

Dear City Leaders,

We come to you as fellow neighbors, organizers, activists, mediators, trainers, facilitators, consultants, business leaders, outreach workers, engagement specialists, and dedicated community leaders. We come to you during a global health pandemic, a country being torn apart by poor leadership at every level, and a city finally coming to terms with its long established racist history.

While Minneapolis grapples with a \$160 million deficit and calls to defund the police, it is critical to have a strong vision of where we are going. A plan that will invest in the building up of our collective healing and success, and dismantling of the policies and culture that dehumanize Black and Brown bodies. We feel that the current guidelines and Racial Equity funding formula are steps in the right direction. However, without financial resources, their impact is limited. For over 30 years, the City of Minneapolis invested hundreds of millions of dollars into a neighborhood funding system that did not prioritize racial equity. Now the City is looking to adopt racial equity as a core lens for future funding at the same time it is substantially cutting its investment into neighborhoods.

As a strong collection of neighborhood organizations leading the way into the future of organizing around equity, we are urging the City Council to allocate \$3 million additional dollars into the proposed racial equity formula for Neighborhoods for a total of a \$7.1 million investment to address racial disparities at the neighborhood level.

The City of Minneapolis invested over \$300 million dollars for decades into a largely inequitable neighborhood system. ([Full analysis from CURA here](#)) So what does it mean to repair the harm? Because of the requirement that this proposal be budget neutral, the City is now in the unfortunate position of adopting a more racially equitable funding formula at the same time that it is poised to drastically reduce base funding. With the proposed 4.1 million dollars in funding, it would take another 100 years under the current funding formula to address the racial inequities in our neighborhoods.

We believe that neighborhood residents are the most powerful force for justice and equity in their communities. It is imperative to build strong, sustainable and multi-racial neighborhood organizations as key vehicles for residents to organize and develop solutions to combat Minneapolis' worst-in-the-nation racial disparities. Considering their unique position within the community, neighborhood organizations are better positioned to respond to community needs than anyone else.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the limitations of overly centralized and bureaucratized community response plans for community health and safety. In the wake of the community rebellion following George Floyd's murder by Minneapolis police, the city moves towards the creation of a new transformative model of public safety. Neighborhood organizations can have an important role to play in building community trust and uplifting community driven solutions at the local level. People of color who have been underrepresented in neighborhood organizations must be at the forefront in crafting solutions to address systemic inequities.

In response to COVID-19, neighborhood organizations have risen to the challenge of becoming first responders in caring for residents, emergencies, and leading work on difficult conversations around the racism that runs deep within the city practices and policing. To vision what that can look like for the future, look to the neighborhoods that are already doing it.

Many neighborhood organizations are already leading on critical initiatives related to racial, economic, and social equity, and increased financial support is required to build capacity and expand this work. In the appendix you will find specific examples of racial equity programs and initiatives driven by neighborhood organizations across the city.

- Neighborhood organizations act nimbly to adapt to current events, assess community needs, and secure resources;
- Neighborhood organizations organize outreach in creative, accessible ways that no other organizations or government can reach deep into our communities; and

- Neighborhood organizations provide hyper-local opportunities to transform communities through dismantling white supremacy and addressing racism.

Now more than ever, neighborhood organizations need investment with the tasks set before us. CURA has outlined what equitable funding looks like across the city (*see Appendix B*). We believe with these additional funds, it would raise the base funding, allowing for the equitable framework to thrive while not disinvesting in wealthier areas. We believe that the problem is not in the formula, but rather the amount of funds allocated.

False formulas:

Funding - Equity \neq Justice

Equity - Funding \neq Justice

Our formula:

More Equity + More Funding = More Justice

The City of Minneapolis and many of its leaders have publicly confirmed that racial equity is a top priority for them. It is time to lend your critical vote and support on this additional funding to enable the necessary tools for dismantling white supremacy and reducing equity gaps along racial lines across the board. (*See Appendix B*)

Disinvesting in an institution does not change its history, but investing in an institution is necessary to shape its future. We see a future where neighborhood organizations are not for white bodies and white benefit only, one that elevates community by proclaiming that BIPOC lives matter and actively works to dismantle white supremacy. Raising the overall project budget by \$3 million for a total of a \$7.1 million investment, provides the opportunity to fulfill the racial equity goals of the plan, while also largely maintaining the baseline in funding for all Minneapolis neighborhood organizations.

