

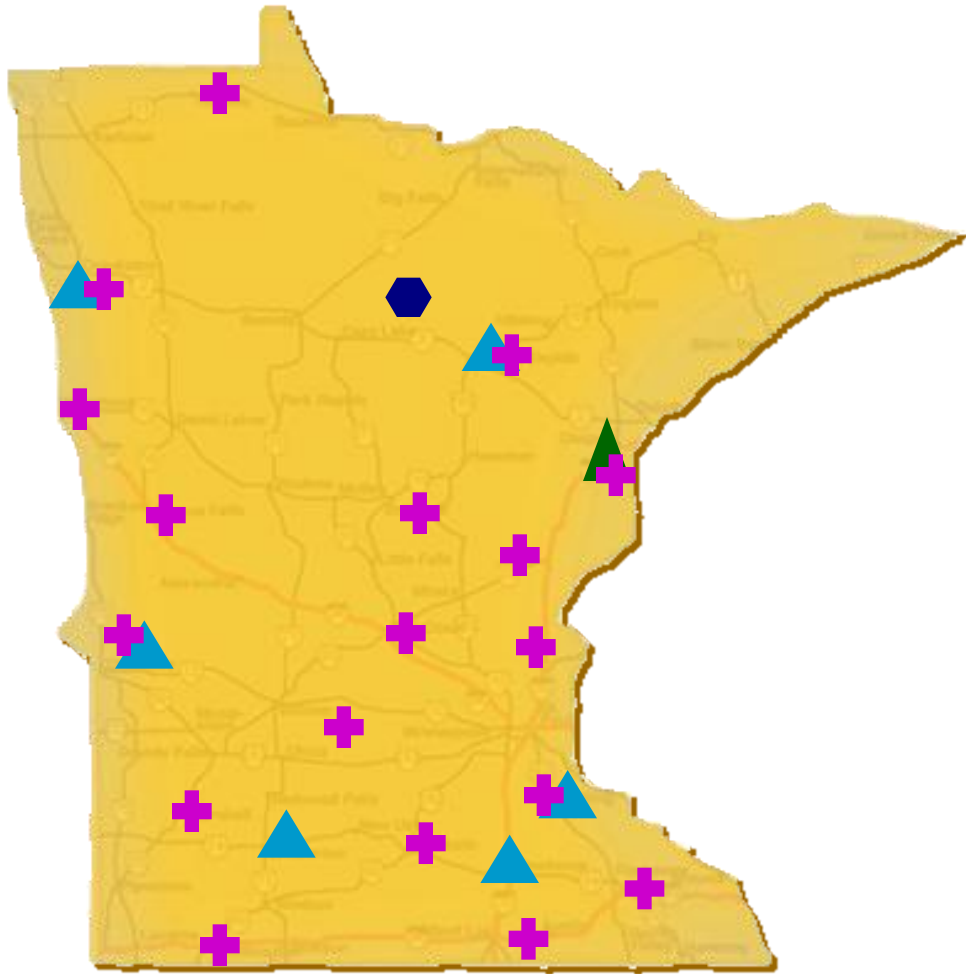
# An Urban Agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:

## University Northside Partnership Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (UROC)

Robert J. Jones  
Senior Vice President  
University of Minnesota System  
May 24, 2011

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**Driven to Discover™**

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



-  Research & Outreach Centers
-  Forestry Station
-  Itasca Biology Station
-  Extension Regional Centers AND in every county

# Board of Regents Mission Statement

- ***applying scholarly expertise to community problems by helping organizations and individuals respond to their changing environments***

TRANSFORMING THE U



THE STRATEGIC POSITIONING PROCESS

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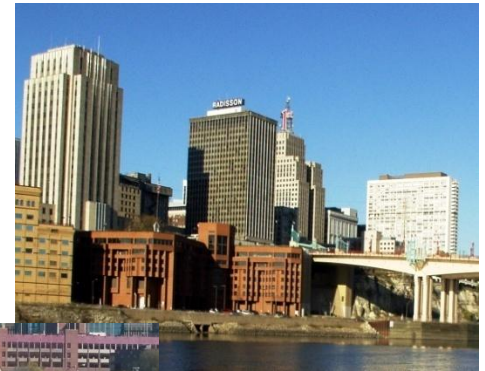
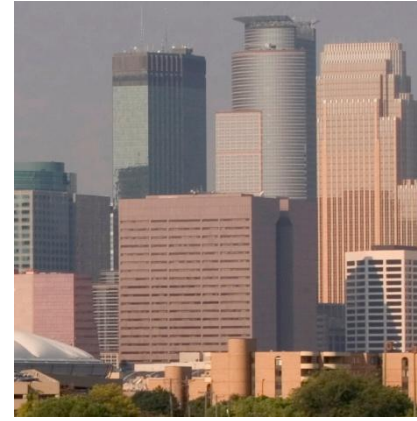
**VISION:** Improve the human condition through the advancement of knowledge

