



Item: Approval 2024 Capacity Building Request for Proposals (RFP) Selections

Action Item: 7.F
Date: November 21, 2024
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Request Type: Approval, Resolution

Request Summary

Staff requests board approval to fund 29 proposals recommended for selection through the 2024 Capacity Building Requests for Proposals. The Capacity Building Program funds activities that create inclusive and thriving communities by building capacity to address root causes of housing challenges and disparities and building power in communities most impacted by housing challenges and disparities.

This RFP will result in a two-year or three-year grant term for one of the following uses:

- **Organizational Capacity Building:** Grantee will use funds to build its own capacity to achieve the goals of the Capacity Building Grant.
- **Intermediary Capacity Building:** Grantee will use the funds to build the capacity of others through pass-through grants and/or technical assistance.

Fiscal Impact

The program will use \$4,875,000 from Capacity Building Appropriations and \$125,000 from Pool III under the Technical Assistance and Operating Support program. Individual awards are structured as grants, which do not earn interest for the Agency.

Agency Priorities

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☒ Improve the Housing System | ☒ Make Homeownership More Accessible |
| ☐ Preserve and Create Housing Opportunities | ☒ Support People Needing Services |
| | ☒ Strengthen Communities |

Attachments

- Background
- Resolution

Background

On February 22, 2024, the board approved up to \$5 million in funding from a combination of Capacity Building appropriations and Pool III with individual maximum awards of up to \$200,000.

The Capacity Building Program will fund activities that build the capacity of organizations and communities to address root causes of housing challenges and create thriving and inclusive communities. Communities most impacted by housing challenges and disparities are experts and key partners in developing solutions to these challenges. Minnesota Housing trusts organizations and communities to use their knowledge and creativity to develop strategies that work for them.

Selected applicants will utilize Capacity Building Program grant funds for one of the following two uses:

1. **Organizational Capacity Building:** The selected applicant will use grant funds to build its own capacity to address root causes of housing challenges and housing disparities, build power in communities and support inclusive and equitable communities.
2. **Intermediary Capacity Building:** The selected applicant will use grant funds to build the capacity of others by providing pass-through grants and/or technical assistance in the selected applicant's area of experience and expertise.

The 2024 Capacity Building Request for Proposals (RFP) is intentionally aligned with the following 2024-2027 Strategic Plan Priorities:

1. **Create a More Inclusive, Equitable and Just Housing System**
 - a. Address systemic barriers which cause housing instability, challenges, and disparities.
 - b. Co-create solutions to systemic barriers with Communities Most Impacted.
2. **Focus on the People and Places Most Impacted by Housing Instability**
 - a. Engage Communities Most Impacted.
 - b. Prioritize work by and for Communities Most Impacted.
3. **Strengthen Communities**
 - a. Build thriving communities and equitable community development.
 - b. Expand community partnerships to share power in community development.
4. **Support Tribal Nations and Indigenous Communities**
 - a. Support Tribal Nations in building their program capacity.
 - b. Increase Tribal access and access of Indigenous Communities to program resources.
5. **Green, Energy-Efficient, Climate-Resilient, Sustainable Housing**
 - a. Support equitable access to upcoming climate resiliency resources.
 - b. Build capacity of owners and developers to implement these resources.

The Capacity Building RFP launched on May 15, 2024 and closed on July 15, 2024. One hundred and ten (110) applicants requested \$19,578,351 in funds. Of these, 83 passed threshold review. Twenty-six (26) reviewers scored these applications. Fifty-one (51) finalists advanced to participate in a scored interview process.

Twenty-seven (27) applicants did not pass threshold due to a late submission, being an ineligible applicant, an ineligible use or because they did not submit the Pre-Award Risk Assessment Form (PARA). Consistent with the PARA policy, applicants that submitted the PARA form but were missing any required documents were given five business days to submit those documents.

The final score consisted of three components:

1. The application score worth 100 possible points.
2. During the finalist selection meetings, the selection committee could award up to six Strategic Priority Points for two strategic priorities. If awarded, these points were added to the application score.
3. The interview score worth 100 possible points.

