

One Minneapolis Fund Interim Report

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Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission One Minneapolis Task Force

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A. Background

The One Minneapolis Fund was created by the City Council in 2012 to promote socio-economic equity in Minneapolis by supporting diverse leadership development and community engagement by cultural organizations in the city. A total of \$62,000 was available from the Fund. The City Council designated the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) to prepare a request for proposals for the program, review the funding applications, and recommend the funding awards to the City Council.

This first year of the program was established as a pilot project to determine how best to conduct outreach to cultural organizations and to structure the funding criteria. At the conclusion of the first round of funding, the NCEC will prepare a report with suggested improvements to the program.

The NCEC established a One Minneapolis Fund Task Force to develop the request for proposals (RFP), review application and recommend grant awards. The Task Force met six times through 2012 and 2013 to develop the program and review applications.

B. Request for Proposals

Funding from the program may be used to develop and implement programs that engage diverse communities and build integrated community engagement in Minneapolis. This includes but is not limited to:

- Leadership development
- Promotion of civic engagement by members of under engaged communities

The RFP allowed organizations to apply for up to \$25,000 in funding for projects beginning in 2013. To be eligible, an organization must be a non-governmental, non-profit organization serving residents of Minneapolis. In addition, the organization could not be a recipient of funding from the City's Community Participation Program (a stipulation that was approved for the pilot year, but would need to be reviewed in the future). In the RFP, the following objectives were identified for projects seeking funding:

- Build social capital
- Promote socio-economic equity
- Foster partnerships
- Strengthen leadership
- Increase inclusion

A RFP was issued in December 2012. Notice of the RFP was distributed to Minneapolis cultural organizations, the Minnesota Council on Non-Profits, and in various community publications.

C. Selections Process

By the deadline of January 31, 2013 organizations submitted 24 proposals. A total of \$499,624 in funding was requested for all the projects. A summary of all the applications is provided in Appendix A.

On January 16, 2013 the Task Force met to establish the criteria and weighting which would be used to evaluate the proposals.

On February 20, 2013 the Task Force held the first meeting to review and evaluate the proposals. At that meeting the Task Force discussed the projects proposed for funding and ranked the projects based on responsiveness to the RFP and the project scoring system developed by the Task Force.

On March 16, 2013 the Task Force met again and focused the evaluation on the highest ranking applications. The Task Force reached unanimous agreement on the applications recommended for funding and forwarded recommendations to the full NCEC.

Projects recommended for funding included:

Conflict Resolution Center - \$22,000. This is a youth leadership development program designed for low income Minneapolis youth of color. The program serves at-risk students and those who have been in contact with the juvenile justice system. Specific activities include youth to youth and youth to adult

mediation. Leadership development, conflict resolution instruction, restorative justice mediation, and peacekeeping circles.

Lao Assistance Center - \$20,000. The program would provide leadership training for 32 members of the Lao community to develop the skills necessary to serve on the governing boards of non-profit organizations and neighborhood associations as well as City of Minneapolis advisory boards and commissions.

Pillsbury United Communities, Waite House - \$20,000. Funding for leadership development for 32 Latino residents of the Phillips neighborhood to increase involvement from the Latino community in neighborhood organizations and other civic groups.

On March 26th the NCEC unanimously agreed to forward the Task Force recommendations to the City Council. The Commission further recommended that, given the tremendous interest in the program from community organizations, funding for the 2014 round of funding for the program be increased to \$500,000.

Members of the Task Force presented the recommendations to the City Council Committee of the Whole on April 11, 2013. On April 26, 2013 the full City Council approved the grants as recommended by the NCEC.

In addition to the funding recommendations, the NCEC made the following additional recommendations to the City Council and the NCR Department:

- 1) Given the high number of excellent funding proposals submitted for the program, totaling \$499,624, the City Council should allocate \$500,000 in funding for the One Minneapolis Fund in 2014.
- 2) The Neighborhood and Community Relations Department should work with neighborhood organizations to explore use of neighborhood directed funding from the Community Participation Program to fund projects submitted to the One Minneapolis Fund which are aimed at increasing participation in neighborhood activities.

