



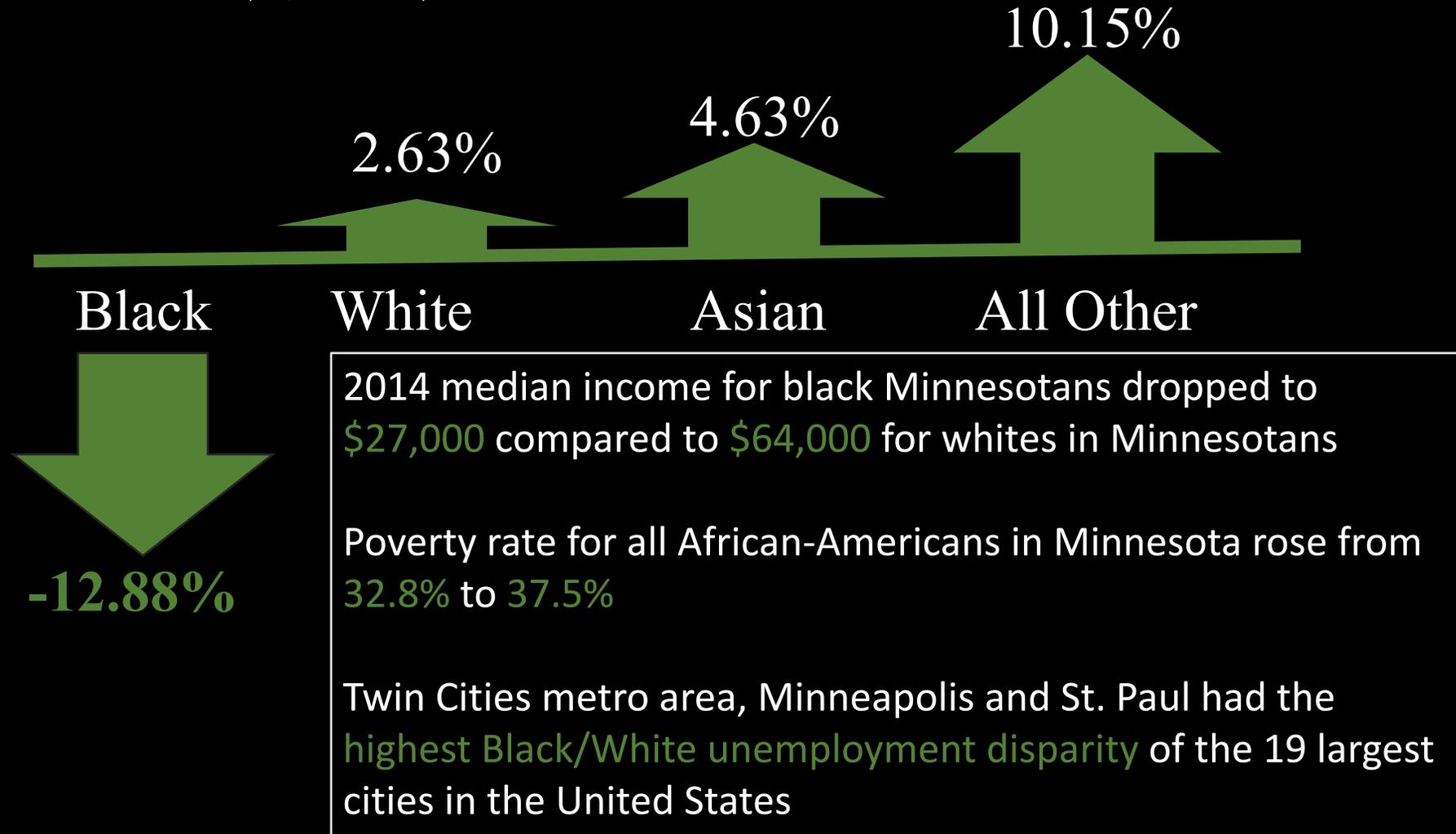
African American
Leadership Forum

Our voices. Our future.

AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP FORUM
5 POINT PROGRAM TO END
ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

African Americans are the Only Ethnic Group in Minnesota to Have Experienced a Decline in Income Between 2013 and 2014

St. Paul Pioneer Press on Sep 18, 2015 at 4:46 p.m.



POINT 1

INSTITUTE HIRING IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS TO REFLECT THE POPULATIONS SERVED

In Ramsey and Hennepin Counties, where African Americans make up 11.7% and 12.6% of the population, respectively, African American employment in the county government workforces should be commensurate with those percentages.

Public school district employment should, likewise, be representative of the student populations served. In the Minneapolis, St. Paul, Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park school districts, for example, where the most egregious disparities in employment-to population-served exist, African American students are 37%, 30%, and 31% respectively.

POINT 2

African American businesses in Minnesota must be awarded a share of public and private contracts commensurate with their representation among Minnesota businesses

Minority businesses hire minorities at a rate significantly greater than majority owned business. African American owned businesses make up 12.7% of small businesses certified by the State of Minnesota; and, 27.4% of targeted businesses certified by the state.

POINT 3

The Minnesota legislature must pass and the governor sign comprehensive legislation to end economic disparities

The State Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage proposed African American economic stimulus legislation last year (H.F. 945 and S.F. 1819) which could serve as a template and minimum effort for engaging state resources in this effort.

POINT 4

Minnesota-based philanthropic organizations must invest in African American and African American lead organizations commensurate with our representation in the population.

Minnesota-based philanthropies, private, corporate and community foundations, that collectively are endowed with billions of dollars in assets and make grants in excess of a billion dollars annually, must prioritize the income gap and devote resources to African American and African American lead organizations to solve this problem.

POINT 5

Public, private and philanthropic enterprises in partnership with African American organizations must publish an annual report card on the status of efforts to achieve these results.

African Americans—individuals, families and business, community and faith leaders—must take charge and be accountable to prepare ourselves for employment and business opportunities when they become available. We must engage every resource at our disposal and remain vigilant to fight the regression of economic parity and move our community forward—one child, family, neighborhood and community at a time. We must take responsibility for our success, partnering with those who would help, defying those who expect us to fail, but moving forward always with unstoppable determination to achieve equity.