



Community Development Grants

Overview and Annual Impact



April 2025

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Community Development Grants Overview

Community Development Units with Grant Programs

Livable Communities

Local Planning Assistance

Regional Parks and Trails

Special Programs

Community Development Grants Overview

Grant Portfolio

- 434 active grants
- Over \$310 million portfolio
- 10-14 annual solicitations managed by program staff and supported by CD grant unit staff
- Staff ensure compliance with all federal, state, local and Council grant requirements through ongoing management and monitoring of individual grants

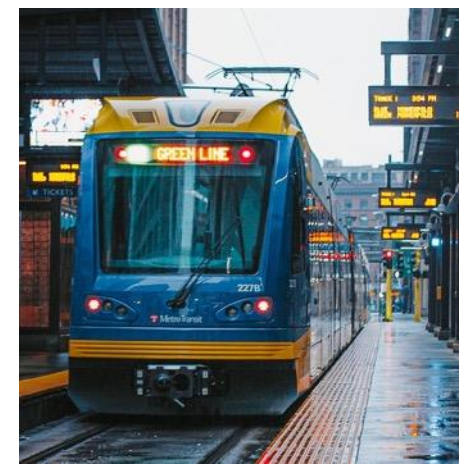


Livable Communities

Program Overview

- The LCA provides funding for communities to invest in local economic revitalization, workforce housing initiatives, and development or redevelopment that connects different land uses and transportation.
- Opportunities are supported by the Livable Communities Act (LCA), adopted by the Minnesota Legislature in 1995.
- 78 participating communities are eligible to compete for funding from all four LCA categories

From 1996 through the most recent 2024 funding rounds, the Council has awarded 1,405 grants totaling over \$532 million in Livable Communities funds. These grants have leveraged billions of dollars in private and other public investment



Livable Communities



LCA Grant Programs

- Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA)
- LCDA – Transit Oriented Development (LCDA-TOD)
- Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA)
- Local Housing Incentives Account (LHIA)
- Pre-Development Grants
- Policy Development Program
- Affordable Homeownership

Livable Communities



Current Portfolio through Q4 2024

- Approximately 189 active grant projects totaling \$93.75 million
- \$12.6 million spent on projects
- \$81 million remaining to be spent
- Funding is helping to create jobs, affordable housing and private investment in areas round the region

Livable Communities

Highlighted Projects

Manufactured Home Replacement Need and Feasibility Assessment

Program: LCA Pre-Development

Applicant: City of Blaine

Award Amount: \$56,500

Project Description: Assessment of building conditions, costs, and financing options to prioritize replacement of an estimated 190 homes out of 851 existing manufactured homes to remain affordable for existing residents.



Livable Communities



Highlighted Projects

The Community Corner

Program: LCDA-Development

Applicant: City of Brooklyn Center

Award Amount: \$1,500,000

Housing: 31 units (31 @ <30%)

Bedrooms: 29 One Br | 2 Studio

Jobs: 14 living wage jobs

Project Description: The Community Corner is a new mixed-use construction development. This 4-story building will feature both affordable housing and ground floor commercial space, along with an entire fourth floor dedicated to health and well-being amenities. The ground floor commercial space will include a workforce center that offers vocational rehabilitation services and career resources, youth programming, and a youth-led coffee shop.

Livable Communities



Highlighted Projects

7th Avenue Redevelopment

Program: TBRA - Cleanup
Applicant: City of North St. Paul
Award Amount: \$191,300
Acres Cleaned: 0.7
Total Housing Units: 82
Jobs: 9

Project Description: The 0.7-acre site is currently being used to construct a mixed-use building. Recently the site included a variety of retail businesses and a commercial printing facility. Historically, the site included a gas station. Contaminants of concern include additional polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), arsenic, and petroleum in the soil on the west half of the site and debris in the fill soil in the east half of the site. Expected benefits include the construction of 82 market rate apartments with underground and surface parking.

Regional Parks and Trails

Program Overview

- The Council administers a variety of funding sources and grant programs for the betterment of the Regional Parks System
- Funds are awarded or passed through to the Regional Parks Implementing Agencies:
 - Anoka County
 - City of Bloomington
 - Carver County
 - Dakota County
 - Minneapolis Parks and Rec Board
 - Ramsey County
 - City of St. Paul
 - Scott County
 - Three Rivers Park District
 - Washington County

From state fiscal year 2010 through the current fiscal year 2025, the Council has awarded over 864 grants, totaling over \$567 million to the ten regional park implementing agencies.



