

Central and East Central MN Housing Forum

The Park Event Center in Waite Park

11/19/25



CAIRO

Center for African Immigrants & Refugees Organization



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Where opportunity meets impact



BE THE CHANGE

If you want to go quickly, go alone; if you want to go far, go together ~African proverb.



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01

Who We Are

Meet our team and get to know our backgrounds.

02

About Me

A little info about the presenter.

03

Vision & Mission

Introduction of our grassroots path.

04

What We Do & How We Do It

Our services, programs and investment.

OVERVIEW



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WHO WE ARE

We envision a society where everyone, no matter their background, has the chance to thrive. Strong communities are built when people have access to education, healthcare, stable housing, and inclusive workforce opportunities



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Abdikadir Bashir Executive Director



Abdisalan Muse
Deputy Executive Director



Ahmednoor Mohamud
Director of Finance



Abdi Ibrahim
Director of Programs



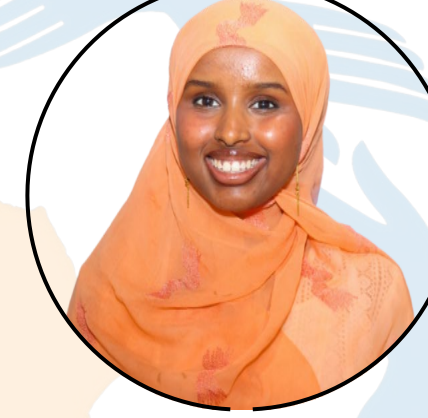
Fatima Mohamed
Operations



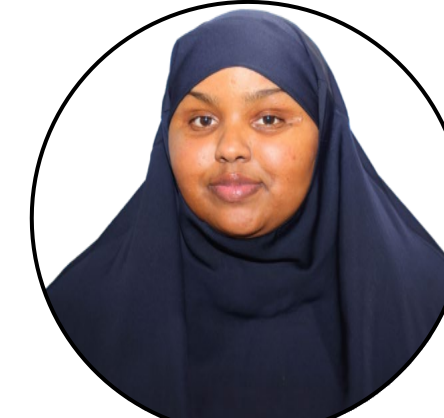
Khalif Hassan
Housing & Workforce
Supervisor



Adow Ali
Community Engagement
Supervisor



SaharlaDiriye
Community Health
Supervisor



Dunia Gelle
INSS & SPACE
Supervisor



MohamedJama
Office & Resource
Coordinator



Sabrin Ali
Development
Coordinator

140+
Employees & Volunteers

1.5M+
Impact Hours

15M+
Managed Funds

Abdi Ibrahim, Director of Programs with the Center for African Immigrants and Refugees Organizations (CAIRO)

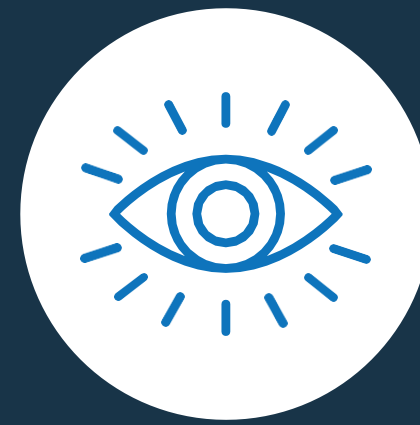
Bachelors of Science in Management from St Cloud State University.

Currently pursuing Certificate in Project Management from the University of Minnesota.

Abdi has over 7 years of experience in Program Development, Community outreach, workforce development, Housing assistance, and Immigrant integration. Proven track record of building strong partnerships, securing funding, and managing complex initiatives that serve low-income, immigrant, and refugee populations.



VISION & MISSION



Vision

We envision a more just and equitable society in which children, youth, and families live in sustained, supportive communities, which reinforce the cultural wealth and lived experience of the family.



Mission

We advocate for and act to increase equity and social justice through programs, services, community organizing and collaborative leadership that create equitable opportunities for African refugees and immigrant children, youth and families to thrive.



