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Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans

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AT A GLANCE

The Council represents a diverse community estimated to be about 244,470 Asians and 3,397 Pacific-Islanders. This community is descended from over 40 nations including India, Tibet, the Philippines, Laos, and Burma.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Asian American community is the fastest growing minority population in Minnesota, mirrored nationally. In Minnesota, the Asian population grew from 4.1 % in 2010 to 4.5% in 2013, an increase of 12% change in population within three years. The following are the ten largest Asian ethnic populations in Minnesota:

- Hmong – 66,181
- Asian Indian – 38,097
- Chinese – 28,776
- Vietnamese – 27,086
- Korean – 20,995
- Filipino – 15,566
- Lao –12,009
- Cambodian – 9,543
- Japanese – 7,995
- Burmese – 3,763

PURPOSE

The Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (“the Council”) is a state agency that seeks to ensure the inclusion of Asian Pacific Minnesotans’ (APM) experiences in the legislative process by providing relevant, objective, and credible advice and information on the status and needs of APMs. Our primary customers are the Governor, the Legislature, state agencies, and APM organizations/citizens.

Priorities include:

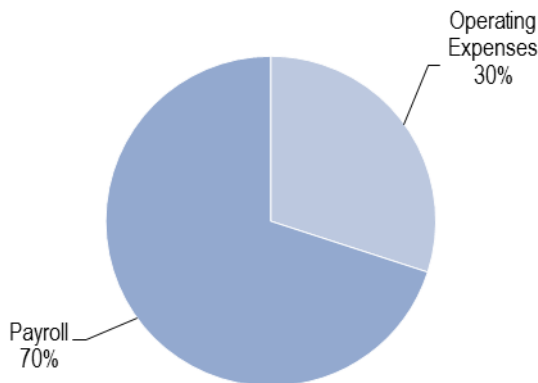
- Advisory – Policy briefs, comments and testimony on issues; publish and release original research/reports.
- Advocacy – Direct engagement with policy-makers to influence public policy and resource allocation decisions.
- Facilitation– Facilitate opportunities for engagement, inclusion, and recognition of Asian Pacific Minnesotans.

The Council supports the following statewide outcome(s):

- **Minnesotans have the education and skills needed to achieve their goals**
- **A thriving economy that encourages business growth and employment opportunities**
- **Minnesotans are healthy**
- **Minnesotans are safe**

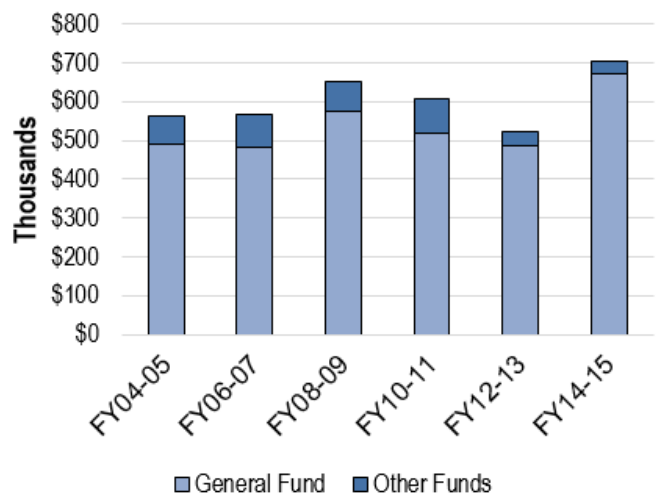
BUDGET

**Spending by Category
FY 15 Actual**



The Council’s main source of revenue in FY15/16 is the General Fund. Source: BPAS/SWIFT

Historical Spending



Legend: ■ General Fund ■ Other Funds
Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

STRATEGIES

The Council utilizes several strategies to deliver on its mission and support statewide outcomes:

- Research and Information Analysis – Develop and publish reports for use by decision makers and citizens.
- Policy Advisory and Advocacy – Provide quantitative and data-driven advice to policy-makers.
- Citizen Outreach – Identify and/or create forums, conferences, and advocacy trainings to inform and influence public policy.
- Facilitation and Coordination – Develop and deploy engagement, inclusion, and recognition activities.

These strategies help to identify community trends/issues and contribute to meeting statewide outcomes.

RESULTS

The following measurements are used to track the Council's performance in implementing its strategies:

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous – Jan. 2014 to Dec. 2014</i>	<i>Current – Jan. 2015 to Dec. 2015</i>
Quality	Publication of Community-Issues Reports	1	0
Quality &Quantity	Legislative Activities during the Session	40	90
Quantity	Presence in Community	100	58
Quality & Quantity	Facilitation and Coordination	15	30

Legal Authority: M.S. 15.0145 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=15.0145>) provides the legal authority for the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans.

