



In Partnership With:



Improving Recycling Access to Underserved Communities

Advancing Environmental
Justice through SCORE Funding
in Ramsey County, MN

A presentation to:



October 6, 2026 | Angie Lemar

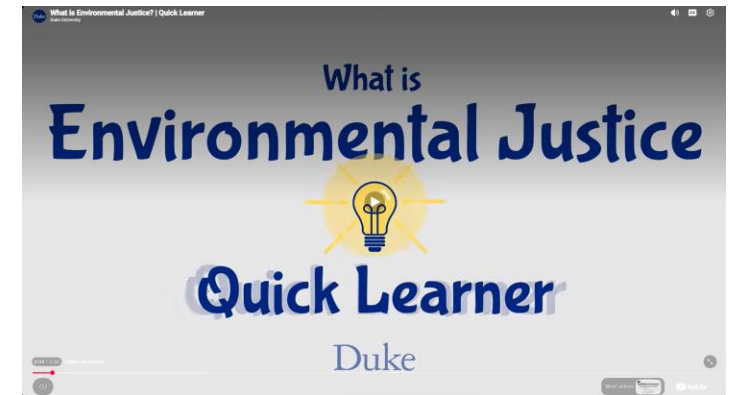


Incorporating Environmental Justice into Ramsey County's Solid Waste Programming



Defining Environmental Justice

Environmental justice means the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other Federal activities that affect human health and the environment.



What is SCORE?

- ◆ The Governor's **Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment (SCORE)** proposed the laws in 1989.
- ◆ Minnesota's SCORE laws provide funding for recycling programs and support waste reduction and management of household hazardous wastes and problem materials.
- ◆ Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) prepares the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan (Metro SWMPP) every 6 years with input from state agencies, county staff, and other stakeholders.
- ◆ With guidance from the Metro SWMPP, all 7 counties in the Metro area develop a County Solid Waste Management Plan which lays out how they will use SCORE funds.



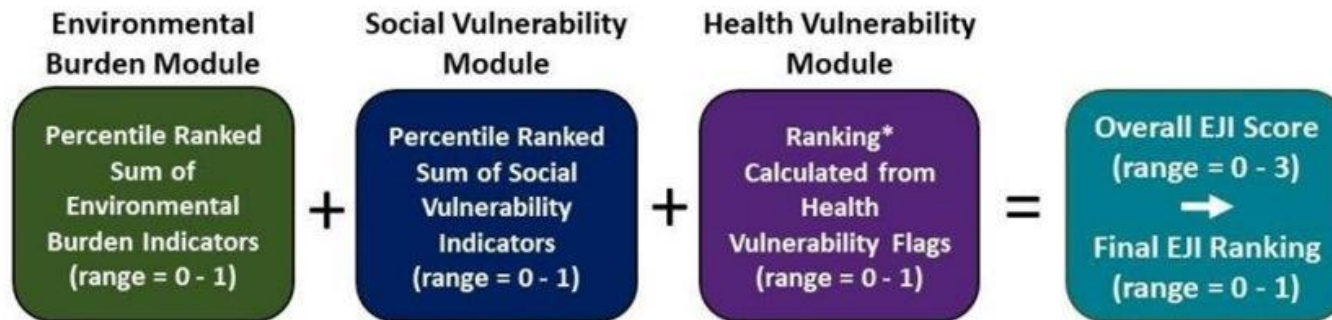
Why Ramsey County Redesigned SCORE Funding

- ◆ Before 2025, SCORE allocations were population-based: 84% base funding and 16% incentive funding.
- ◆ The 2024 Solid Waste Management Plan created an opportunity to rethink distribution.
- ◆ The plan included a statewide waste reduction goal of 75% by 2030.
- ◆ Ramsey County tasked Foth with assisting to create a new mechanism for SCORE funding distribution to incorporate EJ

SCORE 2024	Population Total	% Pop	Total Grant Available	Base Funding Available 84% of Total Allocation	Max Incentive Funding Available 2 payments of 8% each
Ramsey County	551,195	100%		\$1,197,245	\$228,047
Arden Hills	9,686	1.76%	\$25,046	\$21,039	\$4,007
Falcon Heights	5,381	0.98%	\$13,914	\$11,688	\$2,226
Gem Lake	530	0.10%	\$1,370	\$1,151	\$219
Lauderdale	2,222	0.40%	\$5,746	\$4,826	\$919
Little Canada	10,636	1.93%	\$27,503	\$23,102	\$4,400
Maplewood	41,596	7.55%	\$107,560	\$90,350	\$17,210
Mounds View	12,970	2.35%	\$33,538	\$28,172	\$5,366
New Brighton	23,414	4.25%	\$60,544	\$50,857	\$9,687
North Oaks	5,197	0.94%	\$13,439	\$11,288	\$2,150
North Saint Paul	12,491	2.27%	\$32,299	\$27,132	\$5,168
Roseville	36,823	6.68%	\$95,218	\$79,983	\$15,235
St. Anthony (part)	3,584	0.65%	\$9,268	\$7,785	\$1,483
St. Paul	311,105	56.44%	\$804,462	\$675,748	\$128,714
Shoreview	27,151	4.93%	\$70,208	\$58,974	\$11,233
Vadnais Heights	13,275	2.41%	\$34,327	\$28,834	\$5,492
WBT	10,811	1.96%	\$27,955	\$23,482	\$4,473
WBL (part)	24,324	4.41%	\$62,898	\$52,834	\$10,064
2024 Organics Obligated Amount			\$167,909		
FY2024 TOTAL Allocation from MPCA:			\$ 1,593,201		