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OUR VALUES

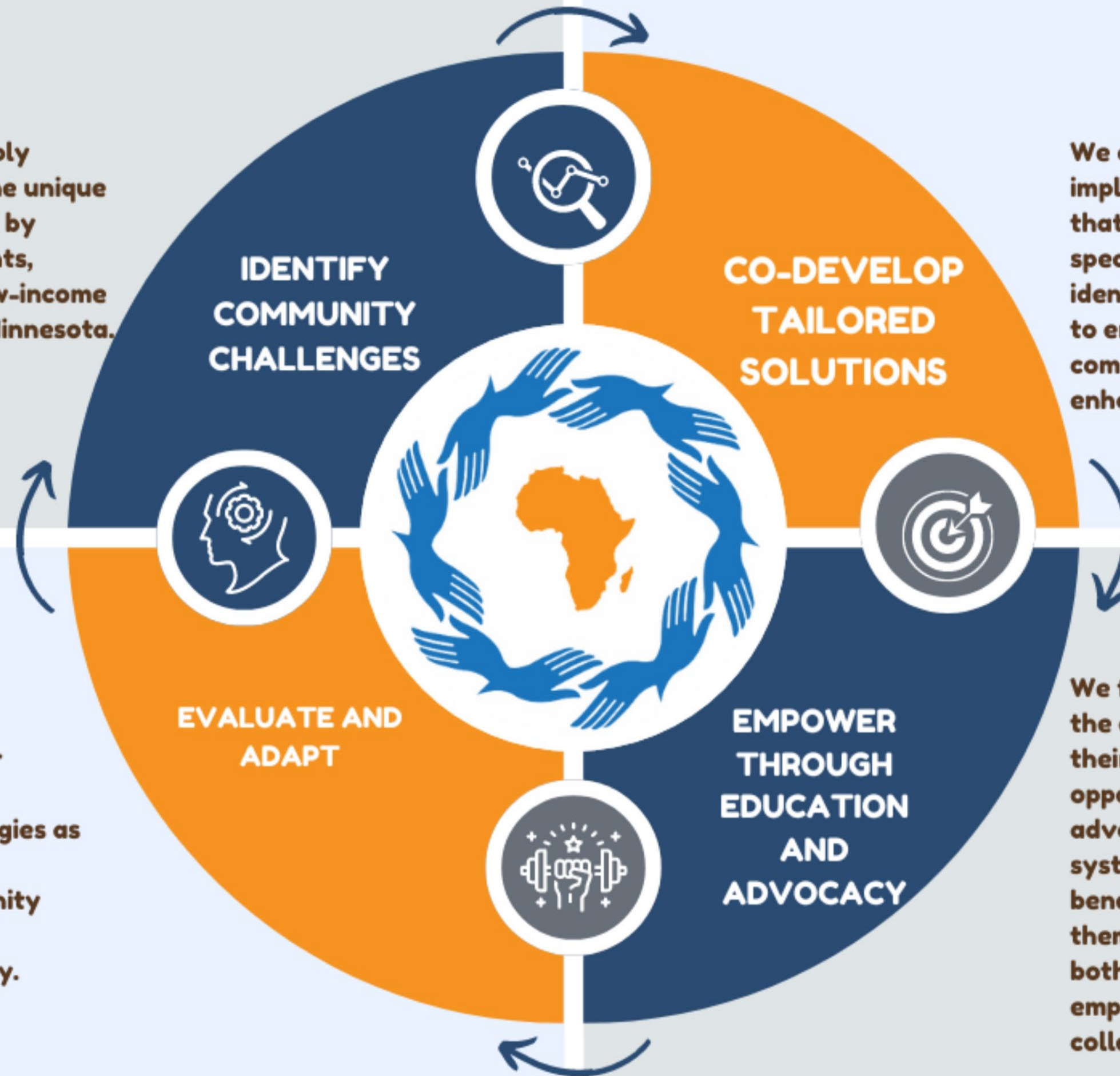


STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS



MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS

We begin by deeply understanding the unique challenges faced by African immigrants, refugees, and low-income communities in Minnesota.



We co-design and implement programs that address the specific needs identified, all tailored to empower the community and enhance integration

