North Minneapolis
Asset Mapping and Indicators for 2006

A preliminary assessment of economic, health and educational assets
and indicators in North Minneapolis

Prepared by
The University of Minnesota’s
Office for Business and Community Economic Development

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D. Craig Taylor

Director
Office for Business & Community Economic Development
University of Minnesota
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Report Summary

The overall objective of the Northside Asset Mapping project is threefold: First to provide a base of information on the socio-demographic conditions that exist in North Minneapolis. Second, to create an inventory of community assets and resources located in North Minneapolis, specifically assets existing in the areas of economic development, early childhood education and childhood mental health. Finally, to illuminate areas where community assets can be enhanced, especially in areas where gaps exist between community goals and community resources. All of the information in this report is intended to provide insight for the University Northside Partnership’s (UNP) vision for strengthening the social and economic environment in North Minneapolis by building on existing efforts within the community.

The majority of this report is devoted to sharing data on various child well-being and economic indicators. Compiling this document is intended to provide people outside and inside the community with information regarding the trends and baseline conditions that currently exist in the community. The information provided in this section of the report is not intended to highlight assets, but rather to provide readers with a greater context for a community in which assets exist. This can be considered a step toward identifying areas where the community may have strengths or weaknesses that may be the topic of future research.

The asset mapping approach used in this report involves documenting the resources available to residents of the community. Although assets may include both tangible and intangible things such as positive community perceptions or individual talents, this report focuses on the tangible assets available to residents of North Minneapolis. In this category are community-based organizations and programs, educational institutions, healthcare providers and non-profit organizations.

Over 150 non-profit organizations operate in North Minneapolis that provide a variety of services. To begin to understand the character of these organizations and better understand how they work with the community in the area of economic development, early childhood education and children’s mental health, interviews were conducted with a representative sample of North Minneapolis organizations. The input provided by these organizations has been compiled in this report to provide a limited community assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that exist here. Although the number of organizations was limited, this information provides important themes and valuable insight that can be used to inform us where current community efforts may be enhanced through collaboration from the UNP. This knowledge is vital to any community engagement plan that attempts to mobilize the talents of the community and build upon its existing capacity.
**Study Area Defined**

The study area defined in this report includes all 15 neighborhoods of North Minneapolis, also referred to as the “Northside”. Within these boundaries live over 63,000 people in 23 census tracts. As shown in the following figure, all 15 neighborhoods can also be grouped into one of two larger communities that are separated by Lowry Avenue North, namely Camden and Near North. Together, Near North and Camden communities make up all of the Northside.

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1 Appendix A details the zip codes, census tracts and other boundaries defining north Minneapolis
Methodology

The “asset mapping” approach used for this report comes from a broader “Asset Based Community Development” strategy that has been used by community-based organizations seeking to engage the community and create change. Asset mapping differs from standard community research that tends to identify deficiencies or “needs” while not accounting for the strengths and assets of a community. Thus, asset mapping starts by identifying what resources are available to a community and uses community input to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the community. Identifying available resources and community strengths gives a more realistic perspective of the possibilities that exist in a community. In this report, the scope of assets evaluated is limited to tangible assets marked by formal institutions and existing community programs. This has been coupled with limited interviewing intended to help gauge the capacity of community programs and begin to identify community strengths and weaknesses.
Demographic Profile of North Minneapolis

North Minneapolis is like a city unto itself, with a total population of almost 67,000 people. Over the past 15 years, the rate of population change in the Northside community has often exceeded that of Minneapolis as a whole. This trend is most notable in total population growth and population growth among school-age children, ages 5 to 19. In some North Minneapolis neighborhoods, the school-age population grew between 27% and 71% during the 1990’s. This far exceeds the school-age growth rate of 13% experienced by the rest of the city over the same period.

Race

The Northside neighborhoods also experienced change in their racial and ethnic mix between the 1990 and 2000 censuses at a rate that exceeded the city’s in two areas. During this time the City of Minneapolis as a whole saw a decline in its white population while North Minneapolis experienced an even more rapid rate of decline in its white population. In North Minneapolis, this was paired with an increase in the African American population at a rate that far surpassed the city’s growth rate for this group overall. Northside neighborhoods also saw significant growth in the number of Asian and Hispanic/Latino residents.

North Minneapolis Children Under 5 by Race in 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Absolute</th>
<th>% of Total Pop.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>2,990</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1,291</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1,131</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northside total</td>
<td>6,386</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minneapolis total</td>
<td>25,187</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2000 Census SF1

Northside by Race in 2000

Note: Sumner-Glenwood is a temporary aberration with Heritage Park redevelopment bringing a significant reduction in the population of neighborhood which contributed to larger population changes during that time.
Minneapolis’ Northside is an amalgam of rich cultural and varied ethnic backgrounds. Diversity is both wide and deep, with considerable concentrations of African American, Asian, and American Indian groups. African Americans (41%) and Whites (34%) combine to represent three-quarters of the Northside population. Asians (14%) are the next largest group, followed by Hispanic/Latino (4%) and American Indian (2%).

The 2000 Census allowed respondents to identify multiple ethnicities, which in Northside neighborhoods account for 6% of the population. Age and sex cohorts for the Northside illustrate the uniqueness of the community, with considerable growth in younger cohorts (19 years and under). Although males outnumber females in these younger cohorts, the area’s overall population is 52% female.

Language
Diversity on the Northside also extends to language, family structure and education. The predominant language is English, spoken in 81% of households. Asian and Pacific Island languages collectively account for 8% of households, while other Indo-European and other Languages each represent 3%. Language barriers may present a challenge to the integration of families in their communities. Over one thousand Northside households across all races (5%) are categorized as linguistically isolated.³

³ Linguistic isolation. A household in which no person 14 years old and over speaks only English and no person 14 years old and over who speaks a language other than English speaks English “Very well” is classified as “linguistically isolated.” In other words, a household in which all members 14 years old and over speak a non-English language and also speak English less than “Very well” (have difficulty with English) is “linguistically isolated.” All the members of a linguistically isolated household are tabulated as linguistically isolated, including members under 14 years old who may speak only English.
Next to English, Spanish is the most concentrated single language, spoken in 5% of households and fluency in English varies across the Hispanic/Latino population.