Expenditures By Fund

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecasted Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
1000 - General	279	394	303	420	364	364	458	465
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue	15	16	6	18	16	16	16	16
Total	294	410	309	438	380	380	474	481
<i>Biennial Change</i>				43		13		208
<i>Biennial % Change</i>				6		2		28
<i>Governor's Change from Base</i>								195
<i>Governor's % Change from Base</i>								26

Expenditures by Program

Program: Asian Pacific Council	294	410	309	438	380	380	474	481
Total	294	410	309	438	380	380	474	481

Expenditures by Category

Compensation	213	284	231	324	318	318	386	389
Operating Expenses	79	124	78	112	61	61	87	91
Other Financial Transactions	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	1
Total	294	410	309	438	380	380	474	481
<u>Full-Time Equivalents</u>	3.4	4.2	3.0	3.7	3.7	3.6	4.0	4.0

1000 - General

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
Balance Forward In	0	85	0	56	0	0	0	0
Direct Appropriation	354	354	359	364	364	364	458	465
Net Transfers	0	(8)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancellations	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditures	279	394	303	420	364	364	458	465
Balance Forward Out	75	0	56	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Biennial Change in Expenditures</i>				50		5		200
<i>Biennial % Change in Expenditures</i>				7		1		28
<i>Gov's Exp Change from Base</i>								195
<i>Gov's Exp % Change from Base</i>								27
Full-Time Equivalents	3.4	4.2	3.0	3.7	3.7	3.6	4.0	4.0

2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
Balance Forward In	4	5	2	2	0	0	0	0
Receipts	15	13	6	16	16	16	16	16
Net Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditures	15	16	6	18	16	16	16	16
Balance Forward Out	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Biennial Change in Expenditures</i>				(6)		8		8
<i>Biennial % Change in Expenditures</i>				(21)		33		33
<i>Gov's Exp Change from Base</i>								0
<i>Gov's Exp % Change from Base</i>								0
Full-Time Equivalents	0.0							

2403 - Gift

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base		Governor's Recommendation	
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
Balance Forward In	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance Forward Out	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans

FY18-19 Biennial Budget Change Item

Change Item Title: Operating Adjustment

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
General Fund				
Expenditures	94	101	101	101
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	94	101	101	101
FTEs	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Recommendation:

The Governor recommends additional funding of \$195,000 from the general fund in FY18-19 to maintain the current level of service delivery at the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans.

Rationale/Background:

Each year, employer-paid health care contributions, pension contributions, FICA and Medicare, along with other salary and compensation-related costs increase. Other operating costs, like rent and lease, fuel and utilities, and IT and legal services also grow. This cost growth puts pressure on agency operating budgets that remain flat from year to year.

Agencies face challenging decisions to manage these costs within existing budgets, while maintaining the services Minnesotans expect. From year to year, agencies find ways to become more efficient with existing resources. However, cost growth typically outstrips efficiencies, and without additional resources added to agency budgets, service delivery erodes.

In 2015, the Legislature restructured the ethnic councils. As a result of the restructuring, the mission, duties, and powers of the ethnic councils were clarified. In the new enabling statute, the Legislature mandates that the ethnic councils work with the legislative and executive branches of government to ensure equality for Minnesotans of Asian descent. These duties include working with the Legislature to pass legislation on behalf of this community. A successful Council, therefore, needs a team that individually and collectively has the ability and capacity to deliver on the Council's goals:

- Strengthen and streamline internal administrative activities
- Develop projects that align with our statutory duties
- Advance legislation on behalf of Asian Pacific Minnesotans
- Actively engage our stakeholders

The Council's staff team currently consists of four policy-oriented and community-driven individuals serving in the following capacities:

- Executive Director: Manages all operations and projects and develops and implements strategic and well-informed plans for the Council.
- Research Analyst: Conducts original research and regularly produces research reports to inform the Legislature in its policy-making process.
- Legislative Liaison: Educates, informs, and engages the Asian Pacific Minnesotan population on issues such as health and human services, K-12 education, higher education, gender based violence, jobs, economic development and housing; assists in developing policy positions and legislative initiatives that benefit the Asian Pacific Minnesotan Population; and maintains close connection between the Council and other stakeholders.

- Office Manager: Manages the office of the Council; administers and monitors the Council budget; assists with supervision of agency's support staff; and performs and coordinates numerous administrative functions as the assistant to the Executive Director.

