



# Housing and Redevelopment Authority Resolution

15 West Kellogg Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
651-266-9200

H2025-010

**Sponsor:** Community & Economic Development

**Meeting Date:** 5/20/2025

**Title:** Spring 2025 Obligation of Housing and Redevelopment Authority Levy Toward Critical Corridors

**File Number:** 2025-170

## Background and Rationale:

Ramsey County has a need for place-based investments that support identified goals around affordable housing, economic development and community reinvestment. Ramsey County's Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion (ECI) Plan prioritizes investments in place-based inclusion as necessary to create resilient and equitable communities. Countywide, there is a need for tens of thousands of new units of affordable housing, and hundreds more minority business enterprises are needed to match the US business ownership rate. Cities and communities are also looking for support to enact policies and plans that drive equitable development tailored to their community.

The Critical Corridors programs were created in 2022 to enact three key strategies from the Economic Competitiveness & Inclusion Plan that address these needs: (1) fostering inclusive economic development- including affordable housing- within county transit, economic and cultural corridors; (2) developing pathways to entrepreneurship and business ownership in racially and ethnically diverse communities; and (3) supporting communities in equitable site development.

To obligate Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) levy funds, Community & Economic Development (CED) staff opened the Planning and the Commercial Corridor Initiative (CCI) Critical Corridors solicitations on March 4, 2025. These annual spring solicitations closed on April 1, 2025. The solicitations were publicized on the Ramsey County website, in the CED newsletter, on social media and through direct outreach to partner organizations and cities. An informational webinar open to the public was held by CED staff on February 24, 2025. At the close of the solicitations, eight Planning applications and two CCI applications were eligible and reviewed by interdepartmental evaluation teams.

Staff recommend that the HRA obligate \$300,000 of the 2025 HRA levy to further strategies in the ECI Plan related to redevelopment activities through the Critical Corridors programs.

The following projects are recommended for HRA levy funding through the Spring 2025 Critical Corridors Solicitations. Additional information on each project and geographic distribution of funds can be found in the attachment, Critical Corridors Funding Recommendations Spring 2025.

### Planning

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| African American Cultural Corridor, Rondo Community Land Trust                              | \$50,000 |
| Snelling & University Cohesive Vision Plan, Union Park District Council                     | \$50,000 |
| Como/Front/Dale Urban Design Framework and Action Plan, North End Neighborhood Organization | \$50,000 |
| Envisioning New Brighton Town Center, City of New Brighton                                  | \$50,000 |

### Commercial Corridor Initiative

Rice Street Corridor Business & Community Investment Fund, Rice & Larpenteur Alliance \$50,000

Sustaining & Enhancing Downtown White Bear Lake's Economic Vibrancy, City of White Bear Lake  
\$50,000

**Total Critical Corridors Spring 2025 Recommendations \$300,000**

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority resolved to:

1. Approve recommended projects and funding amounts totaling \$300,000 for Critical Corridors projects.
2. Authorize the County Manager to enter into the necessary grant, loan or other agreements and execute amendments to these agreements in a manner consistent with federal, state and local regulations and requirements, in a form approved by the County Attorney's Office.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Ortega.

Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Jebens-Singh, McMurtrey, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong

Absent: - 1: McGuire

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County Board