**English Among Hispanic/Latino Population**

5 Years and Older

- Speak English very well: 33%
- Speak English well: 13%
- Speak English not well: 12%
- Speak English not at all: 11%
- Speak other language: 1%

Nearly one quarter of the Hispanic/Latino population have little English language skills, with 12% not speaking English well, 11% not at all and 1% speaking other languages. Alternatively, more than three quarters speak English well (13%), very well (33%) or exclusively (30%).

**Educational Attainment**

Census reports of Educational Attainment details the schooling tenure of Northside residents who are over the age of 25. Overall, there are nearly as many area residents with a bachelor's degree (10%) as there are residents with less than 9th grade schooling (11%). Postsecondary schooling (19%) includes those with bachelor’s degrees as well as associate’s degrees (6%) and graduate or professional degrees (3%). Additionally, the census reports that 23% attended some college but did not complete a degree.

Reviewing patterns in educational attainment among the Northside’s diverse populace is even more revealing. For instance, women’s attainment exceeds that of men at all levels of education, excepting only graduate and professional degrees, where women lag by nearly 20%. At the secondary level, nearly twice as many Blacks or African Americans than Whites have 9th- to 12th-grade educations without a diploma (23% of blacks compared to 12% of whites). The proportion of residents with less than a 9th-grade education, however, is actually lower among blacks (4%) than whites (4.5%).
Household Size and Structure

Household size and form varies in comparison to greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County. In general, there are fewer Northside households with just one or two persons, but a comparable proportion of three-person households. The Northside has a considerably higher share of large households (4–6 persons and 7 or more persons) compared to the City and the County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4 to 6</th>
<th>7 or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northside</td>
<td>1,482</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>6,638</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hennepin County</td>
<td>9,959</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SHAPE 2002 Geographic Survey

More specifically, family structure as it relates to parents and children further illustrates the form of households. Married couples comprise over half (51%) of...
Northside households, including a majority (57%) of those married-couple households with their own children. Among households with children, male-headed households with no wife present account for 11% of the Northside, split evenly among those living with and without their own children. On the other hand, female-headed households with no husband present comprise 38% of the Northside. For each female-headed no-husband household that has no own children present, there are 2.4 of the same household type with children.

The City of Minneapolis overall has a lower proportion of female-headed no-husband households, at 27%. Of those households, 64% include own children under 18 years old while the Northside’s share with children exceeds 70%. 49% of Northside children live with two parents, and 51% live with one parent. Of those children who live with one parent, 83.7% live with their mother (9,748 children).
Economic Profile

The preceding demographic composite of the Northside neighborhoods illustrates the growth opportunity and potential for area-wide redevelopment that spans the workforce, commerce and residential sectors of the region. Evidence of this can be found in a large youth population that is now expanding the labor force. Data from the US Census provides the most detailed view of sectoral conditions; however, decennial reporting limits much of this discussion to an illustration of the area’s 2000 profile reflected in the most recent Census of the area. While this study does not include changes in trends that may have occurred since the 2000 Census, it should be noted that some change occurred. One such example is welfare reform enacted in 1996. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act restructured entitlements to public assistance by replacing Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The impact of welfare reform likely influenced household decision-making with regard to employment among women, their transportation to work and their need for child care. These changes likely continued into the years after 2000, and may not be fully reflected in data presented here.

In spite of data limitations from Census and other sources, there is evidence of economic assets in Northside communities that create and invite opportunities for growth, redevelopment and prosperity. Employment rates across North Minneapolis are below that of Minneapolis in general. This may indicate the availability of a highly-accessible pool of affordable labor at varying skill levels. Occupational statistics portray a convincing majority of women in professional roles such as management, business, finance and legal services. A limited review of consumer spending shows purchasing power in select categories of household consumption. In several categories, the spatial concentration of household spending provides evidence of demand for additional neighborhood-serving retailers.

**Employment**

The Northside labor force of 28,600 is largely unchanged from 1990 to 2000. Unemployment fell by one-half percentage point to 10%, but remains well in excess of the City of Minneapolis overall, which in 2000 averaged 3% unemployment. Full-year annualized unemployment for the City in 2005 was 4%. Unemployment among working-age women on the Northside grew from 9% to 10.1%. This is particularly notable since women with their own children under 6 years old more than tripled, from 2,353 to 7,205.

Northside residents who work at home grew by 9%, but still accounts for only 2.5% of the workforce. Also, self employment decreased from 5% to 4%, down in absolute terms from 1,338 to 1,120 (-16%). On average, 61% of workers in 1999 spent 35-40 hours per week working, while over 6% of men and 4% of women work in excess of 55 hours per week.
Though the Northside workforce is evenly split between men and women, the female share in several occupations is disproportionately high. A notable community strength is apparent in the strong representation of women in professional occupations such as management, business and finance, and legal operations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Female Employment By Occupation</th>
<th>Share of Women Employed in select occupations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and finance operations</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life, physical, and social sciences</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, training, library</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare practitioner</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare support</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal care</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office administration and support</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** US Census, 2000 SF.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male Employment By Occupation</th>
<th>Share of Men Employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation, maintenance and repairs</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and materials handling</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer, math</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protective Services</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** US Census, 2000 SF.3

### Earnings

Seventy percent of North Minneapolis workers earn less than $50,000, down from 88% in 1990. By 2000, the mean household income on the Northside was $42,270 compared to the metro median household income of $54,300. The occurrence of high-earning households increased from 1990 to 2000. Previously, only 2.4% of Northside households earned in excess of $75,000, improving to 12% in 2000.

Of nearly 18,000 households that reported earnings in 1999, 17% received public assistance as a component of household income. This proportion declined considerably from the 1990 share of 25%. The public assistance share of mean household income fell from 17.5% to 10%. The decline in public assistance recipients appears to have been offset by households receiving income through Supplemental Security Income, 1,650 households new recipients in 1999.

Retirement income as a portion of mean income grew from 24% to 36%, while the proportion of households with retirement income fell from 19% to 13%. Counted separately, Social Security recipients declined from 35% of Northside households to 24.5%; however, payments as a share of mean income dipped only slightly from 25% to 23%.