**MISSION:** Dynamic public engagement

**ESSENTIAL COMMITMENT:** Address critical needs of state, nation, world

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century is the Urban Age

- Majority of world's population lives in cities
- 60% of Minnesota residents live in the Twin Cities commuting area
- Minnesota is mosaic of cities (Rochester, St. Cloud, Duluth)
- Urban/rural interface (Worthington, Willmar)



# Urban Agenda Model

- Intentional and strategic
- Multi-disciplinary approach
- Sustainable partnerships
- Physical presence
- Measurable outcomes with significant impact

# University's Urban Agenda

## **Strengthening Community –**

economic development, job skills, reduce poverty

## **Building Human Capital –**

education, early childhood development

## **Improving Urban Health –**

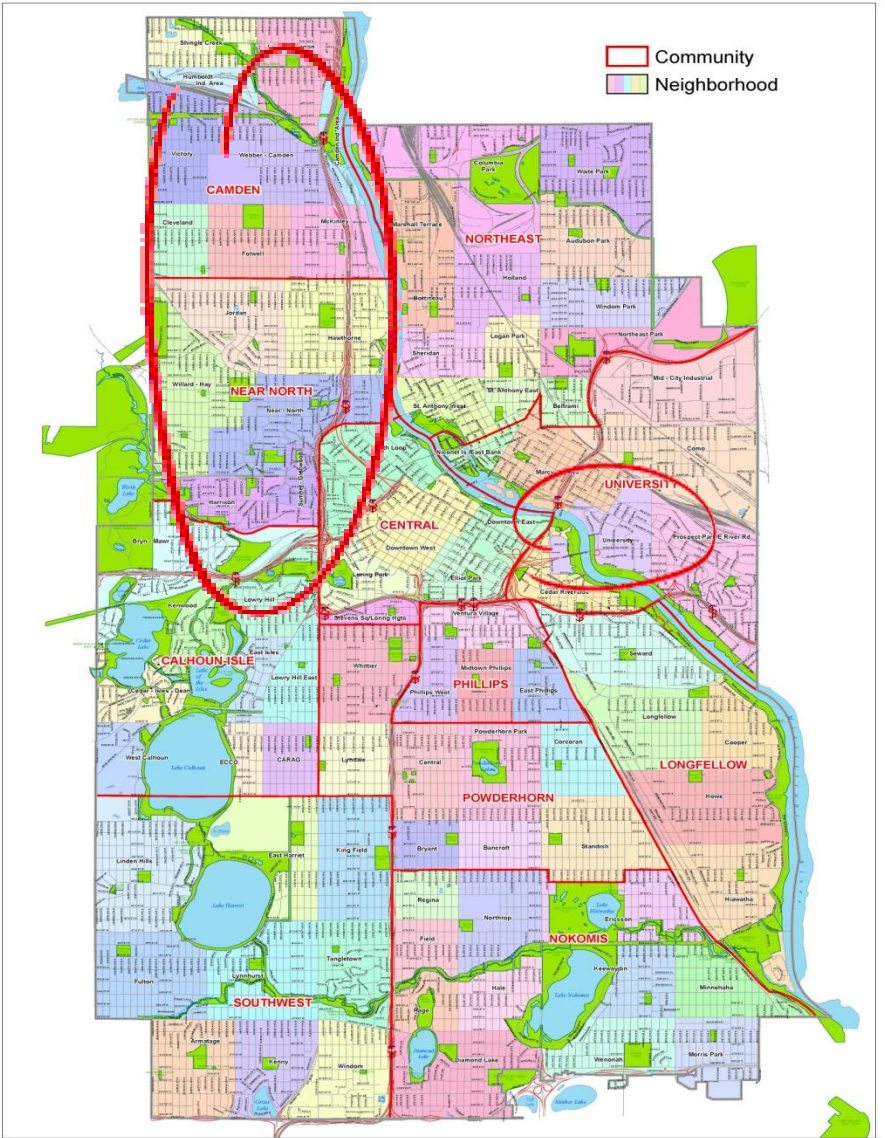
mental health services for children and families

eliminate health disparities



# The University Northside Partnership

Creating an authentic partnership with residents, community groups, local governments, and the philanthropy and business sectors.



