



Housing and Redevelopment Authority Resolution

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

H2024-008

Sponsor: Community & Economic Development

Meeting Date: 6/4/2024

Title: Spring 2024 Obligation of Housing and Redevelopment Authority Levy Toward Critical Corridors

File Number: 2024-188

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 in order 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 HRA levy funds, Community & Economic Development (CED) staff opened the Planning (previously called "Pre-Development Planning") and the Commercial Corridor Initiative Critical Corridors solicitations on March 6, 2024. These annual spring solicitations closed on April 3, 2024. 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 March 4, 2024. At the close of the solicitations, 6 applications were eligible and reviewed by interdepartmental evaluation teams.

Staff recommend that the HRA obligate \$156,500 of the 2024 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 2024 Critical Corridors Solicitations. Additional information on each project and geographic distribution of funds can be found in the attachment, Critical Corridors Funding Recommendations Spring 2024.

Planning

Rice Street Corridor, District 6 Planning Council	\$50,000
Little Mekong Market Sustainable Stormwater Management, Asian Economic Development Association	\$50,000
City Center Northeast Quadrant Small Area Plan, City of Vadnais Heights	\$25,000

Commercial Corridor Initiative

Foundations of Belonging: Building Community Spirit and Connection in Little Canada, City of Little

Canada \$31,500

Critical Corridors Spring 2024 Recommendations

\$156,500

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority resolved to:

1. Approve recommended projects and funding amounts totaling \$156,500 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 Martinson, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Martinson, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

Absent: - 1: Frethem

By: 

Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board