

Growing Economic Prosperity and Addressing Concentrated Areas of Poverty

2014

**Jurisdiction: Ramsey
County**

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- Sustainable Communities
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IDEA/PROGRAM/PROJECT DETAILS

Intent of the idea/program/project: The intent of Ramsey County’s plan to build economic prosperity countywide with a combined focus on people, capital and land.

Innovative Characteristics:

- Balanced scorecard approach to building opportunity through employment, education, investment, capacity and housing.
- Use of GIS to identify Concentrated Areas of Poverty and create human capital growth and economic development opportunities in those areas.
- Attempting to grow land, capital and people simultaneously with limited resources.
- County has a unique balance of land, capital and people and therefore developed this innovative plan for creating economic opportunities within Ramsey County

Resources Committed, if any:

- \$250,000 committed for interdepartmental efforts.

Organizational Savings, if any:

- Organizational savings are not a goal of this effort.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Improvements in transit – based on the need to connect workers with employment opportunities.
- Development of sustainable communities.
- Creation of “education, training, and skills development opportunities” for all Ramsey County residents.

Actual Outcomes:

Two significant economic development projects implemented with the focus on creating prosperity in Ramsey County:

1. Renovation of the Union Depot. The renovation has created a transportation hub that provides access to light rail, bus lines, taxis and Amtrak services. Other benefits include the addition of multi-family housing units and restaurants.
2. Purchase of the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant. The focus for this site will be commercial, industrial and residential growth. As previously noted, the aim of Ramsey County’s innovative efforts is to grow people, land and capital in unison.

Obstacles Encountered:

Obstacles are anticipated, however nothing of note has been encountered as of yet. Ramsey County is unlike any other county in the seven-county metro area, therefore with a highly innovative plan there will be obstacles in the future.

Lessons Learned:

Nothing to note as of yet. As mentioned, this plan differs greatly from previous efforts to reduce poverty (create prosperity).

Organizational Impacts/Improvements:

Renewed focus on creating economic opportunities county-wide. As is shown with the Union Depot and Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant the focus of the county in all development projects is the growth of land, capital and people.

Recommendations for Application in Other Communities:

It is unknown at this point whether or not a plan such as this would be successful in another county/region because of Ramsey County's unique characteristics in regards to poverty rate and land usage.

Was a Private Consultant Used?

Unknown