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4 Policy changes as a result of welfare reform enacted in 1996 contributed to the decline in public assistance.
### Poverty

Between 1990 and 2000, poverty among families with children under five more than doubled, from 707 families to 1,445 families. Significant increases occurred in all neighborhoods. McKinley, Willard-Hay, Single Creek, Lind-Bohanon, Hawthorn and Harrison each doubled, while Jordan, Webber-Camden and Folwell more than tripled their incidence of families in poverty with young children. The case is dissimilar for families with older children ages 6-18. Overall, Northside families in poverty with children under 18 years of age fell 9%. Significant increases were limited to Shingle Creek (+270% to 85 families), McKinley (+40% to 175 families), Jordan (+16% to 410 families), and Folwell (+104% to 185 families).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children In Poverty Ages 0-5 years of Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>%</strong> of total number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children in Poverty</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent of children</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Metro Area</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>256,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minneapolis</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northside</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northside in 1990</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Purchasing Power

The following report of purchasing power shows consumer spending levels in selected categories, comparing the census tracts for the Northside with the entirety of Hennepin County. Absolute comparisons may be deceiving: North Minneapolis makes up just 4% of Hennepin County’s consumption across the 14 categories. But due to the relative concentration of population, the Northside’s per-square mile expenditures are substantially higher. The Northside is over nine square miles in area, compared to the county’s 556 square miles, which includes many sparse or low-density areas.

As a descriptive measure of relative purchasing power, this report has been enhanced with a location quotient (LQ) for each category of consumption. The LQ indexes the subject area’s share of composite spending for each category to the county’s categorical share. Thus, an LQ score that exceeds 1.0 indicates that when compared to the County, Northside residents spend a greater proportion of their income in a given category of spending. It is important to note that the composite totals are simply an aggregate of the 14 consumption categories, not total consumer spending.

In spite of lower incomes and limited accessibility relative to the County, the Northside exhibits a higher relative spending rate per square mile in the key consumption categories of Food at Home, Personal Products, and Non-prescription Drugs and Supplies. This suggests that there may be adequate spending to support commercial investment that brings grocers and convenience stores.
### Purchasing Power Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consumer Expenditure Category</th>
<th>Northside Est. Annual Expenditures</th>
<th>Northside Expenditures per Square Mile (9.36)</th>
<th>HennCo Est. Annual Expenditures</th>
<th>HennCo Expenditures per Square Mile (556.86)</th>
<th>LQ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food at Home</td>
<td>$80,092,616</td>
<td>$8,554,243</td>
<td>$1,776,809,891</td>
<td>$3,190,794</td>
<td>1.131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal products</td>
<td>$6,272,507</td>
<td>$669,931</td>
<td>$145,645,428</td>
<td>$261,550</td>
<td>1.080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-prescription drugs and supplies</td>
<td>$5,372,722</td>
<td>$573,830</td>
<td>$131,894,738</td>
<td>$236,857</td>
<td>1.022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV/Audio equipment, CDs, tapes, disks</td>
<td>$14,364,670</td>
<td>$1,534,210</td>
<td>$358,423,101</td>
<td>$643,656</td>
<td>1.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housekeeping supplies</td>
<td>$10,085,995</td>
<td>$1,077,229</td>
<td>$252,835,282</td>
<td>$454,041</td>
<td>1.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apparel and related services</td>
<td>$26,289,594</td>
<td>$2,807,844</td>
<td>$691,354,285</td>
<td>$1,241,534</td>
<td>0.954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major appliances</td>
<td>$3,428,990</td>
<td>$366,231</td>
<td>$96,246,308</td>
<td>$172,839</td>
<td>0.894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer hardware and software</td>
<td>$3,194,148</td>
<td>$341,149</td>
<td>$89,669,541</td>
<td>$161,029</td>
<td>0.894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food away from home</td>
<td>$26,323,875</td>
<td>$2,811,505</td>
<td>$753,146,704</td>
<td>$1,352,500</td>
<td>0.877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small appliances and housewares</td>
<td>$1,076,429</td>
<td>$114,967</td>
<td>$31,453,812</td>
<td>$56,485</td>
<td>0.858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home repair commodities</td>
<td>$1,775,732</td>
<td>$189,656</td>
<td>$54,195,661</td>
<td>$97,325</td>
<td>0.822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous household equipment</td>
<td>$5,122,516</td>
<td>$547,107</td>
<td>$157,709,023</td>
<td>$283,214</td>
<td>0.815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household textiles</td>
<td>$1,544,138</td>
<td>$164,921</td>
<td>$47,888,034</td>
<td>$85,997</td>
<td>0.809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td>$6,896,973</td>
<td>$736,627</td>
<td>$225,221,172</td>
<td>$404,452</td>
<td>0.768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for 14 categories</td>
<td>$191,840,905</td>
<td>$20,489,450</td>
<td>$4,812,492,980</td>
<td>$8,642,273</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Tracts: 000101 000102 0003 0022 0027 0032 0033 1002 1004 1007 1008 1009 1013 1014 1015 1016 1020 1021 1023 1028 1029 1034 1041
Land Area in Sq Mi: 9.36

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Retailers that serve these local needs. Consider, on the other hand, lower-rated spending categories: Home Repair, Household Equipment, Household Textiles and Furniture range from 18% to 23% below Hennepin County’s respective categorical share. This may provide a preliminary indication of diminished spending rates among Northsiders in the upkeep and enhancement of residential property.

The comparison of purchasing power in Northside neighborhoods to the county in general may be a spurious correlation, but it provides some basic insight into the concentration of consumer spending and its potential effects as a driver of retail demand. Subsequent studies might further inform purchasing power analysis by comparing north Minneapolis neighborhoods to other metropolitan areas with communities of a similar socio-economic disposition.

**Housing**

Housing stock on the Northside actually shrunk 10% to 23,000 units from 1990 to 2000. Significant declines occurred in multi-unit buildings, particularly as a consequence of redevelopment of the Sumner Glenwood residences. Nearly half (48%) of the Northside's housing structures were built prior to 1940, and units built in the 1990s account for only 3% of all units. Over 95% of owner-occupied homes are valued at less than $150,000, while citywide sale prices averaged over $176,900.