With respect to the work,

Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. (Approved 8/18/20)
 Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (Approved 8/18/20)
 Citizens for a Loring Park Community (Approved 8/18/20)
 Armatage Neighborhood Association (Approved 8/18/20)
 Victory Neighborhood Association (Approved 8/18/2020)
 Harrison Neighborhood Association (8/18/2020)
 St. Anthony East Neighborhood Association (Approved 8/25/20)
 Folwell Neighborhood Association (Approved 8/31/2020)
 Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC) (Approved 9/1/2020)
 Linden Hills Neighborhood Council (Approved 9/1/2020)
 Whittier Alliance (Approved 9/2/2020)
 East Harriet-Farmstead Neighborhood Association (Approved 9/2/2020)
 Tangletown Neighborhood Association (Approved 9/3/2020)
 West Maka Ska Council (formerly West Calhoun) (Approved 9/8/2020)
 Fulton Neighborhood Association (Approved 9/9/2020)
 Kingfield Neighborhood Association (Approved 9/9/2020)
 ECCO Neighborhood Association (Approved 9/10/2020)
 CAPIUSA
 Beltrami Neighborhood Council (Approved 9/11/20)
 Bottineau Neighborhood Association (Approved 9.11.2020)
 Webber Camden Neighborhood Association (9/11/2020)

Cleveland Neighborhood Association (9/11/2020)
Kenny Neighborhood Association (Approved 9/12/2020)
Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association (9/14/20)
Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association (9/16/20)
McKinley Community (9/17/2020)

