



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

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March 11, 2016

The United States Conference of Mayors  
1620 Eye Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the City of Saint Paul, I am writing to support the East Side Economic Growth Initiative proposal to the CommunityWINS grant program. This grant will be used to fund innovative and replicable strategies that advance equity on the East Side of Saint Paul through a community wealth building framework and related set of practices to test and pilot approaches to eliminating racial and economic disparities.

Key public, nonprofit and philanthropic stakeholders convened in 2013 to discuss harnessing their collective resources to spur more economic development on the East Side of Saint Paul. The *East Side Economic Growth Initiative* capitalizes on collaborative economic development efforts by targeting investments and creating new structures for community economic development. Importantly, leaders in this effort are careful to employ an equity lens through which community assets that may have been overlooked in traditional processes can be identified and brought to the table. The partnership with *East Side Economic Growth Initiative* has been instrumental in aligning the objectives of several organizations for the benefit of all East Side residents.

Through this letter, we acknowledge specific roles and responsibilities we will fulfill in this partnership that will be led by Nexus Community Partners. In the event this proposal is funded, we would expect our role in the CommunityWINS grant program to include:

- Aligning the City's economic development resources in support of the *East Side Economic Growth Initiative*;
- Making critical investments in business development and value-added food markets program in the East Side community; and
- Incorporating the insights and challenges identified through the process into the City's general planning and policy-making decisions.

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This letter pledges our commitment to join the *East Side Economic Growth Initiative's* work to co-create a community wealth building framework to ensure local equitable ownership and control of wealth, develop mutually reinforcing economic enterprises, invest in assets that are anchored locally and engage the procurement power of institutional partners.

I encourage your support of this unique effort to boost economic opportunities for the residents of Saint Paul's vibrant East Side.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher B. Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Christopher B. Coleman  
Mayor