



January 26, 2021

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RE: PROTECTING MINNESOTA'S CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS

We are writing in support of the Disaster Assistance Contingency Account. **The Minnesota Council on Foundations (MCF) strongly supports adequate funding and replenishment for the Disaster Assistance Contingency Account.**

The Disaster Assistance Contingency Account has been vital to providing aid to local communities after a disaster. The Account was created in 2014 to support state and local disaster relief.

Communities facing a disaster are best served when state government disaster relief is predictable and timely. The Disaster Assistance Contingency Account was created so that the Department of Public Safety would have the resources to address immediate needs following a disaster without the legislature needing to call a special session. Marginalized communities tend to suffer the most when a disaster happens as their safety nets are often fragile or non-existent; unnecessary delays and uncertainty make conditions worse. MCF and its 150 members are committed to creating a more prosperous, inclusive, and equitable Minnesota by eliminating disparities, and MCF sees adequately resourcing the Disaster Assistance Contingency Account as a way to reduce disparities in disaster relief.

Grantmakers are best able to partner with government on disaster relief when roles are clear and funding streams are known. When a disaster happens, grantmakers are regularly at the table to help with response, recovery and long-term resilience. Foundations play a key role during disasters, often being called on to make rapid-response grants, create emergency funds to collect and distribute donations, and convene the community to plan for their immediate and long-term recovery. Quick and reliable state funding to support disaster relief allows foundations to be effective partners and maximize their resources for the benefit of the community.

The Minnesota Council on Foundations encourages you to prioritize "saving for a rainy day" by supporting and replenishing the Disaster Assistance Contingency Account.

Respectfully,

Katina Mortensen, Director of Public Policy