D. Grant Administration

All grants are administered by the Minneapolis Development Finance Division. Funding contracts have been executed with all grant recipients. With the exception of a \$5,000 advance, all funding is provided to grant recipients on the basis of reimbursement for actual expenses. The reporting requirements for all grant recipients are summarized in Appendix B of this report.

E. Project Evaluation

Evaluation of the One Minneapolis Fund project will be done in three parts:

1. Individual project evaluation based on the individual project goals and outcomes. These individual project goals are shown in Appendix C.
2. Aggregated project results based on the following measures
 - a. Number of people served
 - b. Diversity of the people served
 - c. Measurable increase in
 - i. Leadership skills
 - ii. Community / civic engagement
3. Process evaluation of the NCEC management of the Fund

Evaluation of the effectiveness of each project will be based on two factors. The first factor will be how each project meets broader City goals established in the adopted city goals or the performance indicators for the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department in the Results Minneapolis Report. These include:

City Goal: A City That Works – Shared democracy empowers residents as valued partners: The projects will be evaluated on the extent to which participants report increased interest in participating in neighborhood organizations, community groups or other civic activities.

Results Minneapolis: Projects will be evaluated on the change in the rate of voter registrations among project participants eligible to vote.

Results Minneapolis: Projects will be evaluated on the number of participants expressing an interest in participating in City advisory boards and commissions.

The second factor will be how each meets the specific goals established in the project proposal.

F. Next Steps

The One Minneapolis Fund is intended to continue in 2014. Future actions necessary to continue the initial success of the program include:

- September/ October 2013 - Reconvene the NCEC One Minneapolis Task Force to begin the process of developing the RFP for the 2014 funding cycle. The Task Force will review the effectiveness of the project application process for the first pilot year of the program and make necessary improvements. This will include

reviewing the results of the survey on that all applicants to the 2013 funding cycle were asked to complete.

- November 2013 – The Task Force will review the progress made on the 2013 projects funded by the program, including review of interim reports for each project.
- January 2014 – A request will be submitted to the City Council for authorization to issue a RFP for 2014 funding cycle.

Appendix A

Summary of 2013 One Minneapolis Fund Applications That Were Not Funded

Applicant	Funding Requested	Project Description
Asian Media Access - Asian Community Engagement Team (ACET)	\$20,000	Capacity building project for the ACET.
Asian Economic Development Association	\$25,000	Capacity building for civic engagement and leadership development among Asian and Pacific Islander population.
Casa de Esperanza	\$25,000	Leadership development and community engagement support to Latinos in Minneapolis.
Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota	\$20,000	Partial funding for a civic engagement outreach worker.
Gardening Matters	\$22,600	Expansion of existing Shared Leadership Training program.
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota	\$25,000	Promotion of civic engagement of immigrant communities on immigration issues.
Jewish Community Action	\$20,000	Leadership development and community engagement in foreclosure prevention program.
Metropolitan Economic Development Association	\$20,000	Funding for Pacesetters Program offering leadership development and business consulting expertise for business owners in Minneapolis.
Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration	\$20,000	Leadership training for organizations to engage volunteers from diverse cultural communities.
Minnesota 4-H Foundation	\$25,000	Funding for Franklin Community Project which involves engaging youth with residents and businesses along Franklin Avenue.

Minnesota E-Democracy	\$12,500	Support for One Minneapolis Community Engagement Innovators Network to create an online information sharing and discussion space for residents and community organizations.
Minnesota Immigrant Freedom Network	\$25,000	Community organizing effort in select neighborhoods to bring together life-long residents with new immigrants.
Native American Community Development Institute	\$24,525	Training in community organizing for American Indian leaders.
Open Access Connections	\$20,000	Project serving older persons of color who are experiencing homelessness with health care, housing and digital literacy skills.
Pillsbury United Communities – Brian Coyle Center and Oak Park Center	\$25,000	Provide leadership training for a group of 10 African American youth from North Minneapolis and 10 East African youth from the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood.
Pillsbury United Communities – Public Allies	\$20,000	Funding for the Public Allies leadership development program.
Twin Cities Juneteenth, Inc.	\$25,000	Youth engagement for the annual Juneteenth celebration.
We Win Institute, Inc.	\$25,000	Leadership training, inclusivity, and parent engagement work about on the issue of educational equity with parents of color.
West Bank Business Association	\$20,000	Provide business training for small, independently owned, or minority owned West Bank area businesses.