The application and interview scores were combined to arrive at the final score. The final score was considered along with the RFP's goal to arrive at funding a range of project types, and communities, populations and geographies served. When selecting applications, staff considered whether applicants had other funding sources to cover the proposed grant expenses and the extent to which grant funds are critical to the organization's ability to build capacity.

Staff recommends funding 29 proposals for \$4,999,999 in total funding. Consistent with the Agency's Pre-Award Risk Assessment policy, both a financial risk assessment and organizational risk assessment were conducted on these recommended proposals. All of the applicants passed the financial risk assessment. Ten applicants passed the organizational risk assessment. Nineteen (19) applicants passed with the condition of having their Secretary of State renewal date active at start of the contract in 2025. December 31, 2024 was a common expiration date on the documents provided, which is not concerning given that the majority of applicants provided these documents in July.

There are nine proposals recommended for the Intermediary Capacity Building use with \$1,533,349 in recommended funding. Four of these intermediary applications have a fiscal sponsor. Twenty (20) applicants are recommended for the Organizational Capacity Building use with \$3,466,650 in recommended funding. Recommended individual award amounts are reduced from the applicants' requested amounts 1) to maximize the number of proposals funded, 2) for ineligible expenses, 3) because other Agency funds contribute to, but do not duplicate funding for the proposal activities and 4) because the applicant has other available funding to cover a portion expenses.

This group of recommended proposals has broad geographic coverage, demographic coverage, community and population coverage, project types and coverage of the housing continuum.

Geographies Served*:

Tribal Nations	6
Greater Minnesota	14
South Central	4
Southeast Region	3
Southwest	2

West Central	2
Central	1
Northeast	1
Northwest	2
7-County Metropolitan Area	16
Suburban Metro	6
Minneapolis	6
Saint Paul	4
Statewide	4

*Note: Some applicants will cover multiple geographies.

There are many notable attributes of this group of recommended proposals. Here are a few highlights:

- Work directly led by people with lived expertise of homelessness and housing instability to shape housing stability and housing development. (3 applications)
- Fiscal sponsors to fund the work of groups or coalitions that do not have their own nonprofit status. The role of fiscal sponsors itself helps build capacity. (4 applications)
- The Minnesota Tribal Collaborative, through a fiscal sponsor, will build their capacity to apply for federal funds to become the first Tribal-led Continuum of Care in the nation. The Capacity Building Grant along with a separate Agency Tribal Planning Grant has steadily invested in their capacity since 2019.
- Activities to lead to greater representation and inclusion of Indigenous, Black, and people of color as developers, housing professionals and contractors. (3 applications)
- The creation of the first regional community land trust in the Northwest Region.
- Rebuilding statewide capacity to improve coordination among organizations that serve manufactured home park residents, engage the residents and connect them to resources.
- The creation of two post-purchase counseling programs (Rondo Community Land Trust and Three Rivers Community Action Partnership). A driving impetus for these proposals was the advocacy of Indigenous, Black and households of color who identified the importance of preserving homeownership as part of closing the homeownership gap.
- Climate resiliency capacity building:
 - Development: Develop and deliver training and technical assistance to advance the design and construction of equitable, energy efficient and climate-resilient housing in underserved communities.
 - People: Provide culturally relevant, community-rooted outreach and support to households to navigate and access the energy efficiency programs that best fit their needs and improve the quality and comfort of their housing.

