

# GREATER MSP FEDERAL FUNDING ACTION HUB

September 2021

In March, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) authorized substantial new funding to address economic challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds are allocated and flowing to states, counties, cities, and colleges and universities, while new competitive federal funding programs have also been announced.

Considering the unprecedented level of federal investment, mayors and county commissioners in the partnership approached GREATER MSP, asking us to assess challenges and opportunities for collaboration. Together, over the course of a four-month scoping process, we identified the following three focus areas:

1. **Creating a collective space to share information, navigate challenges, and seek strategic alignment around regional priorities.** Cities and counties do not have the visibility to know if and how their projects align with other efforts underway in the region. GREATER MSP will help counties and cities make efficient and strategic use of federal funding through intentional information sharing and convening.
2. **Identifying and applying for competitive federal funding opportunities.** Public and nonprofit partners reported a desire to learn more about the competitive funding opportunities and apply for these funds, but serious capacity limitations to do so. GREATER MSP will support the identification and development of fundable project proposals.
3. **Leveraging private sector interest and investment for targeted priorities.** Neither public nor private sector entities have visibility to potential alignments in which additional funding could advance and scale promising initiatives. GREATER MSP will connect public and private entities on issues such as housing, workforce, and economic development, with a focus on racial equity.

The Federal Funding Action Hub will evolve as additional needs emerge. In the near term, through June 2022, it will include the following components:

- A **website** to provide content and tools that focus action and enable effective execution of projects. Primary audiences include elected officials and city and county staff whose focus is to determine use of allocated federal funding.
- **Webinars and other sessions** to share information, bringing experts and decisionmakers to the region to answer questions and facilitate action.
- A **City-County Working Group** of elected officials and senior staff to gather monthly to share information, provide updates on action items, and discuss pressing questions.
- **Action teams** of cross-sector partners to scope ideas into projects that seek funding.

This initiative is led by GREATER MSP staff with support from consultants and technical experts. An executive leadership team of GREATER MSP Partnership Board members will guide the effort.