

ReCAST Narrative Overview

Why ReCAST?

On November 15, 2015, the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) responded to a call on the North Side that resulted in an altercation and the fatal shooting of Jamar Clark by a responding officer. Mr. Clark was a 24-year-old African American male resident of North Minneapolis. A rally called by community members began in the afternoon of November 15 at the shooting scene, and continued into the evening a few blocks away outside MPD's 4th Precinct location for weeks.

Unfortunately, Clark's death mirrored the incidents of officer involved shootings of African Americans across the country. Although this has been an ongoing reality in the African American community as well as other communities of color, the BlackLivesMatter movement of racial healing and justice in a deeper way.

The ReCAST program, created by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) is designed to do just that. Specifically, it addresses the trauma in the community that arises after incidents of civil unrest as well as the ongoing trauma as a result of history of policymaking, practices, and investments that have disinvested communities of color. The overarching goal of this program is to promote racial equity and resilience in communities that have experienced civil unrest, with a focus on youth, their families, and others who live in high-risk geographies.

In September, the City of Minneapolis was awarded a five-year grant to participate in this work. Through ReCAST, the City will take a concentrated approach to looking at the things that have caused trauma in our community as well as the factors that promote strength and resilience. The approach taken will be through the lens of racial equity, understanding that structural racism is the primary cause of the trauma that exists within the city. Out of this understanding, we will ensure that the awareness raising, program, and service that emerges from this work undergirded by a commitment to undo racism in our city – led and supported by the community.

ReCAST Minneapolis' Demographic and Geographic Focus

We are committed to working across Minneapolis' diverse racial and cultural communities in our work. This includes African Americans, American Indians, Latinos, Southeast Asian, and East Africans. Although racism is historic to the African American and American Indian communities in Minneapolis, the permanence of discrimination and disinvestment continues to affect and marginalize immigrant and refugee communities in our city as well. The intersection of race, class, religion, ethnicity, and culture keep those outside of the dominant culture resource poor as a result of policies, practices, and development that intentionally and unintentionally marginalize our communities.

In addition, we will focus on neighborhoods in South Minneapolis, North Minneapolis, and Cedar Riverside as these areas have the highest prevalence of stress related to underinvestment, environmental injustice, poor housing, education, lack of access to healthy food, and poor health outcomes in comparison to the rest of the city. When communities of color live in these areas that are already underinvested because of disastrous policy and development decisions – either by choice or as a result of steering – the disparities continue to mount.

Internal Focus

ReCAST Minneapolis also has an internal focus on the City of Minneapolis' staff and leadership. In conversation with both staff and community, one of the needs that have risen to the surface is the need for front line staff, such as police officers, 311 and 911 operators, housing inspectors, and others who interface with the community, to

have more training and capacity around dealing with stress and trauma. This involves staff looking at how they have been traumatized in their own life and work, and also involves providing support to communities who are experiencing trauma.

What Success Looks Like

For ReCAST Minneapolis, success looks like the community deciding how to get to the root of trauma and stress in our community. Already, we are hearing that there is a desire to focus our efforts on addressing structural racism and oppression along with using solutions that emerge from planning process be grounded in analysis. In addition, we will focus our efforts on building the capacity of community to lead this work. This necessitates:

- Building trust and understanding between the City and the community
- Community healing and capacity building in a way that we are healing from our collective stress and trauma
- Promoting shared decision making so that community defines priorities, direction, and funding allocations