



Ujamaa Place

House Workforce/Labor Committee

Ujamaa Place

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

Ujamaa Place will increase the amount of Ujamaa Men they serve with this appropriation. We estimate that we can serve 80-100 more Ujamaa 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 Ujamaa 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 Ujamaa Men like meditation and job training. It is now a requirement for Ujamaa 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 full-time 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 Ujamaa Men in the Minneapolis area.



Spotlighting Ujamaa 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 life-changing services, expanding our reach and impact.



THEORY OF TRANSFORMATION™ – EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