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5 Redevelopment of the Sumner Glenwood neighborhood has occurred in response to the Holman-Cisneros Consent Decree. Demolition required displacement of residents who were relocated to scattered sites across the Northside and throughout the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area.
Owner-occupied homes with a mortgage averaged $813 per month in mortgage expenses in 2000. Of Northside owners, approximately 28% (3,544) pay mortgages in excess of 30% of monthly income, up from 21% in 1990.

Analysis of the home lending mortgage climate through the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) provides a useful measure of neighborhood-level investment and community development. HMDA was enacted in 1975 to collect and disclose information from most lending institutions. The metrics range from borrower demographics such as race and income to loan characteristics such as property location and loan amount. The objective is to ensure that financial institutions are meeting the needs of their service areas, to target investment where it is most needed and to identify discriminatory patterns in lending.

A Federal Reserve Bank review of the twelve-year period from 1992 to 2004 focuses on the six biennial reporting periods for lenders in North Minneapolis. Three principle lending characteristics are considered and the findings follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Mortgage Lending Practices In North Minneapolis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lending Characteristics</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Disadvantage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prestige</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Type &amp; Tenure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (http://minneapolisfed.org/pubs/cd/06-1/hmda.cfm)

In summary, the Federal Reserve study finds that “Social Disadvantage” did not change substantially over the twelve year period. Using home purchase applications as a proxy for ownership illustrates the lag of Northside neighborhoods compared to the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County and the greater metro area. The median loan amounts, measured as a “Prestige” proxy, grew slowly through the mid-1990s, falling in relative terms when compared to City, County and metro growth. Growth of loan amounts later rebounded, such that the entire twelve-year range for the Northside outpaced the larger geographic areas. Lastly, housing activity in general grew substantially since the early 1990s. The per-census tract average number of home mortgage applications grew nearly 375%, outpacing the City, County and metro growth rates. Internally, Camden’s growth in absolute terms accounted for most of the Northside’s improvement; however, the Near North’s rate of growth was higher at nearly 500%.

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6 Federal Reserve Bank North Minneapolis housing study http://minneapolisfed.org/pubs/cd/06-1/hmda.cfm
A related study released in April 2006 described the state of mortgage foreclosures in North Minneapolis and found that North Minneapolis had been disproportionately impacted by foreclosures over the past five years. Many broader forces have no doubt influenced the improved housing activity of Minneapolis’ Northside neighborhoods such as the overall strength of the US housing market. This has been sustained by historically low interest rates, touching off a decade-long building and buying spree that only now begins to show slowing signs in select regions.

The surge in home prices may have passed by the Northside without appreciably affecting valuations here, but the area remains a substantial opportunity for investment in terms of relative value when compared to the rest of the City, County or metro area. The growth in home lending applications has been influenced by market changes that have reshaped access to lending. Since the mid-1990s, the emergence of sub-prime lending has provided access to mortgage lending that previously eluded residents of lower income neighborhoods. Further, the core segment of sub-prime lending is in the area of refinance, which suggests that, as a proxy for housing activity, the huge swelling in lending applications per census tract may overstate the increases in mortgage lending on the Northside.

**Additional Notes on North Minneapolis Economy**

As previously mentioned, this study is limited in its consideration of impacts from exogenous factors that may affect the Northside’s economic climate. Statistical growth in employment among women, that resulted from policy reform may mask the unintended consequences of added household and community stresses. These factors stretch beyond the economic considerations in this profile and include household decisions that influence education, health and child care. The role of welfare reform may be better illustrated using subsequent census data comparable to the conditions that prevailed in 2000. Similarly, the community’s growth in mortgage lending may not alone be evidence of progress in community reinvestment. The emergence of sub-prime lending has made an industry of refinancing tools available to local residents that were previously underserved. Two concerns follow this trend: first, activity among sub-prime lending distorts the measure of loan originations as a proxy for community reinvestment; and second, the growth of alternative lending comes at the risk of ruinous outcomes from predatory lending practices. Careful regulation may serve to sufficiently thwart malfeasance. However, a community investment strategy that serves to expand conventional lending will strengthen households and neighborhoods without undue risk.

Most prominently, the effect of a strong macro economy is difficult to isolate from the growth and development conditions of the Northside. For instance, the
expansion of home lending applications may be the case of boats floated by the rising tide of the nation’s sustained housing market. On the other hand, the tide has not come in far enough to significantly boost ownership rates.

It is also important to weigh the region’s economic issues in order to ensure that the Northside is not left behind the next wave of progress. The convergence of planned housing, transit and entertainment at the edge of downtown brings with it the promise of revitalization. As development proceeds from downtown Minneapolis toward the Near North side, existing community assets will be essential to balancing prosperity and assuring that the benefits of urban progress accrue to the entire community.
Northside Health and Wellness Profile

The following section of the report lists a variety of health and wellness data sets. This section does not detail community assets but rather provides information that can be used to indicate the general health and well-being in North Minneapolis residents. In general, North Minneapolis residents are often challenged with rates of health and wellness that are below that of the city or county. However, North Minneapolis has shown a strong capacity to make drastic improvements in some areas suggesting a capacity to make other gains in health and wellness. In this section, information on child well-being is provided separately.

General Mental Health

The primary source of mental health data for Northside residents used in this report is Hennepin County’s 2002 Survey on the Health of All the Population and the Environment (SHAPE). Data is aggregated to the Near North and Camden community level which together include all Northside neighborhoods.

In general, Northside residents report more days of poor mental health than residents of Minneapolis or Hennepin County as a whole. When asked how many days during the past month was their mental health “not good,” 64% of Camden residents and 62% of Near North residents said none, compared to 65% of Minneapolis residents and 70% of Hennepin County residents. At the other end of the spectrum, Camden (10%) and Near North (9%) residents were also more likely to report their mental health was not good for 14 or more days than residents of the city (7%) or the county (5.5%). Additionally, Northside residents have a higher number of unhealthy days per month (3 for Camden, 3 for Near North, 2.5 for Minneapolis and 2 for Hennepin County).