Applicant Name: Recommend Award (Requested Award) Proposal Title and Description	Geography
INTERMEDIARY CAPACITY BUILDING	
Alliance for Metropolitan Stability: \$190,000 (\$200,000) Capacity Building to Ensure Housing Stability Along the Blue Line LRT Extension: Support to the Blue Line Coalition, a coalition of 12 organizations building community-based power to advance anti-displacement policies and investments in order to ensure immigrant/refugee, low-wealth, and Black, Indigenous, people of color communities along the Blue Line Extension Corridor can stay in their homes, to secure policies that prioritize the repair and preservation of existing affordable housing, and to enhance their well-being and access to opportunity throughout the region.	Geography: 7-Country Metropolitan Area: North Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park Community: Cost-burdened immigrant, refugee, low-wealth, and BIPOC renters and homeowners
Center for Energy and Environment (CEE): \$180,000 (\$200,000) Training and Technical Assistance to Advance Equitable Decarbonized Housing Design and Construction: Develop and deliver training and technical assistance to advance the design and construction of equitable, energy efficient and climate-resilient housing in underserved communities. CEE will give affordable housing developers, architects and builders the technical tools and building science knowledge they need to meet the requirements of key energy efficiency certification programs. By supporting affordable housing development partners, we can support the completion of energy efficient buildings that strengthen vulnerable communities.	Geography: 7-Country Metropolitan Area, Greater Minnesota, Statewide, Tribal Nation(s) (emphasis on Greater MN and Tribal Nations) Community: Affordable housing developers, architects, and builders; Tribal Nations and Indigenous Communities
Churches United in Ministry: Fiscal Sponsor for "Stepping On Up" \$190,000 (\$200,000) Stepping On Up: A grass-roots collaborative of 14 Duluth agencies organized to address the extreme shortage of affordable housing and growing unsheltered homelessness in their community. They will build their internal capacity, expand efforts to build leadership of people with lived expertise to advance a collective housing stability strategy, engage the broader community for support of these efforts and have strong cross-sector collaboration to improve the housing stability system.	Geography: Greater Minnesota: Duluth Community: People with low-incomes and/or those who are experiencing homelessness

<p>Housing Justice Center: Fiscal Sponsor for the "SHiP Collaborative": \$175,000 (\$200,000) Lived Experience Hopes to Make Big Impacts on the Homeless Response System: The SHiP Collaborative hopes to shift the Twin Cities Metro area towards a prevention-oriented framework at the Regional Kitchen Table with a diverse set of stakeholders and use organizing to help community members use their voices to assist in moving towards a prevention framework. SHiP collaborative is the creator of this proposal, and HJC is the “applicant” or fiscal agent.</p>	<p>Geography: 7-Country Metropolitan Area</p> <p>Community: BIPOC communities</p>
<p>Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership, Inc.: West Central Lived Experience Enhanced Engagement Program: \$190,000 (\$200,000) Centering persons with lived experience (PLE) in all aspects of CoC planning including: (1) increase opportunities for PLE to serve on the board and committees; (2) develop a PLE Academy to equip PLE to succeed in leadership, advocacy, and staff roles; and (3) have dedicated staff to recruit, mentor, support, and retain PLE in staff and leadership roles.</p>	<p>Geography: Greater Minnesota: 10-County West Central Continuum of Care Region</p> <p>Community: 10-county geography of the West Central Continuum of Care region</p>
<p>Minnesota Engagement on Shelter and Housing (MESH): Fiscal Sponsor for the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative \$175,000 (\$199,400) Minnesota Tribal Collaborative - fully accessing HUD homeless grant funding: MESH is applying as the fiscal agent for the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative’s project. This project will provide consultation and additional funding for staff to ensure that the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative submits a successful collaborative application as well as project applications through the HUD Continuum of Care competition. This project will also provide additional staffing for the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative to successfully implement the HUD Youth Homeless System Improvement grant awarded to the Northwest CoC, Northeast CoC and the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative.</p>	<p>Geography: Greater Minnesota, Tribal Nation(s): 9 Tribal Nations that are the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative.</p> <p>Community: American Indians, who are 30 times more likely to be homeless than non-Hispanic white persons</p>
<p>Minnesota Engagement on Shelter and Housing (MESH) \$170,000 (\$190,923) Trainer Academy: Changing Who Plans, Designs, and Leads Trainings for Shelter/Housing Staff: MESH is requesting capacity funding to initiate a three-year “Trainer Academy” to change the face of who plans, designs and facilitates trainings for shelter/housing staff in Minnesota and take aggressive steps to reach their two goals: (1) that at least 50% of all trainers across the state identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or persons of color; and (2) that at least 50% of all trainers have lived experience of homelessness.</p>	<p>Geography: 7-Country Metropolitan Area, Greater Minnesota, Statewide, Tribal Nation(s): Focus on rural and Tribal Communities</p> <p>Community: Tribal Nations, rural areas, and people with lived experience of homelessness</p>

