

Minneapolis Green Zone RFP FAQ



1) What will the vetting process be like?

- a. There is a volunteer selection committee made up of at least 2 (maximum 3) individuals representing each of the following groups: CAP-HC Board Members; City of Minneapolis Staff; Northern Metals Consent Decree Advisory Committee Members (community members).
- b. Priority will be given to individuals and organizations with experience working in North Minneapolis and with experience community organizing.

2) Will the grantee be involved with the advisory committee?

- a. Yes. The grantee will be primarily responsible for staffing the committee (e.g. setting up meetings, confirming locations, setting agendas, etc.) and working with the committee to figure out how to engage the community around the Northern Metals money.

3) How was the North Side Green Zone area determined?

- a. The idea for developing a Minneapolis Green Zones initiative came from the [Minneapolis Climate Action Plan Environmental Justice Working Group](#). A Green Zone is a place-based policy initiative aimed at improving health and supporting economic development using environmentally conscious efforts in communities that face the cumulative effects of environmental pollution, as well as social, political and economic vulnerability.
- b. On April 17, 2017, the City Council's Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee received the [Green Zones Workgroup's recommendations \(PDF\)](#) and unanimously passed a [Resolution Establishing Green Zones in the City of Minneapolis \(PDF\)](#). The resolution establishes a North Side and a South Side Green Zone, with initial pilots in both sectors (see the [Green Zones map \(PDF\)](#)).
- c. On April 28, 2017 the resolution was unanimously approved by the full City Council, with an amendment by Council Member Reich. The amendment adds environmental education as a goal for the Green Zone implementation and includes coordination with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board on the River First initiative in the North Side Green Zone. The final resolution and related documents are available on the [Green Zones file webpage](#).

- 4) Do residents have to live in one of the neighborhoods to serve on the Northern Metals Consent Decree Advisory Committee?
 - a. Yes. All the members either live or work in the affected areas. They were appointed by the city council in December. [There is a list of all of the individuals serving.](#)

- 5) Can residents apply to be a community outreach worker?
 - a. Yes. The goal is to engage community residents in the organizing work. However, those positions will be hired by the individual or organization that is directing the project.

- 6) Do residents have to live in one of the neighborhoods to be one of the community outreach workers?
 - a. Yes. The goal is to engage community residents in the organizing work.

- 7) The RFP Scope of Work also asks the grantee to "(c) coordinate with CAP-HC on housing stabilization activities." What is the intent and expectation of this aspect of grant activity? Once again, would the selected agency be responsible for raising funds needed for this aspect of the work?
 - a. No. The goal of this is to coordinate the Community Outreach activities with the direct services we provide and connect us to people who could use our services and vice versa. The individual or organization would just refer individuals to us or us to individuals in the community.

- 8) This question has to do with the budget. First, are the costs the winning agency incurs in carrying out the scope of the grant (staff time, outreach workers, meeting costs, etc.) *in addition to* the \$600,000 award that will be used by the community? Or will the costs (e.g., \$145,000 in the sample budget you distributed) *be deducted from* the \$600,000 total?
 - a. The \$600,000 will be directly used to achieve community outcomes, not for the organizing work or staff time. The \$145,000 is for staff time and meeting costs, etc.). This \$145,000 is directly coming from CAP-HC. The \$600,000 is coming from the Northern Metals settlement with the city; the purpose of this RFP is to determine how to best spend that \$600,000.

- 9) To expand on this question, you have specified that this is a two-year award. Presumably, costs would be incurred by the winning agency in both years of the grant. Will these costs be funded through another source, or would the cost of administering the proposal and gathering community input be taken out of the total funds available? If the latter, could that pose a serious reduction in the funds available to meet community needs relating to the Northern Metals noncompliance?
- a. No (see question 8)
- 10) Again using your fictional budget as an example, could this mean \$145,000 in agency costs per year, for a total of \$290,000 in administrative costs? That would leave only \$310,000 to be used in the community over the six-year period. Would these expenditures be allowable within the agreement with Northern Metals as quoted above?
- a. No (see question 8)
- 11) Could you clarify this? If possible, could you provide a (fictional) budget that includes both the available revenue and the expenses, including expected administrative costs? I believe that would provide a greater level of clarity, at least for us.
- a. *The sample budget is intended as a rough guide because there is a lot of flexibility in the RFP. We are looking for respondents creativity—which why there is so much flexibility. \$600,000 from the Northern Metals settlement will go directly to community outcomes. The \$145,000 a year each year for 2 years comes from CAP-HC to pay for the community organizing around how to spend these dollars.*
- 12) It appears from the Northern Metals Settlement Background section (pp. 2 and 3 of the RFP) that the use of the funds must be limited to "health mitigation strategies."

