



Critical Corridors Fall Solicitation Update

Community & Economic Development

11/14/2023



Agenda

- Background
- Critical Corridors Solicitation

A photograph of a historic brick building with arched windows and a large tree in the foreground. The building is made of red brick and has a prominent chimney. The tree is large and leafy, partially obscuring the building. A sidewalk runs along the base of the building and tree.

1

Background



Ramsey County Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion Plan

A Holistic Plan

County Goals

1

Cultivate economic prosperity and invest in neighborhoods with concentrated financial poverty

2

Enhance access to opportunity and mobility for all residents and businesses

Strategies

1

Ensure place-based inclusion, create resilient and equitable communities

- Preserve and increase the supply of rental housing units for lowest-income residents
- Expand affordable homeownership opportunities and improve housing stability for communities that have experienced historic wealth extraction
- Foster inclusive economic development within county transit, economic, and cultural corridors
- Support communities in equitable site development



2

Foster economic competitiveness, innovation, and transformation

- Sustain and accelerate workforce recovery programs
- Develop pathways to entrepreneurship and Black, Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous business ownership
- Attract and grow high-wage industry and innovation: technology, advanced manufacturing, and life sciences
- Strengthen business retention and expansion infrastructure to support communities





2

Critical Corridors

Critical Corridors Programs

- Background and History
 - Funded by the Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) levy.
 - Program launched Fall 2022.
 - Spring 2023 solicitations: obligated \$161,000 to five projects under the Pre-Development Planning and Commercial Corridor Initiative programs.
- Programs:
 - Pre-Development Planning
 - Commercial Corridor Initiative
 - **Development & Infrastructure**



Development & Infrastructure

- Funds inclusive redevelopment and public infrastructure within critical corridors.
- Supports efficient land use and compact built form.
- Enhances access to housing, jobs, retail and services through proximity to transit, pedestrian, and bicycling infrastructure.

Fall 2023 Solicitation: Development & Infrastructure

- Funding available: approximately \$1.5 million
- Timeline:
 - Solicitation opened: September 5, 2023.
 - Solicitation closed: October 6, 2023.
 - Policy Presentation to HRA Board: November 14, 2023.
 - Award Recommendations to HRA Board: November 28, 2023.

Solicitation

- Received 11 eligible applications for a total of \$4.4 million in requests:
 - Eight applications in the city of Saint Paul, for a total of \$3.1 million.
 - Three applications in suburban Ramsey County, for a total of \$1.3 million.
- Applications include activities in four cities:
 - Maplewood
 - Roseville
 - Saint Paul
 - Shoreview

Evaluation Process

- Evaluation Teams included representatives from:
 - Ramsey County: CED & Public Works.
 - Outside partners: Metropolitan Council, Baker Tilly.
- Evaluators independently reviewed applications.
- Evaluation Team discussed and prioritized applications.
- CED Leadership reviewed evaluations and will make funding recommendations, also taking into account:
 - Geographic distribution of projects.
 - Funding needs.

Next Steps

- Development & Infrastructure award recommendations will be presented to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority on November 28, 2023.
- Next solicitations – Pre-Development Planning and Commercial Corridor Initiative – planned for Spring 2024.