<p>Minnesota Engagement on Shelter and Housing (MESH): Fiscal Sponsor for the Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care \$113,349 (\$113,349)</p> <p>Coordinated Entry Lived Experience "Secret Shopper" Program:</p> <p>The Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care (SMAC)'s Directors Council is a group of people with lived experience of homelessness who lead the work of SMAC. The Directors Council proposes to build a Coordinated Entry (CE) "Secret Shopper" program, where their members pose as current clients seeking assistance at our various CE Access Points, note their experiences, and provide individual feedback to the providers. In addition to increased capacity to add this programming, they asked for increased capacity for Directors Council training and to share their knowledge locally and at state and national conferences.</p>	<p>Geography:</p> <p>7-Country Metropolitan Area, Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care - Anoka, Washington, Dakota, Scott and Carver counties</p> <p>Community:</p> <p>People experiencing homelessness and Coordinated Entry Access Points</p>
<p>Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP): \$150,000 (\$200,000)</p> <p>MHP Emerging Developer Initiative Expansion:</p> <p>MHP requests grant funds to expand and continue its Emerging Developer Initiative (EDI). The EDI builds long-term capacity of new and emerging housing developers to address housing development barriers including a lack of developers in rural Greater Minnesota, and inequitable opportunities in housing development for individuals from Native Nations and Black, Indigenous, and people of color and Immigrant communities. MHP will build capacity of two new cohorts of EDI participants (20-24 total) beginning in the Southwest region, to expand the EDI model across Greater Minnesota.</p>	<p>Geography:</p> <p>Greater Minnesota, Tribal Nation(s): Greater Minnesota and rural Tribal Nations. Focus on the Southwest region.</p> <p>Community:</p> <p>Potential and emerging housing developers looking to serve rural Minnesota and Tribal Nations</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING</p>	
<p>#2ndChanceProject: \$190,000 (\$198,200)</p> <p>Knowledge Empowers Positive Change:</p> <p>2ndChanceProject is an established Black-led non-profit organization offering culturally specific support, particularly for justice-involved individuals who identify as people who use drugs. They aim to equip individuals to overcome housing challenges and thrive within their communities. Their holistic approach fosters resilience, promotes recovery and ensures their participants receive culturally competent support needed to succeed.</p>	<p>Geography:</p> <p>7-Country Metropolitan Area: Saint Paul: Hamline-Midway, neighborhoods along University Avenue in Ramsey County</p> <p>Community:</p> <p>BIPOC individuals affected by justice involvement, addiction, with housing and employment barriers</p>

<p>African Career, Education, & Resource, Inc. (ACER): \$175,000 (\$200,000)</p> <p>Building Capacity for Housing Justice: Empowering Low Wealth Tenants of Color:</p> <p>Through organizing, leadership development and strategic stakeholder convenings, ACER strives to increase the agency of these tenants and influence housing policies for enhanced stability. This project will build tenant cohorts, support a coalition of tenant leaders and convene a multi-stakeholder group to implement key priorities for housing stability.</p>	<p>Geography:</p> <p>7-Country Metropolitan Area: Northwest suburbs of the Twin Cities, specifically Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center</p> <p>Community:</p> <p>The proposal focuses on low-wealth tenants of color</p>
<p>Center for Multicultural Mediation (CMM): \$180,500 (\$194,800)</p> <p>CMM Housing Stability and Community Education and Outreach Program:</p> <p>CMM's Housing Mediation Services Program will work to increase the number of housing mediators in the Twin Cities and rural Minnesota and provide training to community members to navigate housing instability. Projects will include training imams, community leaders, youth and women as housing stability mediators and workshops to educate these communities to navigate housing court, evictions, housing assistance applications, rental records, renters' rights/responsibilities and housing resources.</p>	<p>Geography:</p> <p>7-Country Metropolitan Area, Greater Minnesota: St Cloud, Willmar, Rochester, Faribault, Dakota County, Ramsey County, Hennepin County, Anoka County</p> <p>Community:</p> <p>Somali/East African individuals and households</p>
<p>Clare Housing: \$175,000 (\$197,778)</p> <p>Bridge to Stability for People living with HIV:</p> <p>Clare Housing has operated a Scattered Site supportive housing program in the Twin Cities since 2008, currently housing 61 households. Funds will be used to build their capacity to serve people living with HIV and experiencing housing instability outside of the metro area. Adding a staff member to develop productive working relationships with advocates, agencies and providers across the southern half of Minnesota will lay the groundwork for expanding their Scattered Site program, which is now limited to the 7-county Twin Cities metro area, into southern Minnesota.</p>	<p>Geography:</p> <p>Greater Minnesota: The southern half of Minnesota outside of the 7-county Twin Cities metro area</p> <p>Community:</p> <p>Low income people living with HIV/AIDS</p>

