

[www.mn.gov/cmah/](http://www.mn.gov/cmah/)

**AT A GLANCE**

- We represent nearly 329,000 Minnesotans of African Heritage, of which about 25 percent are immigrants from Africa.
- Our headquarters is in downtown St. Paul and we work with a variety of consultants across the state.
- Using community-driven research and decision-making, we ensure increased civic engagement to develop programs and policy.
- We have two FTEs and are in the process of hiring two more. Nearly 500 volunteers work with us to reach Minnesotans of African Heritage throughout the state.

**PURPOSE**

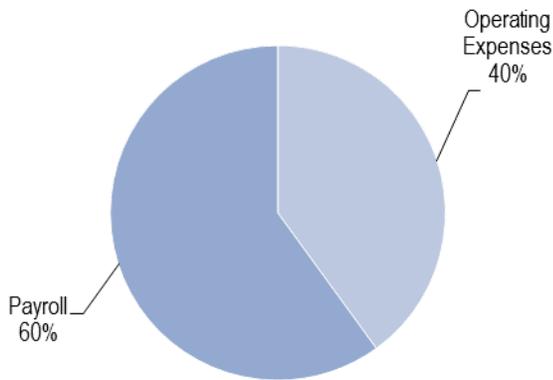
The legislature created the Council on Black Minnesotans in 1980 to ensure people of African heritage fully and effectively participate in and equitably benefit from the political, social and economic resources, policies and procedure of the state. In 2015, the agency’s name was changed to the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage (CMAH) and duties were focused to fulfilling its mission by advising the governor and legislature on public policy issues.

**STATEWIDE OUTCOME**

The Council for Minnesotans of African heritage supports the following outcome: **A state of equity exemplified by strong families and communities where people of African heritage thrive.**

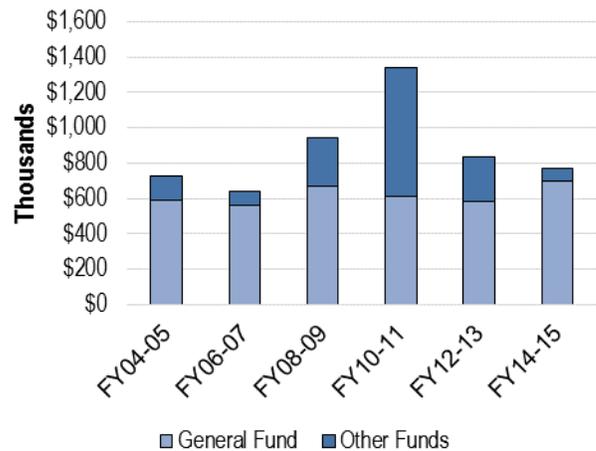
**BUDGET**

**Spending by Category  
FY 15 Actual**



Source: BPAS

**Historical Spending**



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

- The CMAH achieves its mission through public outreach that includes surveys, citizen forums and participation in public events to gain information and insight on the status, opinions and suggestions of people of African heritage. We then use that information to develop public policy recommendations and strategies for the governor and legislature.
- Recently, the Council has collaborated with other organizations across the state to develop and the United Black Legislative Agenda. The council also sponsored two major forums in 2016, one on police-community relations and the other on housing, human rights, education and economic disparities. Additionally, the Council completed a variety of outreach efforts, particularly participating in community events where staff and board members captured contact information and identified concerns for the coming legislative session.
- We continued work on an arts funding initiative benefitting people of African heritage across the state. This included meeting with legislators, holding town forums and helping residents sort through issues and address impediments.

- The CMAH also worked with Minnesota Housing Finance to target communities of color for home mortgage funding and home counseling capacity building funding.

### STRATEGIES

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Increase the level of Minnesotans of African heritage civically engaged through a variety of efforts, including forums and focus groups.	2014-2016
Quantity	Meetings, discussions and collaborations are increasing between CMAH and various officials.	-
Quality	Increase unity with other organizations and groups	-
Results	Worked with UBLA, a consortium of 20 state groups, on a common agenda, much of which passed. Also began working more closely with other ethnic councils, as directed by recent legislation. Held joint legislative wrap-up with Asian-Pacific and Latino Affairs councils.	-

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M.S. 15.0145 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=15.014>) provides the legal authority for the CMAH.