The city Council has formally accepted (\$200,000 per year for 3 years, within the stipulations of the consent decree) from the Consent Decree with Northern Metals for health mitigation strategies. The court's decree stipulates that the \$200,000 a year for 3 years shall be used solely for mitigation projects in North and Northeast Minneapolis that "include projects in the impacted neighborhoods to (1) identify and educate at-risk residents on asthma triggers; (2) enroll families with children suffering from poorly controlled asthma in a new asthma trigger mitigation program; and (3) implement community and block- by-block blood lead level screening events in cooperation with local clinics which will offer follow-up venous blood screening as needed; and (4) identify and connect affected individuals with resources to help reduce environmental exposure to lead."

As posted on the City of Minneapolis website, the resolution itself states:

Be It Further Resolved that Minneapolis Health Department Staff are directed to work with community members from North and Northeast Minneapolis to plan for the use of the *\$600,000 earmarked for community health projects* as well as any additional funding that comes to the City from the consent decree with Northern Metals.

Given these strictures, could you clarify what role community input will play?

Most importantly, can the \$600,000 be used for any purpose beyond *immediate health projects*?

- a. The Consent Decree takes precedent/provides direction. The City cannot spend the \$600,000 outside of the four categories identified in the settlement that "include projects in the impacted neighborhoods to (1) identify and educate at-risk residents on asthma triggers; (2) enroll families with children suffering from poorly controlled asthma in a new asthma trigger mitigation program; and (3) implement community and block- by-block blood lead level screening events in cooperation with local clinics which will offer follow-up venous blood screening as needed; and (4) identify and connect affected individuals with resources to help reduce environmental exposure to lead."

The role community input will play could include:

- (1) Who are the at-risk residents? How do we reach them? Does the City health inspectors reach them? Do we hire community based organizations?
- (2) What are the effective elements of an asthma trigger program? How is it implemented? Who implements it? (Again, City or CBO?)
- (3) What is an effective way to reach more residents for blood lead level screenings? Who does the screenings?
- (4) How do we identify and connect individuals with resources to reduce lead exposure?

While the City is limited by the Consent Decree to spend the \$600,000 on these four elements, the Advisory Committee will be able to make additional recommendations that will get "parked" for future discussion as part of the Northside Green Zone – and include specific funding requests for those initiatives.

- 13) Do we have specific neighborhoods we need to serve in Northeast? Or a map?

Yes. Please see the Green Zone Map:

https://www.caphennepin.org/files/7515/1378/0297/3309_001.pdf

The Northern Metals Consent Decree also has specific boundaries. It includes North (and a portion of Northeast) Minneapolis residents, primarily from the Hawthorne, McKinley, Sheridan, Bottineau and Marshall Terrace neighborhoods. For more information on the consent decree:

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-198419>

- 14) Our packets included a long-form demographic questionnaire. We're assuming want the winning org to fill out one of these for each of the approximately 300 participants. Is that correct?

Yes. We are asking folks to check demographic information as it is a part of our federal reporting guidelines.

- 15) We are interested in learning more about your Green Zone RFP and the Green Zone Initiative. I understand that there is a task force in place in South Minneapolis already on the ground. Could you share with us the contact names and numbers of those involved? Is there a similar body in place in North Minneapolis? Do you have the names and contacts of citizens on the North side who have been involved in prior or current discussions that are shaping this effort?

The project is a collaboration between the City of Minneapolis and CAP-HC and stems from the Northern metals Settlement Decree with the City of Minneapolis.

The RFP has the history and background on the settlement.

The Advisory committee and all information pertaining to the project is listed here: <https://www.caphennepin.org/services/community-development/green-zone/> and on the city of Minneapolis website.