<p>Community Power: \$138,000 (\$138,000)</p> <p>Twin Cities Energy Efficiency Navigator Project:</p> <p>Address a bottleneck in access to the cost-savings, health and stable-housing benefits of energy efficiency programs: lack of culturally relevant, community-rooted outreach and support to navigate the highly complex network of Minnesota efficiency programs. Their Navigators will provide community-specific guidance to support residents to become aware of, understand, apply to and follow through on energy efficiency programs that best fit their needs and improve the quality and comfort of their housing.</p>	<p>Geography:</p> <p>7-Country Metropolitan Area: Justice 40¹ neighborhoods in Minneapolis and St. Paul</p> <p>Community:</p> <p>Low/moderate income households, BIPOC, immigrant, renter, and high energy burden households</p>
<p>East Side Freedom Library \$190,000 (\$200,000)</p> <p>East Side Housing Justice: Empowering Communities through Leadership, Education, and Advocacy:</p> <p>The Housing Justice program engages the community in addressing housing issues through storytelling, the arts, coalition building and education. Central to the program is a community-led exhibit that highlights narratives, developed in collaboration with local artists and community members. The program also includes arts engagements, workshops and educational initiatives like the CommUnity Cohort and East Side Housing Justice Coalition to build community capacity. Additionally, housing summits and free educational events foster dialogue, sustainable solutions and advocacy.</p>	<p>Geography:</p> <p>7-Country Metropolitan Area: The East Side of St. Paul, Ramsey County, and the surrounding metropolitan area</p> <p>Community:</p> <p>Local residents, marginalized communities, housing advocates, artists, and community partners</p>

¹ The Federal government has a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, and other investments flow to “disadvantaged communities” that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

<p>Envision Communities, Inc.: \$168,130 (\$168,132.83) Advancing Community Support System Designed by People with Lived Experience of Homelessness: Envision Communities has established people with lived experience of homelessness - Envision Leaders - as the center of their organization to address housing instability in a new way. The value this model provides is significant; the intentionality this model requires is extensive. Envision will build the capacity required to launch a community support system for Envision Leaders and residents that facilitates their ongoing engagement and meets their unique challenges. This will help sustain people with lived experience as the designers and decision-makers of our planned self-governing, intentional community.</p>	<p>Geography: 7-Country Metropolitan Area Community: Individuals with lived experience of homelessness, often BIPOC, leading community design & operation</p>
<p>Housing Justice Center: \$190,000 (\$200,000) Fostering Community Power - Building Futures with Minnesota's Manufactured Home Communities: This proposal aims to build a sustainable ecosystem in Minnesota for manufactured home community members to build community power and access rights.</p>	<p>Geography: Statewide Community: Latinx, seniors, people with disabilities, very low-income, rural</p>
<p>InquilinXs UnidXs Por Justicia (United Renters for Justice): \$190,000 (\$200,000) Building Tenant Capacity and Power for Systems Change through Tenant Organizing: Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia (IX) will build capacity to help tenants organizing in a corporate landlord portfolio self-advocate and secure housing improvements through door knocking, community engagement, trainings and partnerships with legal organizations. In addition, IX will build infrastructure for renters to engage in ongoing negotiations with their landlord over lease terms, property management and other issues. They will also develop leaders from past landlord campaigns to engage in issue identification and community engagement to increase tenant participation in housing policy and decision making.</p>	<p>Geography: 7-Country Metropolitan Area: Minneapolis (the neighborhoods of Whittier, Lowry Hill East, Near North, Victory, Camden), Richfield, Crystal Community: Low-income tenants who are Black, Latine, East African (Somali, Oromo, and Ethiopian)</p>