To ensure strategic, effective, and efficient use of its small, but dedicated team of employees, the Council overhauled its staff team in 2014. All position descriptions were audited to ensure that the Council staff have strong policy, administrative, and non-partisan political skills that will allow them to navigate state government. The Council staff serve as bridge builders into our many diverse communities. Our staff also help all of our communities become more effective in speaking for themselves. Specifically, the Council has and will continue to:

- Publish original research/community-issues reports
- Recommend and advise on legislative actions during the session
- Be present in our community
- Facilitate and coordinate community/government interactions

With this proposal, the Council seeks to improve its capacity to perform in a manner that reflects our status as the state agency charged with advising the Legislature and the Governor. The Council will continue to advocate on behalf of Minnesota's Asian Pacific community. The Council will continue to facilitate and build relationships between many stakeholders, particularly between the executive and legislative branches of government and our various communities.

Proposal:

The Governor recommends increasing agency operating budgets to maintain the delivery of current services. For the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans this funding will cover expected and anticipated employee compensation growth, including anticipated compensation increases and employer-paid pension costs.

Equity and Inclusion:

The Asian Pacific Minnesotan community is descended from more than 40 nations and is arguably the most diverse community in the state. Many in our community are highly educated, native born, and have personal, family, business wealth, and a high percentage of home ownership. However, Minnesotans of Hmong, Vietnamese, Lao, Cambodian, Bhutanese, and Karen heritage make Minnesota's Asian Pacific community different from those in any other state – ours is a majority refugee experienced community. This majority refugee experience brings a completely different experience and story to the table. Minnesota is home to the largest Karen community outside of Burma and the second largest Hmong community in the nation. These refugee experienced communities do not have generations of family wealth and stability, a tradition of higher education, homeownership, and established support networks. Many are experiencing formal education for the first time with its structural and institutional barriers and challenges. Their realities include facts such as:

- 47% of Cambodian Minnesotans identify as Limited English Proficient (LEP)
- 72% of Vietnamese Minnesotans have less than a bachelor's degree
- 27% of Hmong Minnesotan families with children live in poverty
- 18% of Burmese (Karen) own their homes

The State's policies have to reflect these multiple realities of the Asian Pacific Minnesotan community, not just echo the convenient "model minority myth." The perpetuation of this myth within government policies and hiring corporate practices has led to a highly-qualified, highly-educated South- and East-Asian workforce, which is significantly underrepresented in managerial and executive positions. In addition, current data does not reflect the significant diversity of Asian communities. Disaggregated data reveals significantly lower educational attainment levels in Southeast Asian populations, compared to mainstream Minnesota residents. Yet, these ethnic groups are misidentified and underserved with the continuation of the model minority myth.

The Council has striven to inform the legislative and executive branches of the realities of our communities. The Council also has worked with state government to promote a more equitable form of access and distribution of government resources to our communities. Without this change item request, the Council will not be able to maximize into the next biennium the significant ground work that we have put in place over the last four years.

Our staff and our board members are in regular communication with our communities. State legislators have had significantly more interactions in our communities because of the actions of our staff, our board, and increasingly, the broader community. The opportunity for a transformational shift in how our state functions requires that we seize this moment and continue the momentum. Recently, the Council hosted the first three of its strategic planning community forums with our communities. The forum with Minnesota’s emerging refugee communities yielded an unprecedented large turnout from the Karen, Bhutanese, and Karenni communities. These community members stated that despite their growing confidence in their own ability to interact with state government, they appreciate and depend on the Council to provide ongoing assistance and guidance.

The intended results of this proposal include:

- Continued production of original community-issues reports that inform legislators and community about issues confronting Minnesota’s Asian Pacific community.
- Increased engagement of community members in efforts to influence legislative and administrative decisions.
- Increased and diverse strategic partnerships with Asian Pacific Minnesotans, community-based organizations, businesses, the Governor’s Office, and the state legislature.

Our partners will continue to be our community members, community-based organizations, educational institutions, small businesses, and state and local governments.

This is an exciting time for the Council. We have positioned ourselves to continue the dramatic increase in communication between Minnesota’s Asian Pacific communities and government.

Results:

The Council uses the following to track its performance in implementing its strategies:

Type of Measure	Name of Measure	Past – Jan. 2015 to Dec. 2015	Current – Jan. 2016 to Dec. 2016
Quality	Publication of Community-Issues Reports	1	0 – We will publish our “Emerging Communities” report in 2017.
Quantity and Quality	Legislative Actions During the Session	90	80
Quantity	Presence in Community	58	50
Quantity	Facilitation and Coordination	30	25

The Council collects this data and maintains it in-house. Pursuant to M.S. §15.0145, the Council shares highlights in its annual report, and when requested.

Statutory Change(s):

N.A.