Regional Parks and Trails



Grant Programs

- Parks and Trails Legacy Fund
- Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund
- Regional Parks Bonding
- Competitive Equity Grants
- Operation and Maintenance
- Modernization
- Hazard Tree Removal/Ash Replacement/Tree Planting

Regional Parks and Trails



Current Portfolio through Q4 2024

- Approximately 245 active grant projects totaling over \$217 million
- \$44 million spent on projects
- \$173 million remaining to be spent
- \$36 million in FY25 funding available for new projects currently under development by implementing agencies
- Funding is helping to improve facilities, acquire land, engage with the public and advance equity in the Regional Parks and Trails system

Regional Parks and Trails



Highlighted Projects

Baylor Regional Park – Boardwalk Replacement

Program: Modernization

Applicant: Carver County

Award Amount: \$352,066

Project Description:

Removal and replacement of a nearly ¼ mile wooden dilapidated boardwalk that is a part of the park's trail system. The boardwalk was taken out of service due to its unsafe condition. The project will replace the aged infrastructure and restore an accessible pedestrian connection from the campground to the active use area of the park.

Regional Parks and Trails

Highlighted Projects

Hazard Tree & Ash Replacement

Program: Hazard Tree & Ash Replacement

Applicant: City of St. Paul

Award Amount: \$66,321

Project Description: Reimbursement for costs associated with removal of hazardous trees and replacement of ash trees with more diverse, climate-adapted species in the regional park and trail system within the grantee's jurisdiction.



Regional Parks and Trails



Highlighted Projects

Lebanon Hills Regional Park Plant Propagation Program and Master Gardener Partnership

Program: Parks and Trails Legacy Fund

Applicant: Dakota County

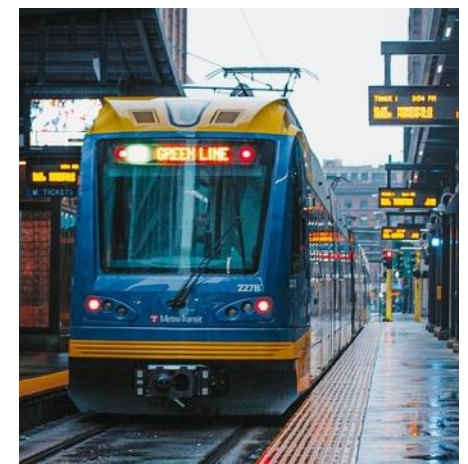
Award Amount: \$211,595

Project Description: Support expanded greenhouse and plant propagation program and enhance ecological restoration and community engagement. The facility has the capacity to grow over 100,000 native plugs annually, addressing the need for local eco-type native species that are often difficult to source in the open market. This project actively seeks partnerships with local Indigenous communities to enhance access to culturally significant plant species. In addition, Dakota County Master Gardeners collaborate with the Hmong American Farmers Association (HAFA) to provide demonstrations and workshops.

Local Planning Assistance

Program Overview

- Planning assistance grants are made available to assist communities with updating their local comprehensive plans.
- The Council establishes eligibility to apply for grants to target communities most in need of financial assistance to complete their local plans
- Grants are not competitive
- Grants issued in 2016 (on a decennial basis)
 - 104 eligible communities
 - Ranged from \$10,000 - \$84,000



Local Planning Assistance



Impact of 2016 Grant Round and Future Grants

- \$1.86 million was awarded in 2016
- \$1.81 million was paid out to 69 grantees
- Grants enabled cities without planning staff to hire consultants and pay city staff to complete their 2040 Comprehensive plans
- A new round of grant funding is anticipated in 2026

Community Tree Planting Grant Program



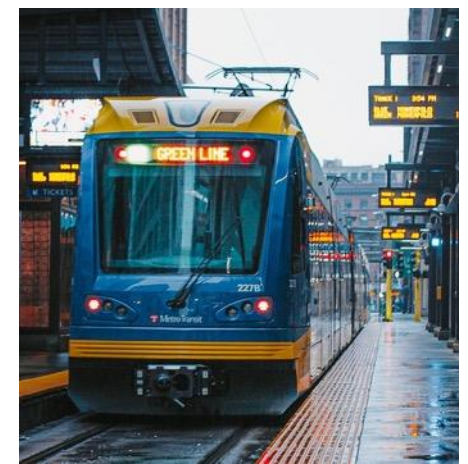
Program Overview

- \$2.5M appropriated in the 2024 Legislative Session
- Statute 473.355 established the Community Tree Planting Grant Program with cities, counties, townships, and regional park implementing agencies named as eligible recipients
- Competitive application closes on April 18th
 - Late spring application review and selection
 - Early summer grant agreements executed
- Projects to be completed by June 30, 2027

HUD Pathways to Reducing Obstacles (PRO) Housing Grants

Program Overview

- Awarded FFY 2023 Grant - \$4M
 - Council Technical Assistance and Program Coordination
 - Subgrants for Policy/Programming grants to local governments
 - Subgrants for project partners
 - Hennepin and Ramsey Counties
- Awarded FFY 2024 Grant - \$5M
 - Council Technical Assistance and Program Coordination
 - Subgrants for Policy/Programming grants to local governments
 - Subgrants to key regional project partners (TBD)





Thank You

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