

House Capital Investments Committee
Attn: Chair Fue Lee and Committee Members
485 State Office Building
100 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155



April 14th, 2021

Dear Chair Lee and Committee Members,

The Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) is an association of 50 nonprofit organizations committed to expanding the wealth and resources of communities through housing opportunities and economic development initiatives. MCCD's mission to build strong and stable communities can only be achieved by addressing the inequities that have shaped housing and economic development policies at every level of government and that has prevented Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and other communities from achieving housing stability, accessing capital and wealth building opportunities.

The COVID-19 pandemic and unrest from 2020 has further highlighted the disparities that exist, especially in BIPOC communities across Minnesota. This is why we continue to advocate for smart policy changes and funding increases to programs that will make a difference. The crucial work of community developers is partially supported through state investments and MCCD is grateful for the inclusion of affordable housing and redevelopment investments in H.F. 337, the Omnibus 2021 bonding bill.

1. **Affordable Housing Investments** – Consistent investments for affordable housing are critical to supporting the development and preservation of affordable housing in Minnesota. Bonding investments leverage significant private, local and federal resources and support deeply affordable permanent housing units. In addition to the uses already specified for Housing Infrastructure Bonds, MCCD and our members support the proposed new eligible use of deeply affordable units without supportive services. Adding this new use will allow affordable housing providers to better meet the needs of their communities and residents because not every low-income household needs wrap-around supportive services.
2. **Redevelopment Funding for Minneapolis & St. Paul** - The communities along Lake Street, West Broadway and University Avenue have served as vibrant corridors for our BIPOC communities in Minnesota for decades. We must preserve the investments made in BIPOC business ownership and make way for new business and community ownership opportunities, including funds to support new businesses and community-led development.

MCCD's advocacy efforts extend beyond just the state legislature for both housing and redevelopment investments because we know that it will take action from every level of government to help stabilize housing situations and small businesses impacted by the events of this past year.

We remain committed to using our CDFI and public policy platforms to advocate for resources, informed by the communities most impacted. Thank you and we look forward to working with you, your staff and the legislature to secure these investments and more during the 2021 legislative session. MCCD and its members would like to make ourselves available best help inform your decisions. Please reach out to Kari Johnson, Senior Policy Advisor at MCCD, at 612-843-3276 or kjohnson@mccdminn.org, should you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Elena Gaarder
President/CEO, MCCD
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