When asked how much of the time during the past month residents have felt calm and peaceful, 15% of the Near North and 16% of Camden replied, “All of the time,” whereas 4% of Near North and 3.5% of Camden replied, “None of the Time.” The percentage of those who reported feeling calm and peaceful all of the time was higher in the Northside communities of Near North and Camden than in the city (13%) and the county (13%). On the other hand, the proportion of people reporting never feeling calm and peaceful was also higher on the Northside than in the city and county (3% for Minneapolis, 2% for Hennepin County).

Conversely, people were also asked how often they have felt “uneasy blue” during the past month and, of those asked, 6% of Camden residents reported feeling this way all or most of the time, as did 7% of Near North residents; this is compared to 4.1% of Minneapolis and 3% of Hennepin County. Numbers for those who answered “none of the time” were relatively similar on the Northside compared to the city and the county (38% for Camden, 37% for Near North, 34% for Minneapolis, and 39% of Hennepin County).

See appendix for detailed data tables on health and child well-being

Thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?

Average number of unhealthy days during the past 30 days.
**Depression**
Northside residents reported a diagnosis of depression in rates similar to the city and the county. When asked if a doctor or other health care professional had ever told them they had depression, near North had the greatest percentage of residents reply “yes” (14.9%), followed by Minneapolis (14.6%), Camden (13.5%) and Hennepin County (12.2%). Of those who reported the depression diagnosis, Camden residents were more likely than Near North residents to be receiving treatment for the condition (60.8% verses 53.3%).

**Anxiety**
Northside residents report a diagnosis of anxiety at rates lower than the city and comparable to the county. When asked if a doctor or other health care professional ever told them that they had anxiety or panic attacks, 8% of Camden residents and 7% of Near North residents replied “yes,” compared to 9.5% of Minneapolis residents and 7.5% of Hennepin County residents. However, of those diagnosed with the condition, Northside residents were less likely to report current treatment. In Camden, 50% of residents reported they were currently under the care of a doctor or other health care professional for anxiety or were taking medications to control it and 43% of Near North residents reported current care. These were also lower than the city (52%) and the county (56%).

**Mental Health Treatment**
Near North residents were more likely than residents in Camden, the city, or the county to report a time in the past year when they wanted to talk with or seek help from a health professional about stress, depression or problems with emotions (26.6% of Near North, 20.1% of Camden, 23.3% of Minneapolis, 19.1% of Hennepin County). In Camden, the top reasons for not getting or delaying care were: Lack of insurance or due to cost (33.7%); Fear of stigma/anxiety (15.5%); Could not get an appointment/insurance issue (12.4%); and Family responsibilities or transportation problems (12%). In Near North, the top reasons were also lack of insurance/cost issue (23.9%), followed by: Didn’t think it would help (16%); Fear of stigma/anxiety (14.2%); and Family responsibilities or transportation problems (14.2%).

Residents of Camden and Near North saw a mental health provider or counselor in the past 12 months in higher numbers than the county overall, but lower than the city. A greater percentage of Northside residents had seen a traditional or spiritual healer or shaman in the past year than the city or county as a whole. Slightly greater proportions of Northside residents had attended any self-help or support groups in the past year, but significantly fewer had obtained health-related information from the internet.

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11 “Are you currently under the care of a doctor or other health professional for this condition or taking medications to control this?”
**Alcohol Use**

Overall, Camden and Near North residents were more likely than the city or county to answer “zero” when asked, “On the days when you drank, about how many drinks did you drink on average (42% for Camden, 53% for Near North, 37% for Minneapolis, and 34% of Hennepin County). Of those who drank one or more times during the prior month, 8.5% of Camden and 10% of Near North reported they drank an average of 5 or more drinks, compared to 8% of Minneapolis and 7% of Hennepin County. When those who drank were asked how many times in the past month they drank 5 or more drinks on one occasion, 9% of Near North residents reported doing so, compared to 6% for Camden and Minneapolis, and 5% for Hennepin County. Interestingly, Northside residents seem to have stronger opinions regarding underage alcohol consumption than their counterparts in the city and county overall. Twenty-four percent of Near North and 22% of Camden said that under no circumstances is it acceptable for persons under 21 to consume alcohol, versus 17% of the county and 17% of the city who replied this way.

**Indicators of Child Well-being**

**Infant Mortality**

Between 2001-2003, the infant mortality rate for the City of Minneapolis was 5.8 deaths per every 1,000 live births. Of Minneapolis’ eleven communities, Near North had the second highest rate of infant mortality at 9.7 deaths per 1,000 live births while Camden was below the city average with an infant mortality rate of 3.5 per 1,000 live births.

**Low Birth Weight**

Between 1999 and 2001, the percentage of low birthweight births (born less than 5.5 pounds) in Near North, 11.3%, was greater than in any other Minneapolis neighborhood. Eight percent of babies born in Camden during those years were low birthweight. In 2001, the city average for Minneapolis was 7.2%.

**Child Death Rate**

The death rate for children could only be obtained at the County level. In 2003, the Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department reported 52 deaths of children ages 1 to 17 years, and 65 deaths of children under age 1. Overall, the death rate for children ages 1 to 17 has decreased over the past decade, from 62 deaths in 1994 to 52 in 2003, with a high of 69 in 1996 and a low

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12 For state-level data on child well-being, see the Ann E. Casey Foundation’s 2006 KIDS COUNT data book: http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/databook.jsp  
13 For this and further information on births, go to City of Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/docs/stateofcity-health2003.pdf  
14 Birth trend data for the City of Minneapolis is available online at: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/research-policy/birth-trend.asp
of 42 in 2001. On the other hand, the death rate for children under 1 year of age has shown a significant and nearly-constant downward trend, from 128 deaths in 1994 to a ten-year low of 65 in 2003, with a high of 131 in 1995. Between 2002 and 2003 alone, the number decreased from 93 to 65.

**Immunization**

The State of Minnesota Department of Health’s 2001-2002 Kindergarten Retrospective Study shows that 24-month-olds have up-to-date immunizations at rates of 72% in the most northern part of the Northside, 64% in the central-northern half of the Northside and 58% in the southern half of the Northside. Though these are, on average, lower than the rest of Hennepin County, they also show some of the greatest percentage point increases between the 1996-1997 and the 2001-2002 studies. The most northern section increased by 10%, the central-northern half by 14%, and the southern half by 24% – one of the largest increases in the county.