<p>Isuroon: \$180,000 (\$200,000) Multicultural Homeownership Education and Capacity Building Grant: A grant to increase Isuroon's capacity to educate refugee and other immigrant communities in Minnesota including but not limited to the Somali, Afghan, Oromo and Sudanese communities on the homeownership process and the risks associated with predatory lending such as contract for deed programs. This program will support the capacity for direct services within the Seven County Metropolitan area as well as allow Isuroon to increase its outreach to immigrants and refugees in Greater Minnesota.</p>	<p>Geography: 7-Country Metropolitan Area, Greater Minnesota, Statewide Community: Somali, Afghan, Kenyan, Ethiopian, Sudanese, Ukranian, and other immigrant populations in Minnesota</p>
<p>Leech Lake Financial Services, Inc.: \$180,000 (\$200,000) Developing a Residential Construction Industry: Training the builders to build community and housing: The project develops an integrated housing construction workforce (1) enhancing workforce readiness for construction careers, (2) increasing housing development and availability, and (3) increasing homeownership and housing stability. The regional and tribal housing crisis represents community and economic opportunities that this project will use to build an economic sector that increases affordable housing and homeownership and decreases homelessness and overcrowding while decreasing unemployment. It involves long-term systems-level changes that will address housing needs, provide economic opportunities, and improve community social problems.</p>	<p>Geography: Greater Minnesota, Tribal Nation(s): Leech Lake Reservation, North Central Minnesota, including 4 counties Cass, Beltrami, Hubbard, Itasca Community: Native American, Non-Native unemployed, untrained working age adults interested in construction trades</p>
<p>Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota: \$160,000 (\$195,098) LSS Housing Services Training Development to strengthen capacity for community engagement & beyond: Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) requests funding for their LSS Housing Services to create a training curriculum for faith-based communities. They will partner with congregations via training designed to decrease stigma around homelessness and build greater community engagement around housing solutions across the state. Their training will address homelessness across many levels, including building awareness of the homeless response system, education around direct services and volunteer opportunities, networking with other communities interested in this work, and options for advocacy and policy responses.</p>	<p>Geography: Statewide Community: Faith-based communities and congregations across the state</p>

<p>Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD): \$150,000 (\$200,000) Enhancing the impact and effectiveness of BIPOC leadership development in the housing sector: Using its unique position as a Consortium, the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) created the Emerging Leaders in Community Development (ELCD) program that targets early-to-mid career staff of MCCD consortium members, offering professional development in housing/community development. Their project supports MCCD's capacity to enhance the impact and long-term effectiveness of BIPOC leadership development in the housing sector by working a 3-phase process: assess program impact and alignment, refine and align offerings, and develop and test and evaluate new leadership approaches.</p>	<p>Geography: 7-Country Metropolitan Area, Greater Minnesota, Statewide: core geography is the Metro area, however in 2023 expanded Statewide Community: BIPOC individuals engaged in the nonprofit housing sector via employment or community involvement</p>
<p>Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (MIWRC): \$175,000 (\$200,000) Ozhigaage: She Builds Dwellings--an American Indian Women-Led Housing Strategy for an Inclusive Community: MIWRC will build a grassroots coalition of American Indian women to lend their voice, life experiences, wisdom, compassion and cultural strengths to share in the creation of community-led strategies to address disparities. Ozhigaage (She Builds Dwellings) will leverage interactions during member intakes, from within MIWRC's programs/services and broad community of agencies and community partners to gather/evaluate data, compile resources and develop a greater understanding in hopes of identifying deterrents, trends, gaps and opportunities for innovative housing strategies and opportunities for impactful change.</p>	<p>Geography: 7-Country Metropolitan Area: Minneapolis Community: MIWRC serves American Indian women and their families within Minneapolis, and Greater MN</p>
<p>Mni Sota Fund: \$149,800 (\$149,800) Indigenized Research to understand and develop strategies for off-reservation Native American Homeownership The goal of this proposal is to develop a clear understanding of the localized and often disaggregated challenges affecting homeownership for Native borrowers. To achieve this, they plan to undertake a series of strategic actions that will transform their approach to supporting Native homeownership and contribute to long-term sustainability and capacity building in the state's tribal and urban Indian communities. Includes: comprehensive research initiative, detailed report, implementation plan. Implementation also involves launching pilot programs based on research findings, allowing them to test and refine our strategies in real-world settings.</p>	<p>Geography: 7-Country Metropolitan Area, Statewide, Tribal Nation(s) Community: Indigenous People living primarily off reservation</p>

