



May 1, 2023

SF3035 Conferees:

First, a sincere thank you for your tireless efforts and dedication to the work of these committees. Each of you have been fierce advocates for the people of Minnesota, particularly those facing significant hardships. Your support is needed and so greatly appreciated.

Twin Cities RISE ("TCR") serves those who are impacted by racial and socioeconomic barriers resulting in unemployment or underemployment. TCR also works with those recently out of incarceration. TCR was founded with a focus to break generational poverty with a focus on Black Men. Still true to that mission today, approximately 78% of program participants are in the BIPOC community, with African Americans comprising approximately 54% of those served. The program currently serves those 18+ who have an income that is at least 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. These individuals receive care, support and resources all aimed at ensuring they have the tools, skills and resources needed to become empowered and employed.

The participants are provided with not only career training to ensure they are able to obtain meaningful employment. Additionally, each go through TCR's signature Personal Empowerment program, which builds emotional intelligence, provides cognitive restructuring, and connects people to their core values. This helps to rebuild the participant's confidence, self-esteem and improves career retention. TCR offers resources for both skill development as well as personal empowerment.

The mission and vision of Twin Cities RISE is to eliminate the effects of generational poverty so that participants achieve financial independence. With a 30-year track record the organization has demonstrated the ability to move people up the success ladder into meaningful employment through career training and meaningful employment. The State of Minnesota greatly benefits from the work of TCR as demonstrated by the Social Return on Investment that indicates there is a \$7 return for every dollar invested in TCR. Through increased economic activity, reduced rates of recidivism, increased earnings and 2nd generation impact the benefits to the community are many.

This year, our legislative priorities were two-fold:

- 1) \$700K each year in the first biennium for the pay-for-performance grants. The same ask as last year.
- 2) \$500K each year in the first biennium for a new expansion of the Empowerment Institute program to  
a) partner with employers in Greater MN, beginning in St. Cloud, and b) to bring the EI curriculum to serve youth, ages 14-17 who we know are in desperate need of support.

We are thrilled to see the pay-for-performance appropriations in both the House and Senate proposals. Knowing the committee will be faced with some very difficult choices in the coming weeks, we would encourage accepting the **Senate language (R40-41, Articles 1 & 2)** that includes funding for both proposals.

Thank you again for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Corrie', with a small dot at the end.

Emma Corrie, CEO