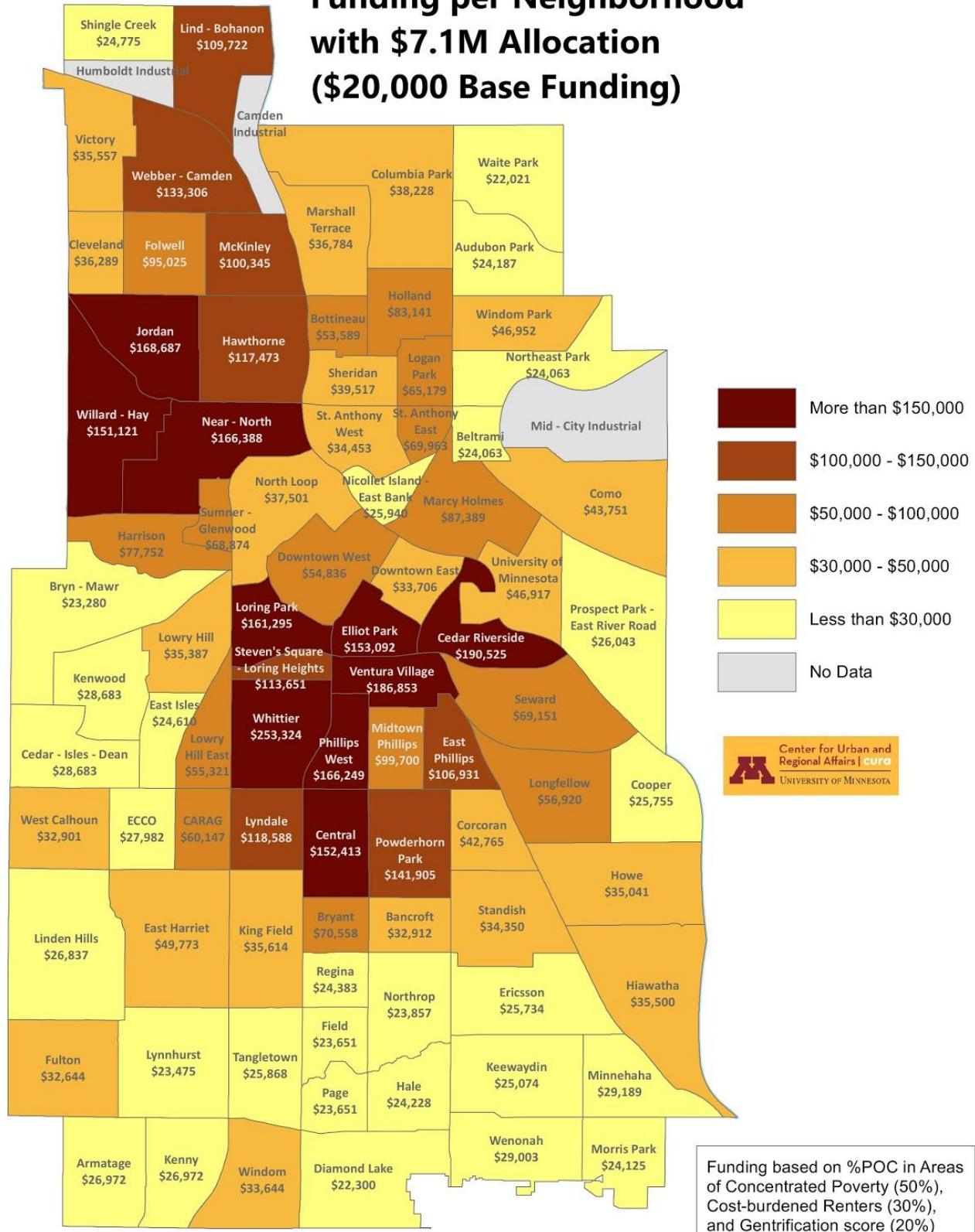
APPENDIX A

Examples of racial, economic, and social equity initiatives that neighborhood organizations are already doing, and need financial support to continue and expand in order to meet the increased need across the city:

- **Food & supply distribution programs:** Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, Whittier Alliance, Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc., Folwell Neighborhood Association, Harrison Neighborhood Association, Beltrami Neighborhood Council, Bottineau Neighborhood Association, Kingfield Neighborhood Association, Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association McKinley Community, Kenny Neighborhood Association
- **Anti-racism trainings & conversations:** Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc., Folwell Neighborhood Association, Whittier Alliance, Kingfield Neighborhood Association, Armatage Neighborhood Association, Harrison Neighborhood Association, Tangletown Neighborhood Association, Linden Hills Neighborhood Council, Beltrami Neighborhood Council, Kingfield Neighborhood Association, Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association, ECCO Neighborhood Association, Kenny Neighborhood Association
- **Rent & bill pay relief programs:** Whittier Alliance, Beltrami Neighborhood Council, Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association
- **Renter protection and anti-displacement work:** Harrison Neighborhood Association, Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc., St. Anthony East Neighborhood Association, Whittier Alliance, Linden Hills Neighborhood Council, Beltrami Neighborhood Council
- **Small business support:** Whittier Alliance, Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc., Armatage Neighborhood Association, Harrison Neighborhood Association, East Harriet-Farmstead Neighborhood Association, Tangletown Neighborhood Association, Beltrami Neighborhood Council, Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association, McKinley Community, Linden Hills Neighborhood Council, ECCO Neighborhood Association, Fulton Neighborhood Association, Kenny Neighborhood Association, Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association
- **Environmental Justice Advocacy:** Folwell Neighborhood Association, Harrison Neighborhood Association, Bottineau Neighborhood Association, Kingfield Neighborhood Association, Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association, McKinley Community, Tangletown Neighborhood Association
- **Reimagining & Addressing Public Safety Conversations:** Folwell Neighborhood Association, Armatage Neighborhood Association, Harrison Neighborhood Association, East Harriet-Farmstead Neighborhood Association, Linden Hills Neighborhood Council, Kingfield Neighborhood Association, Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association, McKinley Community, ECCO Neighborhood Association, Fulton Neighborhood Association
- **Accessible Transportation & Mobility Advocacy:** St. Anthony East Neighborhood Association
- **Support and/or Organizing for Affordable Housing:** East Harriet-Farmstead Neighborhood Association, Tangletown Neighborhood Association, Linden Hills Neighborhood Council, Bottineau Neighborhood Association, Kingfield Neighborhood Association, Whittier Alliance
- **Support for Neighborhood Schools:** East Harriet-Farmstead Neighborhood Association, Tangletown Neighborhood Association, Linden Hills Neighborhood Council, Kingfield Neighborhood Association, Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association, Whittier Alliance, Fulton Neighborhood Association, Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association
- **Census and Voter Registration/Turnout:** Kingfield Neighborhood Association, Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association, McKinley Community, Whittier Alliance

APPENDIX B

Funding per Neighborhood with \$7.1M Allocation (\$20,000 Base Funding)