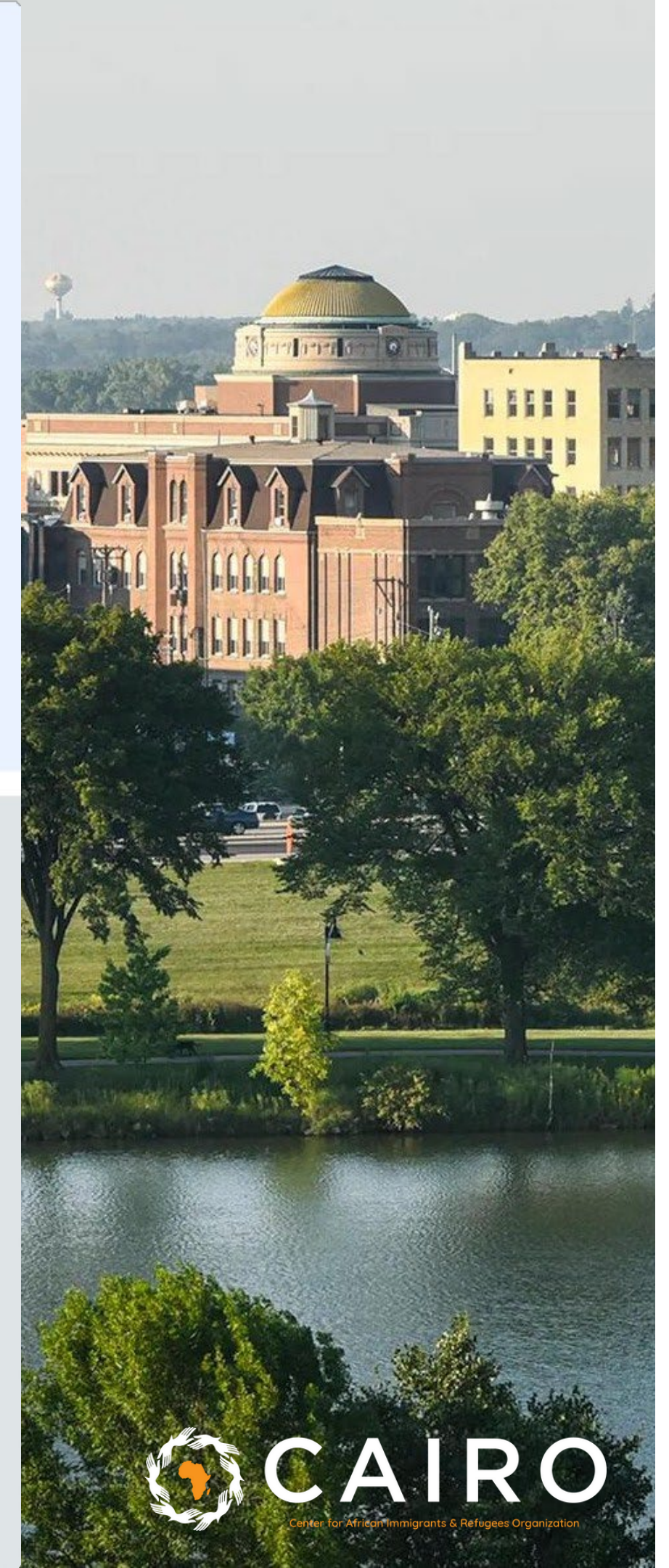
We focus on educating the community about their rights and opportunities while advocating for systemic changes that benefit them, ensuring both individual empowerment and collective advancement.

We continuously measure the impact of our programs and adapt strategies as needed to meet evolving community needs and to maximize efficacy.



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Equitable Housing

- Initiated in 2021 due to families coming to the CAIRO Office with housing concerns (Community Needs).
- Started with small advocacy efforts and assistance with paperwork.
- Established a partnership with Mid Minnesota Legal Aid for legal consultations and eviction help.
- Expanded Housing Services to include rent and utility assistance through MN Housing Finance Agency (October 2023–present). MN Housing has allocated \$2,120.470 to support families experiencing Homelessness in Central MN. This funding has enabled us to support families and individuals with rental and utility payment, have dedicated staff to do housing case management, do advocacy work, partner with local property owners and do resource referral to other FHPAP providers, CAP agencies and counties.
- Began hosting tenant Listening Sessions.
- Improved relationships with local landlords.

Success Story

Client being denied to move into their rented unit upon the lease signature because the apartment was not ready.

CAIRO intervened, threatened with police call, finally, landlord accommodated the family and offered them temporary housing until their unit was ready.

HOUSING ACCESS & STABILITY



LANDLORD-TENANT LISTENING SESSIONS

Facilitated sessions between landlords & tenants aimed at resolving disputes & improving communication.

33 Sessions



NEGOTIATION & ADVOCACY

Staff and volunteer hours spent facilitating negotiations between landlords and tenants.

211 Hr+
\$293,688.38



EVICCTIONS PREVENTION

Count of eviction proceedings successfully prevented through CAIRO intervention.