<p>Mountain-Plains Youth Services Coalition (d/b/a Youthworks): \$185,000 (\$191,003) Piloting A Direct Cash Transfer Program for Housing Stability Alongside Youth with Lived Experience: Youth who are doubled-up, couch-surfing, and unstably housed face similar outcomes to their peers who are experiencing literal homelessness. Most federal funds focus on intervention, not prevention, of youth homelessness. Youthworks will implement an emerging practice, Direct Cash Transfers (DCT), for youth experiencing housing instability in west central Minnesota (WCMN), emphasizing youth empowerment, equity and trust. The goal is to prevent youth homelessness while developing processes, procedures and the infrastructure necessary for sustainability, scalability and equity.</p>	<p>Geography: Greater Minnesota: West Central MN Continuum of Care service area, with a base of operation in Moorhead, MN Community: Youth ages 18-24, recognizing the disproportionate impact on LGBTQIA2S+ and BIPOC youth</p>
<p>North Star Neighbors: \$160,000 (\$200,000) Operationalizing North Star Neighbors: Northwest Minnesota’s Regionwide CLT Established in 2023, North Star Neighbors is a new community land trust (CLT) covering the expansive northwest Minnesota region of approximately 12,000 square miles. With populations of all but one city in the region under 10,000, local capacity is limited, and communities’ needs are deeply unique. North Star Neighbors seeks Capacity Building support as they take an innovative, region-wide approach to the long-standing and successful CLT model.</p>	<p>Geography: Greater Minnesota: Northwest region of Minnesota including Indigenous Nation partners (Red Lake and White Earth) Community: Primary focus will be on under 80% AMI, with emphasis on meeting workforce and senior housing needs</p>
<p>South Central Human Relations Center: \$150,220 (\$150,225) Housing Crisis Triage & Diversion Project: This project proposal is to identify barriers and gaps in service delivery and response to the housing needs of Steele County. The long-term goal of the project is to develop the infrastructure of a pilot program to provide a housing triage crisis line.</p>	<p>Geography: Greater Minnesota: Steele County Community: Assisting underserved populations in housing crises: BIPOC, seniors, chronic homeless, etc.</p>

<p>The Rondo Community Land Trust: \$190,000 (\$200,000)</p> <p>Capacity Building for Post-purchase Stewardship:</p> <p>To strengthen and expand Rondo CLT’s organizational capacity to deliver sustainable, comprehensive and innovative post-purchase stewardship programming that will: (1) grow the long-term stability, wealth, and overall prosperity of their core constituency (households earning 80% AMI & below), (2) establish systems that produce precise capital improvement cost projections for their aging housing portfolio thereby strengthening Rondo CLT’s organizational and financial health, and (3) ensure they have the tools, networks and resources to proactively maintain permanently affordable housing stock in their portfolio, including higher energy efficiency.</p>	<p>Geography:</p> <p>7-Country Metropolitan Area: the historic Rondo neighborhood, the city of St. Paul, and all of Ramsey County</p> <p>Community:</p> <p>Individuals and families earning low to moderate incomes (80% AMI and below)</p>
<p>Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.: \$190,000 (\$200,000)</p> <p>Engaging Communities for Retaining Homeownership, Gaining Wealth, Energy Efficiency and Prosperity:</p> <p>Three Rivers will hire a homeownership advisor, partnering with community members to inform, plan and implement a post-purchase homeowner project in Rice and Olmsted counties. The project will help new homeowners learn the intricacies of owning a home, including maintenance, repair, contractors, scams, utilities, energy efficiency and weatherization, insurance, neighborhood groups and etiquette (HOAs), extent of land title (easements, etc.), and general tips and education, while leveraging other resources. The goal is to close the racial gap in homeownership, keep it closed, and build BIPOC generational wealth.</p>	<p>Geography:</p> <p>Greater Minnesota: Rice, Olmsted counties, with a focus on Justice 40* areas within those counties</p> <p>Community:</p> <p>Foundational Black Households, Latine/Hispanic communities, Somali communities in Rice and Olmsted counties</p>

