

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

The Community Development Alliance (CDA) was founded in 2011 by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Zilber Family Foundation, Northwestern Mutual Foundation and LISC Milwaukee in an effort to create greater cohesion across the community development sector. The CDA has been a vehicle for cross-sector collaboration to improve the quality of life in Milwaukee neighborhoods. Currently the CDA has 85 members who represent the public, private, and philanthropic sectors in Milwaukee. The vision of the CDA is that all Milwaukee neighborhoods are safe places to live, work, and play and provide opportunities for all people of all races and income levels to lead healthy productive lives.

Since it was founded in 2011 the CDA has worked with partners to implement multiple capacity-building programs and work that empowers residents to plan and advocate for their neighborhoods. The following are three examples of on-going programs that have emerged from the collaboration in the CDA:

NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Neighborhood Leadership Institute (NLI) is an in-depth program for leaders engaged or planning to engage in the community. The NLI is a collaborative partnership with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Northwestern Mutual Foundation, Zilber Family Foundation, Cardinal Stritch, LISC Milwaukee, and United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee. Individuals who participate are placed into teams made up of residents and community development professionals from the same neighborhood. The teams meet three times a month for a total of 12 hours of learning every month for 10 months. There have been three cohorts in NLI since its inception:

- NLI I was launched January 2013 with 25 leaders
- NLI II was launched October 2014 with 16 leaders
- NLI III was launched January 2016 with 18 leaders

NLI was successful in developing participants' leadership talents and for building accountability between residents and individuals working in the neighborhoods. NLI developed and enhanced participants' leadership skills, but also provided people with the opportunity to build important relationships across communities, which has resulted in greater collaboration among groups. During this work the issues around race, and how they affect residents and organizations in Milwaukee, became very evident. The instructors were able to leverage local resources to expose the participants to broader work happening around race and racial equity, and to develop tools for talking about race and power in their work.

Community Connections Small Grants Program

The Community Connections Small Grants (CCSG) Program originally launched as a pilot program of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Northwestern Mutual Foundation, and the Zilber Family Foundation in 2014. The program was created to support resident-led efforts to improve the quality of life in 21 neighborhoods. The program awards up to \$750 to fund neighborhood projects, events and activities. All grant applications are reviewed and scored by a group of residents from

eight of the 21 neighborhoods. The review team, which was recruited from the Neighborhood Leadership Institute, makes all recommendations about which grants to fund.

In the first five cycles of the grant program, more than 74 grants for a total of nearly \$42,000 have been awarded. These modest grants have leveraged an additional \$103,000 in funds from other sources, and projects were executed with 3,000 volunteer hours from residents in the community.

Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP)

Building Neighborhood Capacity Program was established August 2012 under President Obama's administration and reflected the intent of different federal agencies to collaborate toward a common goal of community improvement. Through the competitive application process, eight neighborhoods were selected in four different cities. Milwaukee has three neighborhoods that are part of the program: Amani, Metcalfe Park, and Muskego Way-Clarke Square-Historic Mitchell.

BNCP focuses on building the capacity of residents in under-resourced communities to develop the knowledge, skills, and relationships that neighborhood residents, local organizations, and cross-sector partners need to work together to achieve better results in public safety, education, housing, employment, and other key areas. Each neighborhood was supported in a year-long community building and planning process designed to invite resident voice in to a community redevelopment plan. The plans are unique to each neighborhood, yet share similar goals: increasing access to jobs, addressing public safety, and improving social connections.

Since the start of BNCP in Milwaukee there has been a significant increase in community engagement through organizing. Two of the three neighborhoods have seen a marked drop in crime. All three neighborhoods have experienced increased investments from local government and philanthropic organizations, leveraged in part by the federal funds and investments from Northwestern Mutual Foundation.