312+



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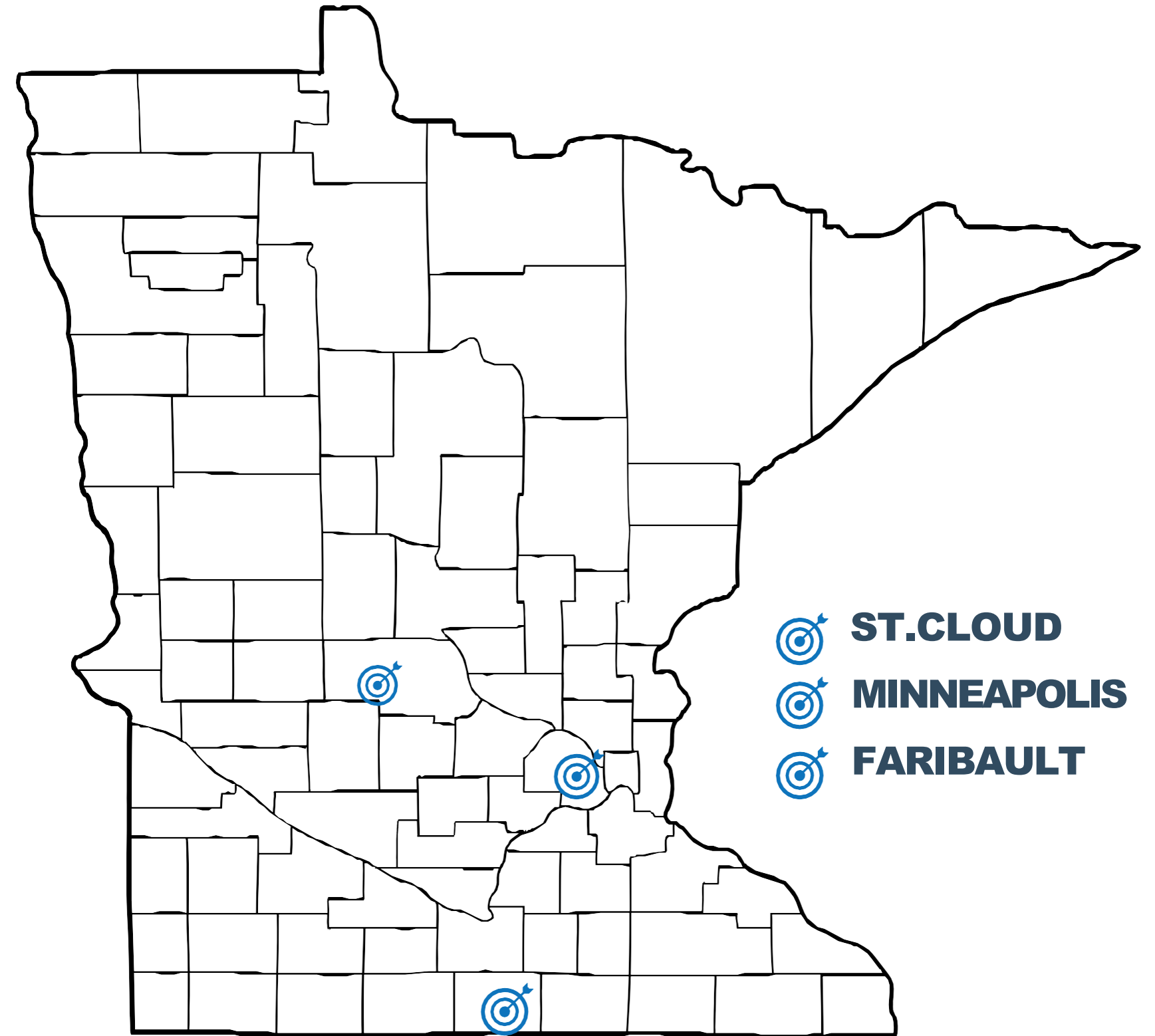
LATEST PROGRAM

Workforce Housing Project

The Iskufilan Village project in St. Cloud, Minnesota, addresses housing shortages for moderate- and low-income families by combining 70 energy-efficient housing units with 30,000 square feet of commercial space, creating a self-sustaining community that supports economic growth and social connection.

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

**Central Minnesota, Metro &
Southeast Minnesota**



 **ST.CLOUD**
 **MINNEAPOLIS**
 **FARIBAULT**



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ANNUAL REPORT

See it Yourself

See the impact for yourself — our Annual Report highlights real stories, progress, and the difference we made as community.



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LET US WORK TOGETHER

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THANK YOU