MINNESOTA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY
400 Wabasha Street North, Suite 400
St. Paul, MN 55102

RESOLUTION NO. MHFA 24-XXXX

**RESOLUTION APPROVING SELECTION OF
2024 CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM GRANTEES**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (“Agency”) has received proposals for the Capacity Building Program to create inclusive and thriving communities by building capacity to address root causes of housing challenges and disparities and building power in communities most impacted by housing challenges and disparities; and

WHEREAS, Agency staff has reviewed the proposals and is recommending the selection of the potential grantees based on advertised scoring criteria as well as considering coverage of project types, communities, populations and geographies; and

WHEREAS, Agency staff has determined that the proposals are in compliance under the Agency’s rules, regulations and policies; and that the proposed grantees will assist in fulfilling its obligation under Minnesota Statute 462A.21, subd.3b, to expand their capacity to meet housing needs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, the board hereby authorizes Agency staff to enter into grant agreements with the following entities, using resources available pursuant to the grant, subject to the terms and conditions herein and in the respective grant agreements, subject to changes allowable under Agency and board policies:

1. Agency staff shall review and approve the following grantees for up to the total recommended amount for the two- or three-year grant period to run from the date of contract execution; and

Potential Grantee	Award
#2ndChanceProject	\$190,000.00
African Career, Education, & Resource, Inc.	\$175,000.00
Alliance for Metropolitan Stability	\$190,000.00
Center for Energy and Environment	\$180,000.00
Center for Multicultural Mediation	\$180,500.00
Churches United in Ministry: Fiscal Sponsor for Stepping On Up	\$190,000.00
Clare Housing	\$175,000.00

Potential Grantee	Award
Community Power	\$138,000.00
East Side Freedom Library	\$190,000.00
Envision Communities, Inc.	\$168,130.00
Housing Justice Center	\$190,000.00
Housing Justice Center: Fiscal Sponsor for the SHiP Collaborative	\$175,000.00
InquilinXs UnidXs Por Justicia (United Renters for Justice)	\$190,000.00
Isuroon	\$180,000.00
Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership, Inc.	\$190,000.00
Leech Lake Financial Services, Inc.	\$180,000.00
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota	\$160,000.00
Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers	\$150,000.00
Minnesota Engagement on Shelter and Housing (MESH)	\$170,000.00
Minnesota Engagement on Shelter and Housing (MESH): Fiscal Sponsor for the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative	\$175,000.00
Minnesota Engagement on Shelter and Housing (MESH): Fiscal Sponsor for the Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care Directors Council	\$113,349.00
Minnesota Housing Partnership	\$150,000.00
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center	\$175,000.00
Mni Sota Fund	\$149,800.00
Mountain-Plains Youth Services Coalition (d/b/a Youthworks)	\$185,000.00
North Star Neighbors	\$160,000.00
South Central Human Relations Center	\$150,220.00
The Rondo Community Land Trust	\$190,000.00
Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.	\$190,000.00
TOTAL	\$4,999,999

2. The issuance of grant contracts in form and substance acceptable to Agency staff, and the execution of the individual grant contracts shall occur no later than eight months from the adoption date of this Resolution; and

3. Agency staff may amend grant contracts to extend the grant period in six-month to one-year increments up to a maximum of two years; and

4. The sponsors and such other parties shall execute all such documents relating to said grant contracts as the Agency, in its sole discretion, deems necessary.

Adopted this 21st day of November 2024

CHAIR