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STATE FARM AWARDS \$270,000 TO TWIN CITIES LISC

Grant Supports Community Redevelopment Programming

Minneapolis, MN, April 12, 2010 – State Farm Insurance is pleased to announce a \$270,000 grant to the Twin Cities office of Local Initiatives Support Corp. (LISC) The grant will support the organization’s family income and wealth building and community safety efforts in two of its five Building Sustainable Communities target areas – the North Side of Minneapolis and the neighborhoods surrounding the Central Corridor in St. Paul.

“With thousands of agents across North America, State Farm has a major stake in building stronger, safer, better educated communities,” said Matt Steele, State Farm’s Vice President of Agency for Minnesota. “By working with organizations such as LISC that share State Farm’s concern for healthy neighborhoods, we are able to focus on a comprehensive approach and drive results. After all, good places to live also are good places to work and do business.”

The State Farm grant will support:

North Side – Minneapolis

LISC has been working with multiple organizations on the North Side to address the economic and human capital development opportunities in the area. These comprehensive and collaborative efforts are focused along West Broadway Avenue. Funding from State Farm will support job development activities and financial coaching to help area residents improve their financial status. Support also will go to replicating on West Broadway a local crime prevention program that has had success in the Phillips neighborhood. The model will be replicated as part of the Broadway Plaza redevelopment project.

Central Corridor – St. Paul

Funding from State Farm will support LISC’s partner organizations implementing community based development strategies identified through the Frogtown Rondo Action Network (FRAN) Action Agenda, a resident-led planning process that serves as a blueprint for neighborhood revitalization. Support will go to help low-income, predominantly minority residents work toward purchasing a home; to help small businesses and local entrepreneurs primarily from communities of color to survive and thrive before, during and after planned light rail construction along the Central Corridor; and to maintain a network of block clubs focused on resident-supported and resident-led crime prevention activities.

“This grant is more than an investment in two specific places, it’s an investment in people’s lives,” said Andriana Abariotes, Twin Cities LISC’s executive director. “State Farm is helping us support comprehensive community development that not only creates safer, more attractive neighborhoods, but increases incomes, home values and basic opportunities for residents. That gives people who live in these communities access to a better quality of life, and brings social and economic benefits to the entire Twin Cities region.”

About State Farm®:

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