



Legislation Text

File #: RES 18-300, **Version:** 1

Approving the 2018 Innovation Fund Allocation.

WHEREAS, the Community Engagement Innovation Fund was created in 2014 by the City of Saint Paul and the District Councils to support more effective community engagement around issues of city-wide importance. Historically, the Innovation Fund has supported initiatives that: 1) address citywide issues in an innovative, long-term, systemic way, 2) foster the capacity for collaboration among District Councils, and 3) develop community-based leadership from diverse constituencies; and,

WHEREAS, the City of St. Paul's Racial Equity Initiative commits to achieving racial equity in city services and engagement, and to eliminating race-based disparities in our community; and,

WHEREAS, District Councils in the 2016 cohort have committed to equity work in their own organizations, specifically by better reflecting and representing their communities and more effectively documenting their efforts to do so; and,

WHEREAS, six District Councils in the 2017 Innovation Fund project engaged in a racial equity planning process, framing a systematic and systemic approach for addressing these inequities through the creation of Council-specific Investment Rationales and Equity Strategic Action Plans; and,

WHEREAS, taking this opportunity in 2018 to enhance District Council equitable engagement catered to each Council's unique contexts will have city-wide long-term impact, will foster collaboration amongst the District Councils, and will develop leadership within racially diverse constituencies while increasing the number of people who can work with an equity lens in local decision-making. In short, this strategy will help District Councils meet their obligation to all of the City's residents by increasing their capacity to augment unheard voices in our communities; and,

WHEREAS, achieving measurable and sustained racial equity results requires a consistent source of funding and support, which District Councils have not historically received;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Saint Paul hereby approve funding for the FY2018 Cycle Innovation Fund Grant to be used to resource each District Councils' racial equity agenda according to the needs of their own communities and organizations, with a goal of increasing equitable participation throughout the City. Specifically, that:

1. The 2018 Innovation Fund be allocated evenly among the 17 District Councils;
2. The funds District Councils receive must be dedicated to work--determined by each individual District Council--towards achieving greater racial equity within the District Council organization, the district, and/or collaboratively among districts. The six 2017 Innovation Fund District Councils will use the 2018 funds to work towards implementation of their Equity Plans. Other District Councils may engage in the equity planning process, while still others may advance specific equity work already in progress within their organizations and districts;
3. The District Councils work together to create a framework for an Equity Report, to replace the Inclusivity Matrix, which each District Council will submit to the City at the end of 2018 as a reporting and evaluation tool of their funded work;

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Innovation Fund for the next 3 years be used for the continued

dedication to equity work;

AND FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the ~~Mayor~~ City of St. Paul shall apply for matching funding from foundations to expand these efforts among all District Councils.