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2016-17 Biennial Budget – Black Minnesotans, Council on

Agency Profile – Black Minnesotans, Council on 1

www.mn.gov/cobm

AT A GLANCE

- We represent over 320,000 Minnesotans of African Heritage, of which 25% are immigrants from Africa.
- We're headquartered in Saint Paul and operate one outstate office in Rochester.
- We utilize community driven research and decision-making to ensure increased civic engagement activities and to develop programs and policy recommendations that address community concerns.
- We have 4.5 FTEs and manage nearly 500 volunteers to reach Minnesotans of African Heritage throughout the state.

PURPOSE

The legislature created the Council on Black Minnesotans (COBM) 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 procedures of the state of Minnesota.

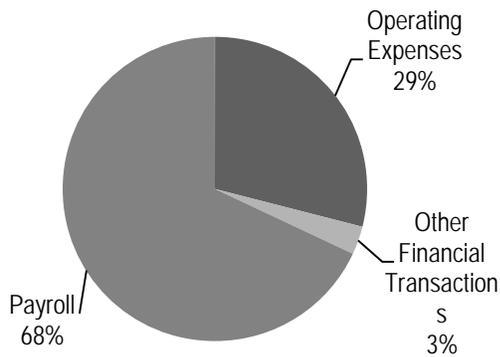
STATEWIDE OUTCOME

The Council on Black Minnesotans supports the following statewide outcome:

- **Strong and stable families and communities**

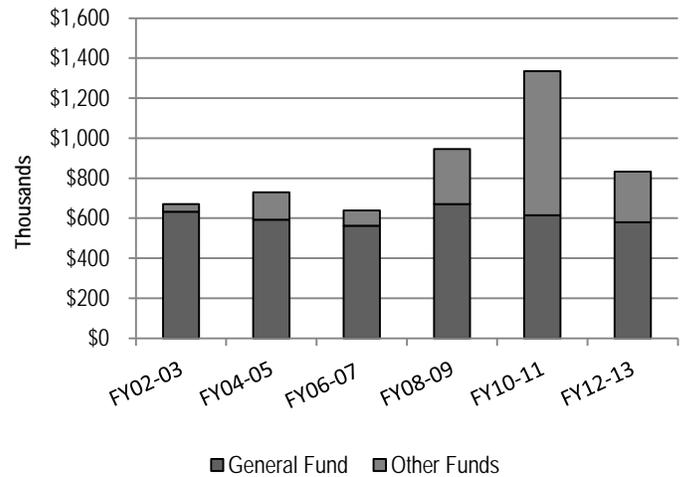
BUDGET

**Spending by Program
FY 13 Actual**



Source: SWIFT

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The COBM's funding comes primarily from a general fund appropriation and foundation grant opportunities. The last grant COBM received was from the Blue Cross and BlueShield Foundation (2011) for a tobacco cessation initiative.

STRATEGIES

The Council on Black Minnesotans (COBM) achieves its mission by utilizing community driven research, decision-making and engagement to develop and employ a strategic action plan to fulfil our mandates outlined in M.S. 3.9225

RESULTS

COBM employed its strategic action plan to achieve the following highlights during the reporting period:

- Conducted 2 studies on the socioeconomic state of Minnesotans of African heritage, published 1 report on minimum wage impact, wrote 1 white paper on education, 2 Op-eds on human rights enforcement, and 12 disparity eradication policy recommendations for the governor and legislature, and 3 program proposals to expand COBM's activities,
- Introduced 12- legislative bills to address disparities in economic development, criminal justice, education, healthcare, urban agriculture, affordable housing, arts and culture, and to address violence and expand human rights enforcement and COBM duties,
- Worked with Department of Human Services (DHS) to create the Rally of Adoption and Foster Care project to recruit more Minnesotans of African Heritage to certify as adoptive and foster care parents for African Heritage children under the guardianship of the Commissioner of DHS, and
- Served on the Department of Human Services (DHS) TANF Federal Waiver Taskforce, DHS Cultural Committee to End Disparities, and the Department of Corrections Federal Grant to Reduce Recidivism, the Minnesota Department of Health-Health Equity Taskforce, and the Commissioner of Human Resources Affirmative Action Access Committee which advises on policy, and Department of Housing Finance Taskforce to Prevent & End Homelessness.

Civic Engagement, Targeted Home Mortgages and Counseling, and Art Funding

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Increase the level of Minnesotans of African heritage (MAH) civically engaged	No organized civic engagement activity	COBM held 6 community forums, a day at the Capitol involving 1000 MAH, a Cultural Relations and Economic Development Summit involving 550 MAH, and 14 focus group discussions in 8 different communities including Duluth, Rochester, Faribault, Mankato and St. Cloud in Greater Minnesota.	2012-2014
Quantity	Increase the amount of funds for mortgage loans targeted to Minnesotans of African heritage	No targeted loans or capacity building funds	COBM and others introduced a bill to address disparities in home ownership but in lieu of the bill passage we worked with Minnesota Housing Finance to create a \$10 million home mortgage fund and \$750 thousand home counseling capacity building fund targeted to communities of color.	2012-2014
Quantity	Increase the level of funding awarded to Minnesota's artist of African heritage and their venues.	No needs study or targeted grant funds	COBM developed legislation to study the needs of artists of African heritage and to remove barriers to funding. A partnership was facilitated by COBM between the Minnesota State Arts Board and African Heritage arts groups to conduct a study that would lead to more state funding for these groups.	2012-2014

M.S. 3.9225 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=3.9225>) provides the legal authority for COBM.