

CMAH 2022 POLICY AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

In the months leading up to the 2022 legislative session, CMAH conducted research and outreach activities through which we reviewed the outcomes of the 2021 legislative sessions and engaged community and policy partners about their needs and priorities for 2022. This document represents a synopsis of the policy agenda that emerged from our autumn outreach and stakeholder conversations.

CMAH will seek and support public policies that would improve the lives of African heritage children and families in five areas: Economic Security, Education Equity, Health Justice, Public Safety, and Strong Families and Communities. A unifying thread across the five priority areas is the community's process concern about the value of inclusion and participation in effective public policy development.

PRIORITIES

Economic Security – Support legislation and public programs that engender and increase public and private investments in African heritage business, employment, and workforce development.

Education Equity – Advocate for policy innovations that would close opportunity gaps by improving African heritage student access to high-quality academic, mental health, and technology resources.

Health Justice – Track and support legislative and programming initiatives that respond to the unique public health challenges of African heritage constituents.

Public Safety – Support investments in public safety practices that advance human rights, police accountability, and violence prevention in our community and justice systems.

Strong Families and Communities – Advocate for legislative and regulatory changes that strengthen resources for underserved African heritage children and families, including new fiscal and technical investments in child welfare, housing, and system redesign.