Appendix B

ONE MINNEAPOLIS FUND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the Request for Proposals for the One Minneapolis Fund, the Contractor shall implement the activities as detailed in Exhibit B to this Contract. Additionally, the Contractor agrees to the following reporting requirements:

1. Upon execution of this Contract, the Contractor will provide a letter to the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) attesting to the start of the project. The letter should be addressed to Ishmael Israel, NCEC Chair, and sent care of the contract administrator at the following address:

Bob Cooper
City of Minneapolis
105 Fifth Avenue South, Room 200
Minneapolis, MN 55401

2. An interim report must be sent to the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department six (6) months after the execution date of this Contract. The interim report will describe the Contractor's progress in achieving the project goals. The report should be sent to the address noted above.
3. At the completion of the Contract, the contractor shall submit a report to the NCR Department. This report will include a final accounting for the use of the grant funds, a description of the accomplishments of the project and how they relate to the project goals, and a description of the issues encountered in the project and recommendations for further work needed to address these issues. The report should be sent to the address noted above.

The Contractor is expected to work with the NCEC to evaluate this first year of the One Minneapolis Fund and to assist in formulating the second year. This may include participation in NCEC work groups and promoting One Minneapolis Fund activities.

Appendix C

Project Goals and Outcomes

Conflict Resolution Center - \$22,000

In accordance with its proposal to the One Minneapolis Fund, the Contractor shall implement the Restorative Support for At-risk Youth Program. The Program will assist low-income Minneapolis youth of color to achieve academic success, and help those engaged in youth crime to find a different path. The Program will have the following core elements:

1. Mediator Leadership Development – Provide basic mediation training for 15 new volunteers each quarter. Volunteers will be recruited from under-served and diverse communities.
2. Youth Leadership Development – Provide ten-week leadership development and conflict resolution classes on an ongoing basis to no fewer than 100 youth per year.
3. Restorative Justice Youth Diversion Program – Provide no fewer than 130 people, including 50 juveniles, with victim-offender mediation sessions.
4. Minneapolis Public School Peacekeeping Circles and Mediation – Provide no fewer than 100 students in a minimum of three Minneapolis Public Schools the opportunity to participate in peacekeeping circles and mediation.

Pillsbury United Communities, Phillips Community Circles - \$20,000

In accordance with its proposal to the One Minneapolis Fund, the Contractor shall implement the Phillips Community Circles Project. The Project will develop leadership skills for 32 Latinos residing in the Phillips community through the implementation of Community Circles. The Project will have the following core elements:

1. The creation of four Community Circles, one per neighborhood in the Phillips community.
2. Engage a minimum of six to eight Latino leaders per Community Circle.
3. Each Community Circle will meet bi-weekly over a six month period.
4. Each Community Circle will be focused on a theme chosen by participants, such as Family, Community, Immigration, Health, Leadership or Education.

5. Each Community Circle will design and implement a “Community Action” project to engage the larger community with the circle’s theme.
6. All members of the Community Circles will attend five sessions (three hours each) to increase leadership and social analysis skills.
7. All members will attend three visits (90 minutes each) to Abubakar As-Saddique Islamic Center, Little Earth housing project and Hope Community.

Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota, Lao Leadership Project - \$20,000

In accordance with its proposal to the One Minneapolis Fund the Contractor shall implement the Lao Leadership Project. The Project will seek to build a more inclusive Minneapolis by substantially increasing the number of Lao community members who serve on non-profit and neighborhood association boards and city/county advisory committees. The Project will have the following core elements:

1. Thirty-two emerging Lao leaders will be recruited to participate in one of four cohorts offered once each quarter.
2. The first month of each quarter will be focused on recruiting and assembling eight emerging Lao leaders. The second month of the quarter will feature a 16-hour leadership training. The third month of each quarter will focus on assisting the participants in connecting and committing to serve on a local governing board or advisory committee.

Of the 32 participants in the Project, it is expected that 90% (29) will graduate from the training, and 50% (16) will fulfill a commitment to serving on a governing board or advisory committee.

In addition to the evaluation criteria described above, all project will be required to comply with the reporting requirements shown in Appendix B.