



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2, 2018

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The Minneapolis Foundation Launches New Year with Nearly \$5 Million in Grants
Education, economic vitality, and civic engagement grants will support 92 organizations

MINNEAPOLIS – The Minneapolis Foundation will award nearly \$5 million to nonprofit organizations working to make Minneapolis-Saint Paul a more equitable community.

Foundation President and CEO R.T. Rybak said 92 organizations will receive anywhere between \$11,000 and \$250,000 to support work that will help advance racial, social and economic equity in 2018.

“These grants represent a significant investment by The Minneapolis Foundation to close equity gaps in education, economic vitality and civic engagement,” Rybak said. “They also reflect our donors’ commitment to improve lives by addressing these and a host of other critical needs in our community.”

One organization receiving support, Reviving the Islamic Sisterhood for Empowerment (RISE), will advocate for legislative changes on issues affecting Muslim women and host a caucus training, recruit election judges and take on other nonpartisan projects to engage Muslim women in public decision-making.

“Too often, Muslim women's voices are missing from the political process and in a lot of different spaces,” said Nausheena Hussain, executive director of RISE, who sees civic engagement as an important part of the work she does to help women build skills and influence. “If we want to make change in the community, we have to understand where and how we can plug in.”

The Minneapolis Foundation distributes an average of more than \$50 million every year to improve lives, locally and globally. The Foundation administers more than 1,200 charitable funds and last year supported more than 2,800 organizations.

The competitive grants announced today will support organizations working in three issue areas:

- **Civic Engagement** grants support projects and initiatives to create a community where everyone participates in democracy and public decision-making.
- **Economic Vitality** grants support efforts to build an inclusive workforce that reflects the metro area’s changing demographics, and a business climate that fosters innovation, entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency.

- **Education** grants support schools and initiatives to create an education system where all children are on track to compete in a global economy, participate in civic life and pursue their dreams.

These grants are awarded through an application process open to eligible organizations in the community. Proposals are evaluated by Foundation staff and board members based on criteria that include how closely the organization's work aligns with The Minneapolis Foundation's goals for creating a more equitable community.

Learn more about all 92 of the organizations that will receive funding at www.minneapolisfoundation.org/recent-grants/.

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About The Minneapolis Foundation: For more than 100 years, The Minneapolis Foundation has connected people, resources, and ideas to improve lives in Minnesota and beyond. The Foundation manages more than \$800 million in assets, providing customized and tax-smart giving solutions that result in the average annual distribution of more than \$50 million in grants. The Foundation brings people together to unite behind common goals and spark positive change in our community. www.minneapolisfoundation.org