

Housing and Redevelopment Authority Resolution

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

H2025-012

Sponsor: Community & Economic Development

Meeting Date: 7/1/2025

Title: Environmental Response Fund Grant Awards

File Number: 2025-237

Background and Rationale:

In 1997, the Minnesota Legislature enacted Minnesota Statutes Section 383A.80 enabling Ramsey County to impose a mortgage registry and deed taxes equal to .0001 percent of the value of transferred properties in Ramsey County to establish an environmental response fund. In December 2002, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners imposed these taxes for the express purpose of creating a fund to mitigate contamination and foster redevelopment.

Applications for Environmental Response Fund (ERF) program funding are accepted on May 1st and November 1st of each year in conjunction with similar redevelopment and clean-up programs administered by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County.

Three ERF applications for funding assistance were submitted for consideration in May 2025 totaling \$460,354 in funding requests. Submissions were evaluated based on adopted Ramsey County guidelines including the degree of soil contamination clean-up, financing gap, developer capacity, project readiness and short and long-term benefits to the community. Projects are also evaluated on their ability to address the following Ramsey County goals:

- Strengthening individual, family and community health, safety and well-being.
- Cultivating economic prosperity and invest in neighborhoods with concentrated financial poverty.
- Enhancing access to opportunity and mobility for all residents and businesses.

The review committee recommends awards to three projects, including two full funding awards and one partial funding award, for a total ERF funding amount of \$360,354. These awards come with the express condition that funding may be withdrawn if not spent within 18 months of approval. Some recommendations are for partial awards due to limited funding availability.

These grant awards will support the creation of 20 new affordable homeownership units, 224 student beds, commercial spaces, and educational facilities. For project details, see attached project descriptions.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority resolved to:

1. Approve the selection of The Beasley, Metro Deaf School, and Macalester College to receive Environmental Response Funds.
2. Authorize the award of Environmental Response Funds to the following projects:
 - a. The Beasley, Rondo Community Land Trust - \$149,834
 - b. Metro Deaf School Addition and Parking Improvements, Metro Deaf School - \$110,520
 - c. Macalester College Welcome Center and Residence Hall, Macalester College - \$100,000
3. Authorize the County Manager to enter into necessary grant, loan or other agreements and execute amendments to those agreements in a form approved by the County Attorney's Office.

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

Motion passed.

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

Excused: - 1: Moran

By: 

Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County
Board