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## **U.S. Bank Foundation Awards Center for Economic Inclusion \$1 Million to Increase Black and Indigenous Employment in the Twin Cities' Region by 10 Percent by 2025**

Milestone award represents the largest contribution by a corporate financial institution in the Center's history

**JAN. 19, SAINT PAUL, Minn.** – The Center for Economic Inclusion (the Center) has announced a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Bank Foundation to support the Center's efforts to increase Black and Indigenous employment in the Twin Cities' region by 10 percent over the next five years. The gift represents the largest contribution to the Center in its three-year history.

The Center is the nation's first organization dedicated exclusively to advancing inclusive growth to achieve regional prosperity. The organization has a strong partnership with U.S. Bank. In 2019, the U.S. Bank Foundation awarded the Center a two-year, \$500,000 grant to help break down historical and structural barriers to economic mobility, and in June of 2020, the Bank announced plans to expand its partnership with the Center nationally.

"Inclusive economic growth is good for business, and it requires intentional, sustained action and investment from corporations committed to the work of dismantling institutional racism within their organizations, instilling principles of anti-racism in every facet of the business, while investing in promising solutions in Black and Brown communities nationwide," said Tawanna A. Black, founder and Chief Executive Officer, Center for Economic Inclusion.

"We are proud to support the catalytic work of the Center to close racial income and wealth gaps in the region," said Reba Dominski, executive vice president and Chief Social Responsibility Officer, U.S. Bank Foundation. "The Center's goals to increase employment align with our focus on economic development, workforce advancement and helping individuals and families gain greater financial stability."

Over the next five years, the investment from the U.S. Bank Foundation will support the Center's ambitious goal to increase Black and Indigenous employment in careers paying family sustaining wages in the Twin Cities region by 10 percent. The Center will achieve this goal through these actions:

1. **Regional Anti-Racism and Economic Justice Trust**, a peer action council of employers and policymakers that drives transparent regional goal setting and benchmarking among employers and policymakers in solidarity with BIPOC communities and racial justice advocates to drive shared accountability.
2. **Equip Employers to Dismantle Institutional Racism** to accelerate inclusive economic competitiveness. The Center's Racial Equity Dividends Assessment, Powering Inclusion workshops and toolkit support employers in institutionalizing inclusion in talent, procurement, investment, philanthropy, and public policy efforts.
3. **Launch, implement, and scale the Center's Good Jobs Campaign** to build a broadly accepted narrative for the urgent need and positive economic impact on the regional economy of growing the number of Black, Indigenous, and people of color in good jobs.

“We will measure success by the depth and sustainability of commitment we inspire employers and policy makers to make to new data informed, anti-racist policies and practices over the next two years, that will ensure that we move from recovering a racially exclusive economy, to reimagining and building an economy that works for all of us and leads to parity in employment, income and wealth between white residents and Black, Indigenous, Latinx and Asian residents,” said Black.

**2021**

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**About the Center for Economic Inclusion**

The Center for Economic Inclusion is a cross-sector organization committed to strengthening the Minneapolis-St. Paul region’s civic infrastructure and collective capacity to disrupt systems and influence market forces to catalyze shared prosperity and advance an inclusive economy. More at [CenterforEconomicInclusion.org](https://CenterforEconomicInclusion.org)

**About U.S. Bank**

U.S. Bancorp, with more than 70,000 employees and \$540 billion in assets as of September 30, 2020, is the parent company of U.S. Bank National Association, the fifth-largest commercial bank in the United States. The Minneapolis-based bank blends its relationship teams, branches and ATM network with mobile and online tools that allow customers to bank how, when and where they prefer. U.S. Bank is committed to serving its millions of retail, business, wealth management, payment, commercial and corporate, and investment services customers across the country and around the world as a trusted financial partner, a commitment recognized by the Ethisphere Institute naming the bank one of the 2020 World’s Most Ethical Companies. More at [usbank.com](https://usbank.com).