

For Immediate Release

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Twin Cities LISC Announces Grants Through \$3.3 Million COACTION Fund *Innovative new program provides funding for area community development partnerships*

December 15, 2009: St. Paul, MN — Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is pleased to announce \$820,000 in grants this first year of a competitive three-year, \$3.3 million capacity-building effort to support 15 high-impact, local community development initiatives. The COACTION Fund focuses on new and existing partnerships between Twin Cities agencies working to connect physical improvements in neighborhoods to economic opportunity for residents. Creating strong, stable, livable communities is the goal.

“We’re excited about this new initiative and its long-range effect,” says Twin Cities LISC Executive Director Andriana Abariotes. “The persistent challenges facing many neighborhoods throughout the Twin Cities region, and the difficult economic times, demanded that we sharpen our funding practice. COACTION is very focused on supporting the development of sustainable communities by linking physical improvement efforts – building affordable housing and commercial real estate development – to the expansion of economic opportunities for residents – helping people get a job, buy a house or open a business.”

“We recognize this more holistic approach is going to be challenging, but know that many of our community partners were already heading in this direction. They’ve realized that we’ve all got to work together to ensure both people and places are prospering. We had tremendous interest in COACTION, with more than 40 letters of inquiry. The 15 recipients selected are involved in dynamic partnerships and approaches that best exemplify the COACTION Fund focus, and show the greatest promise of success.”

Twin Cities organizations being funded through the COACTION program are:

- [African Development Center of Minnesota](#)
- [American Indian Community Development Corporation](#)
- Central Corridor Community Collaborators
- [City of Lakes Community Land Trust](#)
- [CommonBond Communities](#)
- [Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Housing Service](#)
- [Emerge Community Development](#)
- [Goodwill Easter Seals Minnesota/Twin Cities Housing Development Corporation](#)
- [Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation](#)
- [Hope Community, Inc.](#)
- [Juxtaposition Arts](#)
- [Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation](#)
- [Project for Pride in Living](#)
- [Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, Inc.](#)
- [Urban Homeworks](#)

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“There has never been a better time to capitalize on impending positive change for Saint Paul’s Aurora/ St Anthony (Old Rondo), and Frogtown neighborhoods, as well as its surrounding areas,” said Nieeta Presley, Executive Director of the Aurora St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation and member of the Central Corridor Community Collaborators. “We believe that with appropriate programming and systems in place, efforts supported by the COACTION Fund will bring new job opportunities, new small business and entrepreneurial opportunities, increase home ownership in this section of the Central Corridor, and stabilize the foreclosure and housing stock instability situation that currently challenges the area.”

For more than 20 years, Twin Cities LISC has served the metro community as a financial facilitator, capacity builder, and leader in the community development field. The organization is an agent of funding for a variety of resources including local and national foundations. The COACTION Fund is currently made possible by the generous support of the McKnight Foundation, St. Paul Foundation, Bigelow Foundation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

“As a funding intermediary, we take our role very seriously, and strive to be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us.” Abariotes continued, “The foundations look to us for insight and direction as the community development landscape continues to change. The COACTION Fund is an important and exciting step toward our goal of supporting the creation of sustainable communities. Combined with our many other funding, training, and technical assistance programs, it increases Twin Cities LISC’s ability to achieve meaningful, long-term improvements in our communities.”

■ **About LISC:** Twin Cities LISC has been helping stabilize and strengthen local communities for over 20 years. Through its support for developers, training of leaders, encouragement of cross-sector collaboration and advocacy for better public policies, LISC helps community-based organizations bring measurable impact in neighborhoods throughout the Twin Cities region. LISC has invested over \$370 million dollars, two-thirds from national sources, leading to over \$1.2 billion of development that has resulted in over 8,700 affordable homes and apartments for Twin Cities families and more than 1.3 million square feet of newly revitalized commercial space—twice the total square footage of the Xcel Energy Center. For more information, visit www.telisc.org

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