

News Release

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City of Minneapolis Receives Gold Award of Excellence in Economic Development from the International Economic Development Council

October 25, 2018 (Minneapolis) The City of Minneapolis received a Gold Award for Excellence in Economic Development for its [Business Technical Assistance Program \(B-TAP\)](#) in the Economic Equity and Inclusion category from the [International Economic Development Council \(IEDC\)](#).

The honor was presented at an awards ceremony on October 1 during the IEDC Annual Conference in Atlanta. Council Vice President Andrea Jenkins and B-TAP Program Manager Daniel Bonilla accepted the award.

“The City of Minneapolis is actively working to advance racial equity. Our Business Technical Assistance Program is a valuable tool to give a voice to entrepreneurs of color through wealth development,” said Jenkins.

B-TAP provides consulting and training to emerging and existing entrepreneurs. Over 80 percent of the participants are minority or low-income business owners. The program funds local nonprofit community development organizations to help entrepreneurs assess the feasibility of ideas, sustain operations or plan an expansion. These organizations work with specific populations or in specific geographic areas, such as African immigrants, Latinos, women and in North Minneapolis. The support helps business owners develop skills to sustain or grow their businesses, increase profitability, and create jobs.

“We have built an effective economic development tool that supports the development of businesses, particularly those from disadvantaged populations. With this award, we celebrate the work of the many entrepreneurs who made this possible and contribute to the vibrancy of Minneapolis,” said Bonilla.

B-TAP also provides specialized services in response to the needs of specific business sectors, including:

- Cooperative Technical Assistance Program (C-TAP) for new and existing cooperative businesses
- Developers Technical Assistance Program (D-TAP) for small and emerging real estate developers
- B-TAP Professional Series for trainings on focused topics, including: compliance with City labor ordinances, branding and marketing, social enterprises, and business skills for artists
- Energy Technical Assistance Program (E-TAP) for the adoption of energy efficiency improvements into everyday business operations

About the International Economic Development Council

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is the world's largest membership organization for economic development professionals. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life in their communities by creating, retaining, and expanding jobs that facilitate growth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, our members represent the entire range of economic development. Learn more at jedconline.org.

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