The sharp improvement observed in the rate of immunization among North Minneapolis children shows a strong capacity to address a problem in the community. Further research may be conducted to better understand the causes of this success and ways this success can be duplicated in other areas of child well-being.

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15 Zip codes 55430, 55412, and 55411.
**Child Poverty Rate**

Overall, the Northside has a higher percentage of children ages 0 to 5 than the City or the County, and a higher percentage of Northside children under age 5 live in poverty than in the City or the County.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children In Poverty ages 0-5</th>
<th>Children as part of total population</th>
<th>Children in Poverty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hennepin</td>
<td>86,480 8%</td>
<td>9,842 11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>28,552 8%</td>
<td>7,205 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northside</td>
<td>7,615 12%</td>
<td>2,748 36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

**Children who have parents with stable employment**

Of the 22,809 children (17 years and younger) on the Northside, 76% live with one or more parents in the labor force. The largest group of children (34%) live with a single parent who is in the labor force, followed by 26% of children who live with two parents both in the labor force. About 17% of Northside children live with one parent who is not in the labor force and 7% live in with both parents, neither in the labor force. Of children under 6 years old living with employed parent(s), almost even numbers live with only one parent- mother (1,767 children) - as with two parents (1,764 children).

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16 U.S. Census 2000 data for Nothside census tracts

17 U.S. Census 2000 data for the Northside census tracts, Age of Children by Employment of Parents
Juvenile Criminal Involvement

In general, juveniles make up a higher proportion of arrests in the Fourth Precinct of North Minneapolis than they do as a proportion of arrests in the city overall. For the more serious offenses (reported in the Unified Crime Report Part I Offenses), juveniles made up 30% (246) of arrests in the Fourth Precinct, verses 25% of those same arrests citywide. Of all less serious offenses (reported in the Unified Crime Report Part II Offenses) that involved an arrest in North Minneapolis, 30% (1,596) of those arrests were juveniles, verses 25% juveniles for the same type of arrests citywide. Overall, the Fourth Precinct made up 32% of the city’s juvenile arrests for Part I crimes and 27% of the city’s juvenile arrests for Part II crimes.

Child maltreatment

The Northside has a high rate of substantiated child maltreatment cases. The Northside as a whole has 549 cases of substantiated child maltreatment in 2002 (5.5% of households with at least one child under age 18). In comparison, the City of Minneapolis had a rate of 3.3% and Hennepin County had a rate of 1.5%. The two neighborhoods with the highest percentage of child maltreatment cases were the Hawthorne neighborhood (87 cases, 8.8% of households) and Jordan (118 cases, 8.5%). The lowest rates on the Northside were in Cleveland (10 cases, 2%) and Victory (17 cases, 2.6%), both in the far northwest corner of the community.

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18 Data reported in this section comes from the Minneapolis Police Department’s Uniform Crime Report Summary, comparing the Fourth Precinct to the City of Minneapolis, for the period of January – November, 2005. Numbers available online at: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-statistics/ucr/index.asp. Further information, including weekly maps of criminal offenses, can be found at the MPD’s website: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-statistics/

19 UCR Part I Offenses include: criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

20 UCR Part II Offenses include: simple assault, vandalism, weapons, prostitution, sex offenses, narcotics, SWI, and other offenses not included in Part I.

21 SSIS; US Census 2000, Table FO10; Hennepin County Human Services
Homeless Youth

Northside-specific data for homeless youth are difficult to obtain, but the Wilder Research Center publishes a survey of homeless youth in Minnesota that details the situation of homeless youth both statewide and in the Twin Cities metro area. The following table shows the total count of homeless children, unaccompanied youth, and young adults in emergency shelters, battered women's shelters and transitional housing facilities in Minnesota on the night of October 23, 2003. This is not the number that were interviewed for the Wilder survey, but the number that were counted by shelter providers. Of the over 2,000 children, youth and young adults that were homeless in 2003, 87% were children accompanied by a parent or parents; 213 (9.5%) were young adults between the ages of 18 and 20 and 75 (3%) were unaccompanied youth were under the age of 18.

| Number of children, youth, and young adults (ages 0-20) in temporary housing programs on October 23, 2003 |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Twin Cities metro area                          | Emergency shelters                                | Battered women's shelters                        | Transitional housing                             | Total                                             |
| Young adult: males age 18 – 20                  | Young adult: females age 18 – 20                  | Unaccompanied youth: males < 18                  | Unaccompanied youth: females < 18                | Unaccompanied youth: Total                       |
| 61                                               | 152                                              | 1,965                                            | 29                                               | 46                                               | 2,253                                            |
| 29                                               | 21                                               | 268                                              | 20                                               | 11                                               | 349                                              |
| -                                                | 13                                               | 216                                              | -                                                | 8                                                | 237                                              |
| 32                                               | 118                                              | 1,481                                            | 9                                                | 27                                               | 1,667                                            |

*Persons interviewed in non-shelter location not included in this table

Source: Wilder Research Center, Homeless Youth in Minnesota, February 2005

With the exception of Asian children, minorities are overrepresented and white or Caucasian children are underrepresented among Twin Cities homeless youth population, when compared to the general state population. African American youth made up 56% of the 2000 Twin Cities homeless youth sample, although they are only 5% of the state’s youth population overall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison of U.S. Census to homeless youth population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White or Caucasian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota youth age 8 to 17 (Census 2000b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 Twin Cities homeless youth sample (age 17 or under)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Wilder Research Center, Homeless Youth in Minnesota, February 2005

Homeless youth often have a history of previous residential placement and shelter use. Over half of unaccompanied youth, including nearly two-thirds of unaccompanied males, have lived in a foster home. Overall, two-thirds of unaccompanied youth, including three-quarters of males, have previously lived in a residential placement setting, and over 90% have used some type of shelter before. The following table shows the percentage of unaccompanied youth in Minnesota who have a history of residential program and shelter use.
Unaccompanied youth are also likely to have experienced a previous placement in a correctional facility. The following table shows the percentage of youth who have a history of correctional placements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous Placement in Correctional Facilities (unaccompanied youth)</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have you ever been held in:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile detention center or other juvenile facility or camp for more than a week</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County jail or workhouse for a month or more</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any of the above correctional facilities</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although this data is not Northside-specific, it shows that reducing the number of out-of-home placements and addressing the causes of juvenile criminal behavior may help reduce the number of homeless youth on the Northside.