**City of Minneapolis**  
Neighborhoods & Communities

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# UNP

## University Northside Partnership

Convening mechanism for  
partner organizations

[NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center](#)

[City of Minneapolis](#)

[The Coalition of Black Churches/](#)

[African American Leadership Summit](#)

[Hennepin County](#)

[Northside Residents Redevelopment Council](#)

[Northway Community Trust](#)

[Phyllis Wheatley Community Center](#)



# Anchoring our Presence

- Coordination & delivery mechanism for outreach, research and engagement programs & activities in the community
- Physical presence/facility for those programs



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# UROC Mission and Vision

## ***The UROC Mission***

The Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center in North Minneapolis links the University of Minnesota in vital public partnership with urban communities to advance learning, improve quality of life, and discover breakthrough solutions to critical problems.



# UROC Resident Programs

- Broadband Access Project
- Business & Technology Center (B-Tech)
- Center for Early Education & Develop
- Center for Health Equity
- FIPSE-UROC Work Groups
- MN Urban Area Health Education Center
- Northside Community Seed Grants Program
- University of MN Extension Program
- Simply Good Eating/Nutrition

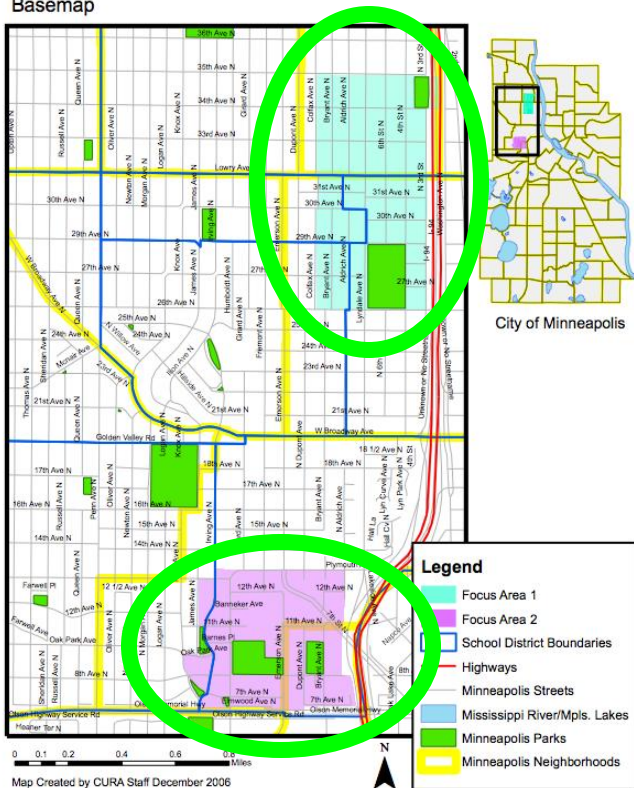
# UROC Resident Programs

*« continued*

- University Northside Partnership
- Urban Garden Youth Employment
- Urban Youth Development (Urban 4-H)

# Five Hundred under 5: Research for Community Development

Figure A-1: Five Hundred under Five Focus Areas  
Basemap



- Goal
  - To contribute to improved school readiness through research that informs parents, communities, and programs that contribute directly to improved services and support
- Collaborative venture
- Plan
  - Invite all children under age 5 and their families to participate
  - Assess progress toward school readiness
  - Identify child, family, neighborhood, and service contributions to school readiness
  - Share findings with community members, service agencies, and government

# Selected Program Highlights

## Simply Good Eating/Nutrition Ed Programs

- U of MN Extension Programs; USDA support
- Healthy food choices, stretching food dollars
- Many classes, varied audiences/cultures; demonstration kitchen + community settings
- Community partners include schools, community centers, non-profit groups

