



# Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission

Agenda Item: 5A

## Advisory Information

Title: **Community Innovation Fund Guidelines**

Action     Discussion     Informational

Date: May 22, 2014

Prepared By: Howard Blin, Community Engagement Manager

Attachments:

## Requested Action

The Commission is requested to approve the draft Community Innovation Fund guidelines for purposes of distribution for public comment.

## Background

The Community Innovation Fund was first proposed in the 2008 Framework for the Future report. This document recommended future neighborhood programs in Minneapolis. The Fund is aimed at developing locally relevant and innovative approaches to City identified goals.

The Committee of the Whole began work on the guidelines in late 2013. This was followed by a series of nine listening sessions with representatives of neighborhood organizations held in early 2014. The purpose of these sessions was to gain ideas from neighborhood leaders on how the program should be structured.

The Committee of the Whole then met in April and May to work on the draft guidelines that are before the Commission for consideration. It is proposed that these guidelines be distributed for a 60 day comment period to neighborhood organizations and other groups for input. Based on the comments received, the guidelines will be revised for eventual submission by the NCEC to the City Council for approval.

## Discussion

The key elements of the draft guidelines are as follows:

- \$300,000 will be available for grants during the period 2015-2016.

- The maximum grant amount is \$20,000. This limit was discussed extensively by the Committee, with a range from \$20,000 to \$30,000 considered.
- Eligibility for funds is limited to recognized neighborhood organizations.
- Collaborations on projects between two or more neighborhood organizations or between neighborhood organizations and community organizations is required.
- Projects must address the following City goals:
  - One Minneapolis, disparities are eliminated so all Minneapolis residents can participate and prosper; or
  - Living well, Minneapolis, Minneapolis is safe and livable and has an active and connected way of life.