



605.343.1744
PO Box 747
Rapid City, SD 57709
elevaterapidcity.com

TO: City of Rapid City – Legal & Finance Committee; City Council

FROM: Laura Jones, Elevate Rapid City; Liz Hamburg, Black Hills Area Community Foundation
Alan Solano, John T. Vucurevich Foundation; Michelle Schuelke, Community Enrichment Division

DATE: March 22, 2023

SUBJECT: Housing Solutions Lab Peer Cities Network Application

Housing Solutions Lab at the NYU Furman Center, partially funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, helps small and midsize cities design, monitor, and evaluate evidence-based local housing policies that promote equity, increase access to opportunity, and support resident health and well-being. In line with this work, the Housing Solutions Lab is seeking applicants for the 2023 Peer Cities Network in which a select number of cities with populations between 50,000 and 500,000 are supported over the course of 8 months in advancing initiatives to address longstanding housing challenges and disparities within their communities. The benefits of participation come in the form of technical assistance and research support, peer networking, policy resources, and local housing data. City teams are made up of members from the City as well as other housing leaders within the community. There is no cost to participate, and the time commitment is 2 to 3 hours per month.

Today, we respectfully request your support of City participation within the network as team made up of representatives from the City of Rapid City, Black Hills Area Community Foundation, John T. Vucurevich Foundation, and Elevate Rapid City. Through participation in the Peer Cities Network, we hope to discover the housing related issues facing the most impoverished households in our community and explore policy options that can mitigate these issues. The proposal to be submitted to Housing Solutions Lab is focused on North Rapid City and the households that reside within the neighborhoods there. We are proposing that through this network, we will be able to collect and analyze more thorough data to identify aspects of these households that may put them at risk of displacement which may include overcrowding, deterioration, and investment purchases of properties, among other data points. With this data, we hope to be able to develop policies that mitigate tenant displacement and encourage and promote safe, vibrant neighborhoods.

In addition to the data and policy resources to be provided by Housing Solutions Lab, our proposal to join this network also includes an ask for funding for community engagement and outreach in the form of a contracted facilitator and participation incentives. The budget request to the Housing Solutions Lab will include up to \$15,000 for this contract facilitator and \$10,000 for participation incentives. If awarded, these funds would flow to the John T. Vucurevich foundation, which is more than capable of managing these dollars.

The point of contact for this application is Alan Solano at the John T. Vucurevich Foundation, and this request is appearing before you today to allow city participation. Your approval is greatly appreciated and we thank you for your time and energy in this consideration.