# Selected Program Highlights

## Simply Good Eating/Nutrition Ed Programs

- Healthy Food/Urban Ag initiative:
  - Growing UROC-fostered collaborations—MN Extension + FIPSE-UROC work group + MN Landscape Arboretum Urban Garden Youth Employment Program
  - Community ed., schoolyard gardens, garden-based entrepreneurship, & more



# Selected Program Highlights

## Business & Technology Center (B-Tech)

- U of MN Office for Business & Community Economic Development
- Community development & economic revitalization, technology research, business training, entrepreneurship
- “Hotel” office space, business resource room, computer training lab, youth programs

# *Center for Health Equity*

- **Aim 1:** Promote health disparities and minority health research at the University of Minnesota and our metro area partners.
- **Aim 2:** Enhance our community partnerships in health disparities and minority health to improve the health status of our African American and immigrant populations.
- **Aim 3:** Recruit, train and mentor students, fellows, faculty, and future research leaders who are from underrepresented populations and/or wish to conduct work in minority health or health disparities.

*CHE Research Training and Education Core:*  
High School Summer Research Academy

- Goal: To build research capacity in underserved populations and areas.
- First year of program: 46 student applications, 23 accepted.
- Program will run from June 13-24, 2011, two-week summer intensive for 7 hours a day.
- Students paid \$10/hr to participate.
- Curriculum includes didactic sessions on research learning, site visits to academic health simulation centers at UMN. Students will meet visiting scholars both from University and Community organizations.

The Broadband Access Project is made possible by a three-year \$2.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce (Award #27-42 B10003) with matching support of \$741,000 from the University of Minnesota and community partners.

Awarded December 2009  
Ends December 31, 2012



# Selected Program Highlights

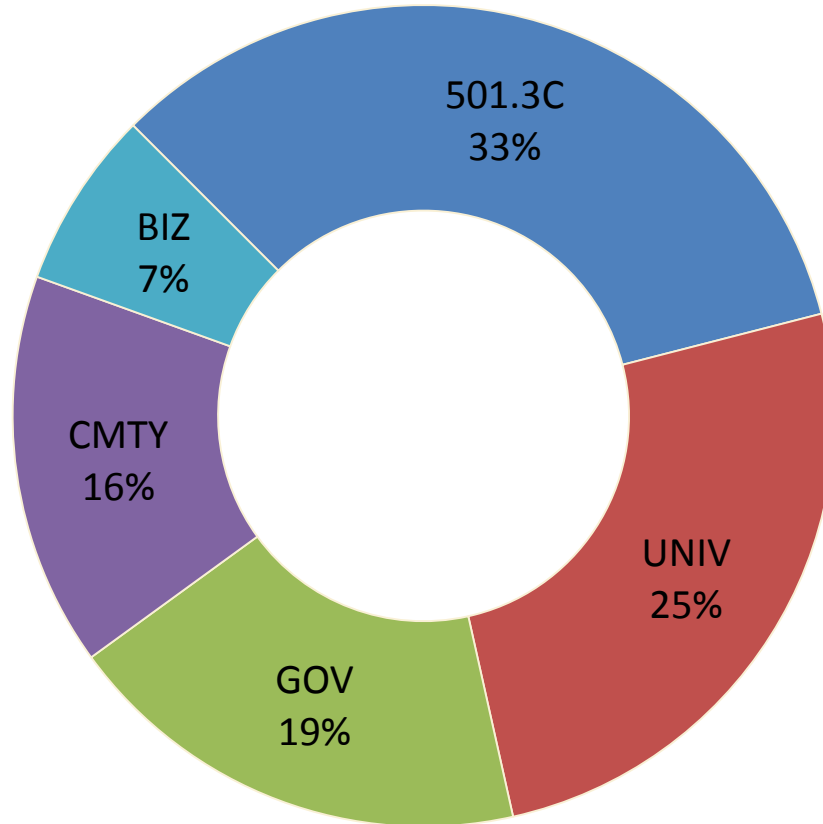
## Broadband Access Project

High speed internet access & education to promote education, health care, workforce development, + community vitality

- 142 high-tech workstations—2 new public computer centers + 9 improved centers



# UROC Use by Category, 2010



# Emerging Work

- TPT Partnership—History of North MPLS
- Creating Civic Infrastructure to close the achievement gap (Strive Model)
- UROC Fellows
- UROC Critical Conversation
- PAR

