other Benefits	22,239
Rent, Maintenance, Utilities	45,053
Repairs, Alterations & Maintenance	7,082
Printing/Advertising	9,863
Professional/Technical Services	154,565
Computer and Systems Service	1,229
Communications	21,124
Travel In-State	21,466
Travel Out-State	7,431
Supplies	19,872
Equipment	6,766
Employee Development	8,962
Other Operating Costs	39,703
Statewide Indirect Cost	524
Aid to Non-Government Organizations	58,250
State Agency Reimbursement	<u>-97</u>
TOTAL	\$901,129

Note: *Much of the excess of expenditures over receipts for the period 1999-2000 reflects the expenditure during the period of 1998 funds.*