# Ujamma Place

# 2025 Appropriations Request HF108 (Hussein/SF1278)//(Oumou-Verbeten)

# House Workforce/Labor Committee

# <u>Ujamma Place</u>

Ujamaa Place is a community organization providing holistic, culturally responsive transformation for young African-American men experiencing inequity at the intersection of race/ethnicity and poverty. Ujamaa Place opened its doors in 2010 with the mission of helping participants achieve brotherhood, stability, and personal success.

# FY 2025/2026

# **Appropriations Request**

\$5 million appropriated from Workforce Development Fund over two years. \$2.5 million in FY2025 and \$2.5 million in FY2026.

# FY2023/2024 Appropriation Outcomes

# More Men Served

- SFY 2022 344 Men
- SFY 2023 393 Men (+50)
- SFY 2024 473 Men (+130)

# **More Coaches Hired**

- SFY 2022 3 FTE's
- SFY 2024 13 FTE's (+10)

# New Minneapolis Satellite Office Quality Meals Four Days a Week New Programs

• Mental/Physical Wellness

# 2025/2026 Appropriation Goals

### **Boost Recruitment**

Ujamma Place will increase the amount of
Ujamma Men they serve with this
appropriation. We estimate that we can serve
80-100 more Ujamma Men with this
appropriation. We also hope to hire a full-time
recruiter to lead year-round efforts to get more
prospects through our doors.

# **Expand Programming**

Since receiving our 2023/2024 appropriation, we have built new programs for Ujamma Men. We hope to expand our most-needed programs like education/GED attainment; mental/chemical health with more coaches, while also investing in new programs being demanded by our Ujamma Men like meditation and job training. It is now a requirement for Ujamma Men to be in pursuit of a GED or receiving some form of job-training.

# **Build out Minneapolis Office**

Our new Minneapolis office does not have fulltime staff or coaches to serve men outside of the immediate St. Paul area. This office can serve as a new hub for programming and support for Ujamma Men in the Minneapolis area.

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# Spotlighting Ujamma Men

# **Jarius Kelly: A Leader Among Peers**

- Education: Successfully passed half of his GED tests and encourages his peers to pursue their education while working toward completing his own.
- Community Engagement: Actively advocates for community improvement, shares his views with leaders, and draws inspiration to create his own path.
- Peer Leadership: Motivates others to attend programs and events, fostering a spirit of participation and betterment.

# Javon Jiles: Building a Brighter Future

- Achievements: Gained employment and recently earned his driver's license.
- Financial Literacy Leadership: Stands out in the financial literacy program by assisting peers and applying budgeting skills to save for a new car.
- Commitment to Growth: Collaborates closely with his primary coach to continue setting and achieving goals.

### **Titus Foreseen: Confidence and Brotherhood**

- Personal Growth: Gained self-confidence through wellness programs and built lasting connections with peers.
- Public Representation: Represents Ujamaa at public events, inspiring others with his story.
- Entrepreneurship: Opened a digital storefront while also securing employment opportunities.

# Giving Back - Alumni Success Stories

# Personal Growth & Independence

- 2 men purchased their first homes and are gainfully employed.
- 5 men transitioned from our housing program into market-rate housing, reflecting their financial and personal growth.

### **Educational Achievements:**

- 3 participants are attending college:
  - 1 at Saint Paul College, who earned his GED in our program last year.
  - 2 at Normandale College, taking steps toward brighter futures.

# **Employment & Stability:**

 One participant secured a position at the Post Office while continuing his journey of self-improvement through Ujamaa Place programming.

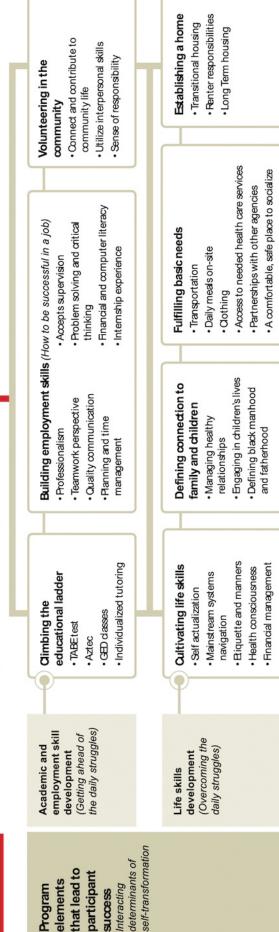
# Giving Back to the Community

- 2 men work and volunteer with youth organizations like Youth Link and BYHAC, guiding and inspiring the next generation.
- A dedicated group of 10 Ujamaa Men regularly volunteer to promote our lifechanging services, expanding our reach and impact.



# THEORY OF TRANSFORMATION TO EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

# \*\* Indicates a return-on-investment (ROI) outcome measure Decrease involvement in gangs Reduce recidivism and criminal Biminate contact with Parole compliance penal system activity\*\* Connect to family and children Healthy engagement in the life of Pay child support or arrears\*\* Financially support family children and family structure Prepared to pursue training Haced at a job, earning at Secure and retain a job needed to secure aliving least minimum wage\*\* Entrepreneurial track wage job Increase educational Pursue post-secondary education options\*\* Acquire GED\*\* attainment Pay household bills Manage payment Stable housing Housed (not for housing homeless)\*\* situation Ujamaa Place a result of the produced as outcomes experience Ultimate Participant outcomes



oundational	Empowerment and Spirit uality	African American	High-context coaching	
hematic threads	Cognitive restructuring	culture	· One-on-one, meaningful	
integrated	<ul> <li>Getting men to think differently</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Value black ways of</li> </ul>	relationship with another man	
hroughout every	about themselves	knowing and worldviews	<ul> <li>All Ujamaa Place staff,</li> </ul>	
spect of the	<ul> <li>Believing in the capabilities of</li> </ul>	• Staff demographics	volunteers, and board as	
Ijamaa Place	oneself	reflect the population of	"coach"	
xperience	Spiritual development	men served		

- Community of men
   Environment of grace and inclusion
- Support system
   Offers a sense of belonging and honor
- Relate to men who have comparable life experiences
  - Peer guides and elders