

TO: Members of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission

FROM: Robert Thompson, Neighborhood Support Manager
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SUBJECT: Community Participation Program Update

Community Participation Program Background

The Community Participation Program (CPP) is the principle program for funding neighborhood organizations in Minneapolis. The NCEC worked in 2010 to establish the program and develop program guidelines. In 2011, the Commission developed revised guidelines to reflect the change in program funding from the Consolidated Tax Increment Financing District revenue to the repurposed NRP fund. In early 2012 the City Council approved the revised guidelines and established funding allocations for neighborhoods for the period July 2012 through December 2013.

Funding Submissions

The program guidelines required each neighborhood organization seeking funding to. As of October 18, 2012, NCR has received 46 submissions, and 43 have been approved and posted online. The total funding for received submissions to this point is over \$4,313,000.

Neighborhood Priority Plans

Together with the revised CPP Guidelines, the City Council revised the NRP ordinance. The NRP ordinance defined the future goals of the NRP to include the “transition to a new community engagement model represented by the community participation program, which focuses on identifying and acting on neighborhood priorities, impacting city decisions, increasing involvement in the neighborhood decision-making process, and establishing stronger partnerships between City departments and neighborhood organizations” and “redesign public services to be more responsive to neighborhood priorities.” Neighborhood Priority Plans (NPP) is an important step in the goals of transitioning to a new community engagement model, and redesigning public services.

- ▶ The goal of NPPs is to identify major priorities for neighborhood residents and other stakeholders, and to communicate those priorities to the City and other jurisdictional partners.
- ▶ Neighborhood priorities will help inform the work of neighborhood organizations, City departments, other agencies, and other jurisdictions.
- ▶ Neighborhood priorities will identify opportunities for partnership and collaboration with residents, organizations and Departments.
- ▶ Approved neighborhood priorities provide the authority for use of NRP funds on neighborhood projects.

There is no specific deadline for submission of NPPs, but each neighborhood organization must participate in developing at least one NPP during each funding cycle.

NPPs must be developed and adopted through a thorough neighborhood participation process. A plan identifies preliminary neighborhood priorities (as identified by the neighborhood) and potential partners. The plan can identify, preserve, and build on the existing assets and positive qualities of a neighborhood, or identify opportunities or problems to be addressed. The plan may identify possible actions. It can be as simple or as comprehensive as the neighborhood organization desires, covering a single issue, or several. A NPP may also be submitted jointly by more than one neighborhood. These plans can be used as a way to focus discussion and marshal resources to deal with neighborhood issues or plan for improvements.

How Are NPPs Different from NRP Action Plans?

While NPPs are central to continuing and expanding on the goals of the NRP program, NPPs are also significantly different from Neighborhood Action Plans in several ways:

Scope of plans: Neighborhoods will mostly use NPPs to identify broad priorities and preferred outcomes. NRP Action Plans identified specific strategies.

Funding: While NPPs enable use of a neighborhood's funding allocation for specific programs, funding is not specifically tied to any outcome identified in a NPP. Funding is attached to NPP programs at the time of implementation. NRP Action Plans required that funds be attached to specific strategies prior to approval, regardless of when implementation might occur.

Timing: NPPs may be of any duration. NRP Action Plans roughly covered a ten year period of time.

Multiple plans: A single neighborhood may participate in developing one or more NPPs. For example, a neighborhood could submit one plan for neighborhood housing, and another plan for commercial nodes. Neighborhoods were required to have largely completed their NRP Phase I Action Plan before moving on to Phase II.

Multiple neighborhoods: One or more neighborhoods can collaborate in developing an NPP. For example, several neighborhoods could submit a single plan for a common commercial corridor. NRP Action Plans were one plan/one neighborhood, although neighborhoods identified common strategies in their action plans.

Priority Plan Review and Approval.

Plans approved by a neighborhood will be submitted to the NCR for review. After NCR staff and legal review, neighborhood organizations may then present their NPP to the NRP Policy Board for review and approval. During their presentation, neighborhood organizations should:

- (1) Describe the community process they followed to develop the priorities;
- (2) Discuss how they involved under-represented communities; and
- (3) Provide background on their neighborhood's priorities.

The NRP Policy Board will then forward those plans to the City Council or other appropriate jurisdiction for action. Approval by the City Council or participating jurisdiction will provide direction to NCR and City Departments or jurisdictional staff, as appropriate, to work with the neighborhood to address the priority outlined by the neighborhood in its NPP. NPPs may be implemented not only through direct community participation program funding, but also through formal or informal agreements between neighborhood organizations and participating jurisdictions.

In addition to review and approval, the NRP Policy Board can provide additional value by recommending resources (for example jurisdictional departments or programs), processes (e.g. CLIC committee process), or other plans. Policy Board members can also play an important role by serving as advocates or champions of neighborhood priorities within their jurisdictions.