**Basic Skills Test Results**

In general, students in Northside schools score lower than the Minneapolis Public Schools average on the Basic Skills Test (BST). The BST is a reading, mathematics, and writing test that students in the 8th grade must pass to receive a diploma from a public high school. In math, all 8 Northside schools for which the information could be obtained scored lower than the average for all Minneapolis Public School’s (MPS) eighth graders; the MPS average passing rate was 48.2%, and Northside schools ranged from a high of 47% passing at Franklin Middle School to a low of 13% passing at Jordan Park. In reading, only Lucy Laney Elementary students scored above the MPS average; the MPS average passing rate was 64%, and Northside schools ranged from a high of 66% passing at Lucy Park. In writing, all 8 Northside schools for which the information could be obtained scored lower than the average for all MPS eighth graders; the MPS average passing rate was 66%, and Northside schools ranged from a high of 65% passing at Franklin Middle School to a low of 58% passing at Jordan Park.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School Drop-out Rate</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henry H.S. 2004-2005</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North H.S. 2001-2002</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Laney to a low of 38% passing at W. Harry Davis Academy. Tenth graders are tested in writing. Only Henry Senior High students scored higher than the MPS average, with 5 other Northside schools scoring below the average. Passing rates for writing ranged from a high of 79% at Henry to a low of 68% at Broadway Education Place.\textsuperscript{22}

\textbf{Kindergarten Readiness}

Between the 2002-2003 and the 2003-2004 school years, there was an increase in the number of Minneapolis children who received early childhood screening, from 59% to 66.5%.\textsuperscript{23} This data could not be obtained at the neighborhood level. In the zip codes of 55411 and 55412 that make up most of North Minneapolis, 328 children were tested in the 2006 Minneapolis Schools Preschool Screening. Of the 328 children tested, 239 children (73%) passed, 63 children (19%) were classified as needing Early Childhood Special Education and 24 children (7%) were placed in other categories.\textsuperscript{24}

\textbf{Areas For Further Research}

- Mental Health data
  - For conditions other than depression (conduct disorder, bipolar depression, schizophrenia)
  - For children
- Chemical use treatment options
- Teen death rate
- Number of “disconnected” youth
- Kindergarten entry skills
- Costs of child protection
- Number and rate of children and families in out-of-home placement and costs of child protection efforts
- What is resolution for children charged with crimes? How many children on probation? What are costs of juvenile criminal involvement?
- Dropout rate for city and county (for comparison)
- Minneapolis Beginning Kindergarten Assessment average and ranges
- Mobility rate for families with children under 6

\textsuperscript{22} See appendix for data on the% of students classified as Special Education, Limited English Proficient, and Free/Reduced-Price Lunch Eligible at each of the Northside schools for which BST data was obtained.
\textsuperscript{24} Data from Christina Sheran, Minneapolis Public Schools.
Youth and Childhood Assets

The purpose of this section is to highlight the Northside’s teen and childhood program resources. In this report, the description of youth and childhood resources includes the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board’s (MPRB) description of available services and support in areas such as: early education programs and family education programs (Head Start, School Readiness, Early Reading First, private preschool), programs for children, youth and teens. In addition, the description of youth and childhood resources also includes licensed daycare facilities; community programs; school-based early education programs and other community educational institutions. In what follows, we offer a basic overview of strengths, weaknesses and opportunities relating to youth and childhood resources available to families.

Licensed Daycares Facilities
North Minneapolis offers both public and private licensed daycare facilities throughout all neighborhoods. Some offer services to families with newborns through five years old, while others have age-specific care available. As licenses vary, so do capacity regulations. For example, some programs are licensed for as few as six children per facility and some others can offer over four hundred forty spaces for families with childcare needs.

Park and Recreation Facilities
The Minneapolis Park and Recreation facilities located throughout North Minneapolis offer programs to families with children from three years old through nineteen years of age. The programs include Get Cooking, Movie Night and African-American History. Of course, Park and Recreation also offers sports such as soccer, tennis and baseball. Nearly all of the program activities are free for Northside residents with the exception of three that require sports equipment and supply fees.

School-based Teen and Early Childhood Programs
Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) offer an array of teen and early childhood programs on the Northside. There are nineteen teen and early childhood programs offered at Northside schools. For example, MPS’s Small Learning Communities are located at North Community and Patrick Henry High Schools. At the Small Learning Center in North Community, courses in computers, construction, engineering & information technologies are offered. At Patrick Henry, students are offered the opportunity to be part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program with a comprehensive and rigorous curriculum that requires “mastery of subject content and the development of the skills and discipline necessary for success in a competitive world”.

25 http://www.minneapolisparks.org/home.asp
26 http://www.minneapolisparks.org/
27 http://highschoolchoice.mpls.k12.mn.us/International_Baccalaureate_at_Patrick_Henry.html
On the Northside there is support available to pregnant and parenting teens and their young children. The Teen Parent HUB office is located at Broadway High School and offers academic support for teen mothers to graduate or earn a GED and to find jobs and career opportunities such as internships, health care and family planning. MPS also offers additional parenting education, mentoring and social support services for teen parents. At North Community High School, parenting teens have access to the Teenage Pregnant and Parenting Program (TAPPP). “The TAPP programs provide on-site childcare, transportation, parenting education, and support services for student parents seeking to continue their education.”

Thirteen schools offer early childhood programs, one is the North Star Elementary School’s Early Childhood Information Station that helps families find the early childhood services that will help prepare their children for kindergarten. According to MPS, the Early Childhood Family Education program (ECFE) offers classes, home visits, newborn hospital visits, and special events for families with children from birth to age five. These classes are offered at various MPS schools and community sites. Lucy Craft Laney at Cleveland Park and Mona H. Moede NELC both serve as ECFE sites on the Northside.

