

Minnesota House Committee on
Housing Finance and Policy
453 State Office Building
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155



April 5, 2022

Dear Chair Hausman and Committee Members,

The Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) is an association of 50 nonprofit organizations committed to expanding the wealth and resources of communities through housing opportunities and economic development initiatives. MCCD's mission to build strong and stable communities can only be achieved by addressing the inequities that have shaped housing and economic development policies at every level of government and that has prevented Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and other communities from achieving housing stability, accessing capital and wealth building opportunities.

This crucial work is partially supported through state investments, yet many programs have remained underfunded or policies prohibitive to serving all communities. MCCD supports many of your proposed investments, but there are two areas we would like to highlight of specific importance to MCCD and our members.

- **Housing Infrastructure Bonds** - This financial resource, unique to Minnesota, is crucial to supporting the development and preservation of affordable housing in Minnesota across the continuum of affordable housing. Bonding investments leverage significant private, local and federal resources and support deeply affordable permanent housing units. MCCD supports the proposed investments we are thankful for the inclusion of the proposed new eligible use to expand deeply affordable units to low-wealth households that do not need supportive services. This type of housing is so needed and passing this policy will help thousands of Minnesota households access stable, safe, accessible and affordable housing.
- **Homeownership Investments** – While we understand that there are budget limitations factoring into your funding decisions, MCCD would like to see significant investments to support homeownership investments. The Workforce and Affordable Homeownership program would fund much needed development and preservation projects to expand the affordable housing stock to support homeownership opportunities for Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with the committee to secure these policy changes and investments during the 2022 legislative session. MCCD and its members would like to make ourselves available to best help inform your decisions. Please reach out to Kari Johnson (kjohnson@mccdmn.org), should you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Elena Gaarder
President/CEO, MCCD
3137 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407