

We believe communities thrive when people thrive.



ModelCities

Since 1967, our work has supported marginalized and underserved communities with an emphasis to meet the needs and invest in the economic stability and vibrancy of Black Minnesotans in Saint Paul.

Our mission

To promote social and economic prosperity by providing access to opportunities that stabilize and develop families and communities.

We envision an equitable community where all people have access to housing, economic opportunities, and culturally responsive services that help them thrive.

Lifting up those who need it most

We actively develop healthy communities by offering interconnected programs of support delivered with care and respect, including:

- **Community Coaching:** Mentorship, skill-building, and opportunity access for youth (ages 10-18) on probation in Ramsey County.
- **Family Coaching:** Intervention-based wrap-around services for families in Saint Paul's Promise Neighborhood.
- **Safe Space:** A low-barrier, year-round 64-bed emergency shelter in downtown Saint Paul.
- **Supportive Housing:** Housing with services for parenting young adults and single-parent families with a history of homelessness.

- **Residential Development:** Developer, owner, and manager of affordable housing units in Frogtown.
- **Home Ownership Services:** HUD-approved Housing Counseling Agency providing homebuyers tools needed to navigate the home buying process.
- **Commercial Development:** Developer, owner, and manager of affordable commercial rental space in Frogtown, primarily serving minority-owned small businesses.

The challenge is great

Model Cities currently operates as Saint Paul's "best kept secret" among high-impact, community-based service providers actively addressing racial disparities. We are a small, Black-led, and historically under-resourced agency providing services to nearly 2,000 individuals each year.

Outcomes we've accomplished

- **Commercial Real Estate:** \$12 million invested to provide affordable retail space for minority-owned businesses (6 projects)
- **Single-family Housing:** \$3.7 million to produce single-family homes for households at or below 80% AMI (24 homes)
- **Multi-family Housing:** \$18.4 million invested in 76 multi-family units for households at or below 50% AMI (6 projects, 1 pending)

Action is needed

With more robust organizational capacity and deeper investment in infrastructure, we can develop more innovative programs, pursue more creative cross-sector collaborations, produce more affordable housing initiatives, and seize new opportunities to accelerate the closure of our State's persistent racial and economic inequities.

Model Cities is seeking an investment to build capacity and increase our impact in areas of housing and real estate development to address the State's housing crisis.

\$400,000

to hire and retain leadership staff to increase the organization's operations and management capacity.

\$250,000

to support costs related to pre-development planning activities, feasibility studies for market-driven revitalization projects, engineering and environmental studies, and property condition assessment reports with cost analysis for new real estate development activities.

\$150,000

to obtain the ongoing services of consultants with expertise in areas such as housing preservation and planning, architectural services, marketing and communications, legal, fundraising, and financial sustainability, to support housing and commercial development activities.

\$200,000

to establish and maintain a tenant improvement fund that directly supports the sustainability of current and future small and minority-owned businesses leasing affordable commercial space at Model Cities' developments.

Together, we can transform lives, build economic opportunities, and strengthen our community.



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