

Senate Jobs and Economic
Development Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave West
St. Paul, MN 55155



April 7, 2025

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) is an association of nonprofit community development organizations and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) committed to expanding the wealth and resources of communities through housing opportunities and economic development initiatives. MCCD's mission to build strong and stable communities can only be achieved by addressing the harms and inequities that have shaped housing and economic development policies at every level of government. These policies have prevented Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and other communities from achieving housing stability, accessing capital, and building generational wealth.

MCCD is writing in support of the Omnibus Jobs and Economic Development bill, SF 1832. We especially want to thank you for including the policy change provisions for the CanStartUp program. These changes will ensure that costly and time-consuming loan renewals do not have to happen annually and that microbusinesses can access more affordable lending capital to start their businesses.

Additionally, we want to thank you for not including any funding cuts to the base of the Small Business Assistance Partnerships program. Because of federal executive orders directing cuts to the Small Business Administration and the CDFI Fund, programs like Small Business Assistance Partnerships become even more important. We are actively meeting with all of Minnesota's Federal Congressional Delegation members to inform them of the harm these cuts will do.

Because of the Small Business Assistance Partnerships program's statewide impact, job preservation and creation, and private funding leverage, we hope that you can find a way to fund at least \$5 million in additional onetime spending for the FY 2026-2027 biennium.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request. MCCD and our members would like to make ourselves available for any additional information to best help inform your decisions. Please reach out to Kari Johnson, Director of State Policy and Field Building at MCCD, 612-387-6398 or kjohnson@mccdmn.org, should you need any further information now or throughout the remainder of the 2025 legislative session.

Sincerely,

Elena Gaarder

Elena Gaarder
Chief Executive Officer, MCCD