



## Neighborhood Development Center

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Members of the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy  
Minnesota State Capitol  
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard  
St Paul, MN 55155

**February 18, 2026**

Renay Dossman  
President & CEO, Neighborhood Development Center  
625 University Avenue W.  
St. Paul, MN 55104

Dear Members of the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee,

Neighborhood Development Center (NDC) is a non-profit, federally regulated Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that annually works with 800+ entrepreneurs across the Twin Cities, delivering 2,500 hours of technical assistance, and deploying \$5MM in loans each year. NDC founded and continues to own Midtown Global Market, an indoor public marketplace located on 920 E Lake St, which serves as a vibrant gathering place for community members of all backgrounds. The agency also owns and manages four affordable commercial spaces on key corridors in St. Paul.

Within the last two months, the presence of federal enforcement across NDC's service area has disrupted economic local activity. To quantify the impact, **NDC launched a rapid impact survey and outreach effort to understand how entrepreneurs were affected and what support was most urgently needed.**

**Of the 139 businesses who responded:**

- **64% rated the severity of impact as *high or critical***, with restaurants, immigrant-serving retail, personal service providers, and home health businesses among the hardest hit.
- **Many report monthly losses between \$2,000 and \$15,000, while restaurants and event-based businesses cite losses exceeding \$20,000–\$50,000 per month.** Some report losses as high as \$70,000–\$100,000 due to event cancellations.
- **Entrepreneurs consistently report little to no income**, difficulty paying rent and utilities, and an inability to maintain payroll—**placing many at imminent risk of closure.**
- **The average monthly loss was \$8447 across all sectors.**
- **Nearly 80% of respondents identified emergency financial assistance as their top priority**, followed by rent and utility support and short-term business consulting.

**Business Training, Financing, Technical Assistance and Real Estate Incubators**  
Frogtown Crossroads · Midtown Global Market · Frogtown Square · 809 Cybersecurity Center · Frogtown Entrepreneur Center

After calculating the revenue generated by key commercial corridors and extrapolating that across 10 weeks, the Minnesota CDFI Coalition found that revenue losses total approximately **\$167M in Minneapolis, \$46M in St. Paul, and \$213M across both cities.**

In response, **NDC has launched an Emergency Relief Fund**, which will provide commercial rental assistance and loan modifications for current tenants and borrowers. We are also one of seven organizations partnering with **the Minneapolis Foundation to administer grants through their Economic Response Fund**. However, the financial need of entrepreneurs far exceeds the private funding raised to date, and public funds are needed to protect small businesses and the jobs they create across the state.

NDC will continue to stand with small businesses that contribute to significant local economic activity, generate jobs, and increase safety in the Twin Cities. We encourage members of the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee to partner with us and other community-based organizations to ensure that small businesses have the resources they need to recover and thrive following this period of disruption.

Thank you,

**Renay Dossman**



Chief Executive Officer and President  
Neighborhood Development Center