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2014-15 Biennial Budget - Black Minnesotans Council

Agency Profile - Black Minnesotans Council 1

Mission:

The Council on Black Minnesotans addresses the need for people of African heritage to 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(s):

Black Minnesotans, Council on supports the following statewide outcome(s).

Strong and stable families and communities.

Context:

The Council on Black Minnesotans (Council) was created by the Minnesota legislature in July 1980 to advise the governor and legislature on the nature and intensity of the issues confronting the state's Black population. The Council operates as a liaison between state agencies, individuals, and organizations seeking access to state government. The Council participates in policy-making processes that lead to the development of recommendations for new laws, changes in existing laws; increases the awareness and importance of Black culture, publicizes the accomplishments of Black Minnesotans and works to increase the practice of inclusion of Black Minnesotans in the political, social and economic resources of the State. The Council is funded primarily through general fund appropriation and grant opportunities.

Strategies:

The Council is a catalyst in the reduction of the level of racial disparities and disproportionalities experienced by Minnesotans of African descent through education, collaboration and advocacy. Strategies include:

- Build and enhance strategic partnerships with government and community organizations to be a connector to persons of African descent and their organizations/institutions.
- Increase the knowledge of policy makers at all levels through an advisory capacity about critical issues impacting populations of color and the impoverished of Minnesota, with a particular focus on researching and addressing the extent to which public policy and individual and institutional racism have caused and continue to perpetuate racial disparities and disproportionalities.
- Increase civic engagement among African and African Americans through collaboration. This includes voter registration, educational activities, and conducting research that promotes involvement with decision making entities impacting the existence of populations of color.
- Increase community engagement with state government and advocacy through several key council committees.
- Increase dialog and awareness between the African and African-American communities with the goal of building a stronger and more united Black community in Minnesota.

Results:

As a result of the strategies listed above, the following key results support the Council's efforts to support the statewide goal of strong and stable families and communities:

- The number of youth enrolled in high quality early childhood programs increases, and the state's high school and college graduation rate for Black Minnesota students increases.
- The overall physical and mental health of Black Minnesota improves with the lowering of incidents of chronic diseases and the use of primary care and mental health services increases.
- The disproportionality of young Black Minnesotans in the juvenile correction system is lowered.
- The overall number of Black Minnesotans employed in livable wage jobs increases and the access and securing of state funding for Black owned businesses increases.
- Strong and effective collaborations are created and maintained to raise the level of awareness and participation by communities and organizations in the legislative process to ensure all Black Minnesotans families and communities are stable.

Performance Measures	Previous	Current	Trend
High school graduation for young Black Minnesotans	2010 46.6%	2011 49.1%	Improving
Black Minnesotans Median Income U.S. Born Foreign Born	1999 $37,338 $34,763	2007-2009 $27,004 $31,763	Worsening
Black Minnesotans that are Uninsured U.S. Born Foreign Born	2008 14.9% 16.5%	2010 17.8% 29.1%	Worsening

Performance Measures Notes:

The performance measures above are examples and are not an exhaustive list. Performance measure are recommended and produced on an annual basis as approved by the Council.

The above information was gathered from Minnesota Compass, http://www.mncompass.org.