Early childhood screening is also available on the Northside. The screening is a health and developmental check on how well a child is progressing toward kindergarten. The City, County and MPS try to screen all children at age three or four. Minneapolis Early Reading First (MERF) is a full-year program for children who turned three years old by September 2005. This program is part of a federally-funded program to create preschool “Centers of Excellence” that prepare children for kindergarten. Minneapolis Public Schools has three MERF classrooms located at Cityview, Lincoln and North Star schools as well as classrooms at PICA, Head Start and Mary T. Wellcome Child Care. Children attend all day, five days a week, year round, until they start kindergarten. In Minneapolis Kids – Fours Explore, children attending Minneapolis schools not only have available to them before and after-school care, but also full-day programs for four-year olds designed to help children discover the joy of learning. High Five is also offered to Northside families. High Five is a pre-kindergarten school-year program for children who turn four years old by September. The District Placement Office is an additional asset from the MPS on the Northside that helps families with children who wish to enroll in any MPS or program.

There are special education services provided at all schools that can be accessed through the Minneapolis Schools Special Education Programs. Northside residents have access to assets such as programs and services for students with cognitive, neurological or physical disabilities. Programs and services are also available for students with emotional and behavior disabilities. In addition, Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) provides community and home-based

28 http://health.mpls.k12.mn.us/For_MPS_TAPPP_Coordinators.html
29 http://birthtofive.mpls.k12.mn.us/School_Readiness_Programs
30 http://schoolchoice.mpls.k12.mn.us/Special_Education.html
services, intervention groups and center-based programs to serve children identified as needing special education services.

The Northside of Minneapolis also has before and after-school age care sites. Minneapolis Kids school-age care is a fee-based, year-round MPS program that offers fun, high-quality care for school-age children. According to the data, these services are available to Northside families: before school, before and after kindergarten, after-school, during winter and spring break, on school release days and during summer vacations.

**Community Programs**

Northside families also have access to the Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association (GMDCA) that refers parents to child care and preschool options. A variety of options are available including HIPPY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters) that is a home-visiting program for low-income families with 3-5 year olds in specific Minneapolis neighborhoods; Head Start (Parents in Community Action – PICA) a comprehensive child and family development program for low-income families, with parent involvement, social services, education, health and nutrition. Also Way to Grow is active in North Minneapolis as part of a city-wide school readiness initiative that helps families with children ages 0-6 through community-driven family support programs and connections to services for “the hardest to serve.”

[^31]: [http://schoolchoice.mpls.k12.mn.us/minneapoliskids.html](http://schoolchoice.mpls.k12.mn.us/minneapoliskids.html)
Organizational Input

Interviews with various Northside organizations were conducted to provide a local assessment of the community’s assets. These interviews included a limited number of organizations working in economic development and early childhood education. No interviews were conducted with organizations that dealt exclusively with children’s mental health. Below are excerpts of the interview notes that represent comments directed toward the UNP. Following is an assessment of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that were identified by the research team and based on comments made by the organizations interviewed.

Organizations Interviewed

Early Childhood
Way to Grow
Phyllis Wheatley

Economic
West Broadway Area Coalition
MN Workforce Center
Phyllis Wheatley

Youth Development
Juxtaposition
MN Internship Center
Hospitality House
Phyllis Wheatley
Boys and Girls Club

General
Northway Community Trust
African American Men’s Project
Tubman Family Alliance

Interview notes

Theme 1 - Trust: The African American Men’s Project seems to be explaining the levels of mistrust or lack of trust that exist in the African American community. The mistrust is on an individual level toward institutions and systems (i.e., the criminal justice system), but also exists on a community level as well. This is due to past miscarriages of justice by institution/systems ethical treatment, lack of institutional trust and faith in the system(s). "African American men believe if they show up for court (even on a traffic violation turned warrant), they won’t return home". Consequently, many get arrest warrants and get in the criminal justice system on what once was just a traffic violation.

"The Community Benefit Agreement must clearly pre-identify how the community will benefit, for example 300 jobs. No excuses for not finding workers in the community. Training must be provided. The CBA must be monitored and enforced."

Community Strengths
- Culture
- Youth
- Diversity- race, ethnicity and income
- Opportunities for development
Community Strengths (cont’d)

- Relationships of trust
- Vision and identity

Community Weaknesses

- Lack of resources for existing organizations
- Lack of employment, activities, life skills and authentic engagement with youth
- Transportation
- Poverty
- Scarcity of medical services and businesses

Community Opportunities

- Connecting with other organizations
- Marketing project for the Northside
- Northside’s turn for development
- Renewed interest in the Northside

Threats

- Lack of youth development resources/programs and activities
- Lack of Institutional trust and faith in the system(s)
Conclusions

Employing an “Asset Based Community Development” (ABCD) strategy should be an important part of the University’s community engagement strategy. The following conclusions are primarily based on information collected during interviews and the UNP community meetings that occurred during the time this research was being conducted. Further, these conclusions have been made with limited knowledge of current UNP’s outreach activities.

Further articulate the UNP’s vision to stakeholders

The scope of programming proposed by the UNP is broad, complex and covers three distinct areas: economic development, early childhood education and children’s mental health. Identifying and highlighting successful programs that the UNP will model its own programs after can serve as an important part of conveying the UNP mission.

Develop enduring relationships

The number of organizations and residents working on the Northside indicates a large opportunity for new partnerships to be created. Already, collaboration among these groups has yielded new levels of cooperation and a synergy of resources and creative partnerships. Together, these organizations and the relationships they have established with members of the community represent an important community asset. This asset can serve as a starting point for the UNP’s efforts.

Currently, a strong interest exists among some Northside organizations to create a variety of youth development programs. Although this is not a specific focus of the UNP, it will be important for the University to identify meaningful ways to contribute to these efforts through its existing vision. One example may be a youth entrepreneurship program that would extend from the economic development initiative.

Conduct Further Research

The information compiled for this report provides a great deal of context for the work that is currently being done in North Minneapolis. To move towards developing a partnership with the various entities involved in this work, understanding past successes and university-community best practices is a must. Other communities have developed very meaningful and productive relationships with resident universities and understanding the working relationships that have yielded community successes may provide the UNP with a useful prototype.