



About Isuroon

Isuroon is a women-led, community-driven organization motivated by the belief that Somali women and girls deserve to be healthy and have a strong voice. We are a linguistic and cultural bridge connecting women with wellness information, trusted health care providers, financial literacy, civic engagement and leadership. For health care providers and policymakers, we are a partner to improve outcomes and decrease disparity through culturally competent training and research.

Our name, *Isuroon*, means “a woman who cares for herself.” With their courage and our resources, Somali women and girls in Minnesota can:

- Overcome obstacles such as language barriers, racism and religious intolerance
- Navigate a complex and unfamiliar health care system
- Become advocates for their own physical, social and financial wellness

Description of the Project:

The purpose of the renovation project at Isuroon is to enhance the use of our building space to improve program delivery, provide additional privacy for our legal and mental health clients/staff, and reconfigure space for cooking demonstrations/classes and doula training. The goals of the cooking demonstrations and doula training are to prevent and/or manage chronic diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension, by learning how to prepare nutritious meals using reduced sugar and salt and to reduce infant and maternal mortality by improving birth outcomes for Somali/East African immigrant women and other women of color.

The renovation project involves reconfiguring our space by adding/replacing walls, doorways, windows, furnishings, ceiling tiles, lighting, painting, and flooring. At the project’s completion, Isuroon will have additional office space, meeting rooms, break room, semi-commercial kitchen, pantry, storage space, conference room, and call center.

Funding this project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because the organization improves the lives of community residents through its Halal food shelf, homeownership training, financial coaching, mental health clinic, legal clinic, youth leadership development program, grassroots advocacy, and other resources.