Neighborhood	\$4.1M Allocation (\$10,000 base) *	\$7.1M Allocation (\$20,000 base)
Armatage	\$ 14,275	\$ 26,972
Audubon Park	\$ 12,567	\$ 24,187
Bancroft	\$ 17,917	\$ 32,912
Beltrami	\$ 12,491	\$ 24,063
Bottineau	\$ 30,596	\$ 53,589
Bryant	\$ 41,000	\$ 70,558
Bryn - Mawr	\$ 12,011	\$ 23,280
CARAG / South Uptown	\$ 40,635	\$ 60,147
Cedar - Isles - Dean	\$ 15,324	\$ 28,683
Cedar Riverside	\$ 114,561	\$ 190,525
Central	\$ 91,191	\$ 152,413
Cleveland	\$ 19,988	\$ 36,289
Columbia Park	\$ 21,177	\$ 38,228
Como	\$ 24,563	\$ 43,751
Cooper	\$ 13,529	\$ 25,755
Corcoran	\$ 23,959	\$ 42,765
Diamond Lake	\$ 11,410	\$ 22,300
Downtown East	\$ 18,404	\$ 33,706
Downtown West	\$ 31,361	\$ 54,836
East Harriet	\$ 28,256	\$ 49,773
East Isles	\$ 12,827	\$ 24,610
East Phillips	\$ 63,303	\$ 106,931
ECCO	\$ 14,894	\$ 27,982
Elliot Park	\$ 91,608	\$ 153,092
Ericsson	\$ 13,516	\$ 25,734
Field	\$ 12,239	\$ 23,651
Folwell	\$ 56,003	\$ 95,025
Fulton	\$ 17,753	\$ 32,644
Hale	\$ 12,593	\$ 24,228
Harrison	\$ 45,412	\$ 77,752
Hawthorne	\$ 69,767	\$ 117,473
Hiawatha	\$ 19,504	\$ 35,500
Holland	\$ 48,716	\$ 83,141
Howe	\$ 19,223	\$ 35,041
Jordan	\$ 101,170	\$ 168,687
Keewaydin	\$ 13,111	\$ 25,074
Kenny	\$ 14,275	\$ 26,972
Kenwood	\$ 15,324	\$ 28,683
King Field	\$ 19,574	\$ 35,614
Lind - Bohanon	\$ 65,014	\$ 109,722
Linden Hills	\$ 14,193	\$ 26,837
Logan Park	\$ 37,702	\$ 65,179
Longfellow	\$ 32,638	\$ 56,920
Loring Park	\$ 96,637	\$ 161,295

Neighborhood	\$4.1M Allocation (\$10,000 base) *	\$7.1M Allocation (\$20,000 base)
Lowry Hill	\$ 19,435	\$ 35,387
Lowry Hill East	\$ 31,658	\$ 55,321
Lyndale	\$ 70,451	\$ 118,588
Lynnhurst	\$ 12,131	\$ 23,475
Marcy Holmes	\$ 51,321	\$ 87,389
Marshall Terrace	\$ 20,291	\$ 36,784
McKinley	\$ 59,265	\$ 100,345
Midtown Phillips	\$ 58,870	\$ 99,700
Minnehaha	\$ 15,634	\$ 29,189
Morris Park	\$ 12,529	\$ 24,125
Near - North	\$ 99,761	\$ 166,388
Nicollet Island - East Bank	\$ 13,642	\$ 25,940
North Loop	\$ 20,731	\$ 37,501
Northeast Park	\$ 12,491	\$ 24,063
Northrop	\$ 12,365	\$ 23,857
Page	\$ 12,239	\$ 23,651
Phillips West	\$ 99,675	\$ 166,249
Powderhorn Park	\$ 84,749	\$ 141,905
Prospect Park - East River Road	\$ 13,706	\$ 26,043
Regina	\$ 12,688	\$ 24,383
Seward	\$ 40,138	\$ 69,151
Sheridan	\$ 21,967	\$ 39,517
Shingle Creek	\$ 12,928	\$ 24,775
St. Anthony East	\$ 34,617	\$ 69,963
St. Anthony West	\$ 18,862	\$ 34,453
Standish	\$ 18,799	\$ 34,350
Steven's Square - Loring Heights	\$ 67,424	\$ 113,651
Sumner - Glenwood	\$ 39,968	\$ 68,874
Tangletown	\$ 13,598	\$ 25,868
University of Minnesota	\$ 26,504	\$ 46,917
Ventura Village	\$ 112,309	\$ 186,853
Victory	\$ 19,539	\$ 35,557
Waite Park	\$ 11,239	\$ 22,021
Webber - Camden	\$ 79,476	\$ 133,306
Wenonah	\$ 15,520	\$ 29,003
West Calhoun	\$ 17,911	\$ 32,901
Whittier	\$ 153,067	\$ 253,324
Willard - Hay	\$ 90,399	\$ 151,121
Windom	\$ 18,366	\$ 33,644
Windom Park	\$ 26,526	\$ 46,952

* \$10,000 base begins in 2023 and remains at this level going forward
The base amount is \$20,000 in 2021 and \$15,000 in 2022