Using CDC EJI Rankings to Target Funding

- ◆ CDC's EJI Explorer identifies environmental, social and health burdens to guide health-equity goals and track progress.
- ◆ Uses U.S. Census Bureau, EPA, Mine Safety and Health Administration, and CDC data.
- ◆ Ranks census tracts on 36 factors and produces one comprehensive percentile rank.
- ◆ Works well for overall County reports or individual census tracts; Extra steps required for municipality specific EJI rankings



Redesign of SCORE Funding Mechanism

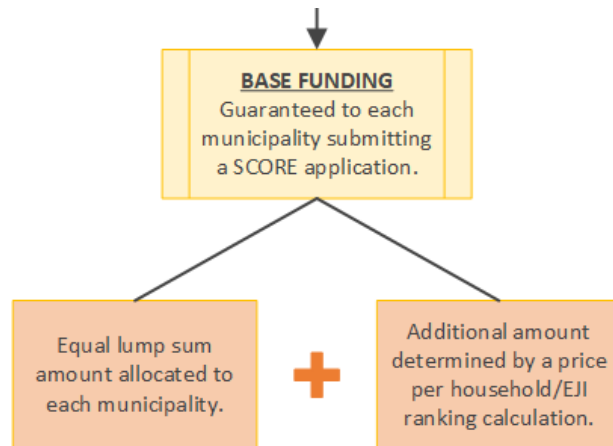
SCORE Funding Mechanism Redesign – Ranking & Tiers

- ◆ Every municipality is given **1** overall EJI Index ranking from the CDC EJI Explorer
 - Municipalities ranked in Mechanism by least burdened to highest burdened
- ◆ Municipalities categorized into **3** Tiers
 - Tiers are used to determine Base Funding and Incentive Grant Program (IGP) Funding
- ◆ Overall **Goals** of Mechanism
 - Give as much \$ directly into the hands of the municipalities as possible
 - In 2024, first year, make sure that every municipality gets more \$ in 2025 than they did in 2024

Ramsey County Municipalities	EJI Index	Tiers for 2025 Optional Incentives
North Oaks	0.08	Tier One (< 0.20)
Shoreview	0.09	
White Bear Township	0.14	
Vadnais Heights	0.16	
North Saint Paul	0.24	Tier Two ($0.20 - 0.39$)
Falcon Heights	0.27	
Maplewood	0.27	
Mounds View	0.27	
White Bear Lake	0.28	
Gem Lake	0.33	
Saint Anthony	0.35	
Roseville	0.35	Tier Three (≥ 0.40)
New Brighton	0.42	
Arden Hills	0.42	
Saint Paul	0.44	
Lauderdale	0.46	
Little Canada	0.56	

Base Funding

- ◆ Guaranteed to each municipality submitting a SCORE application
 1. Equal lump sum that each municipality will receive (\$10,000); plus
 2. An additional amount that is determined by a price per household calculation based on the EJI tiers



Ramsey County Municipalities	EJI Index	Tiers for 2025 Optional Incentives	Funding Allocation Amount per Household (\$)
North Oaks	0.08	Tier One (< 0.20)	\$3.00
Shoreview	0.09		
White Bear Township	0.14		
Vadnais Heights	0.16		
North Saint Paul	0.24	Tier Two ($0.20 - 0.39$)	\$4.25
Falcon Heights	0.27		
Maplewood	0.27		
Mounds View	0.27		
White Bear Lake	0.28		
Gem Lake	0.33		
Saint Anthony	0.35		
Roseville	0.35	Tier Three (≥ 0.40)	\$5.10
New Brighton	0.42		
Arden Hills	0.42		
Saint Paul	0.44		
Lauderdale	0.46		
Little Canada	0.56		

Base Funding: New vs. Old Mechanism Results

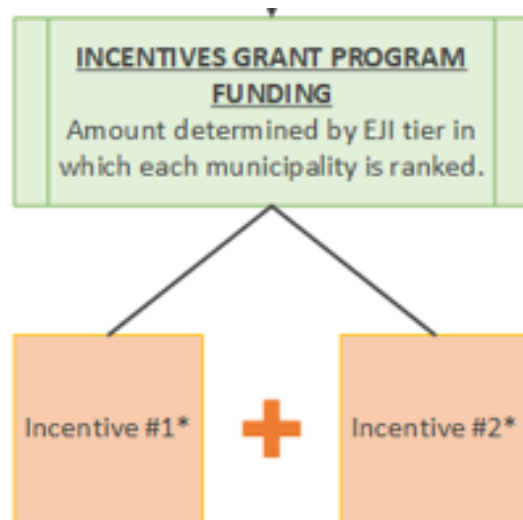
	2025 using EJI Base Funding	2025 using Previous Mechanism Base Funding
	Total Base Funding	84%
Municipalities		
Gem Lake	\$ 10,905	\$ 1,423
Lauderdale	\$ 19,404	\$ 6,697
Saint Anthony ⁷	\$ -	\$ -
North Oaks	\$ 15,904	\$ 14,213
Falcon Heights	\$ 22,627	\$ 14,474
Arden Hills	\$ 28,324	\$ 26,794
Little Canada	\$ 48,831	\$ 29,167
White Bear Township	\$ 23,167	\$ 29,787
North Saint Paul	\$ 30,124	\$ 33,332
Vadnais Heights	\$ 28,300	\$ 34,809
Mounds View	\$ 37,723	\$ 35,717
New Brighton	\$ 93,518	\$ 63,229
White Bear Lake (part)	\$ 66,857	\$ 67,081
Shoreview	\$ 87,508	\$ 72,575
Roseville	\$ 104,690	\$ 97,736
Maplewood	\$ 97,044	\$ 113,463
Saint Paul	\$ 804,529	\$ 839,834

Municipalities who received least amount of funding now receiving significantly more

Tier 3 municipalities (highest burdened) receiving more funding

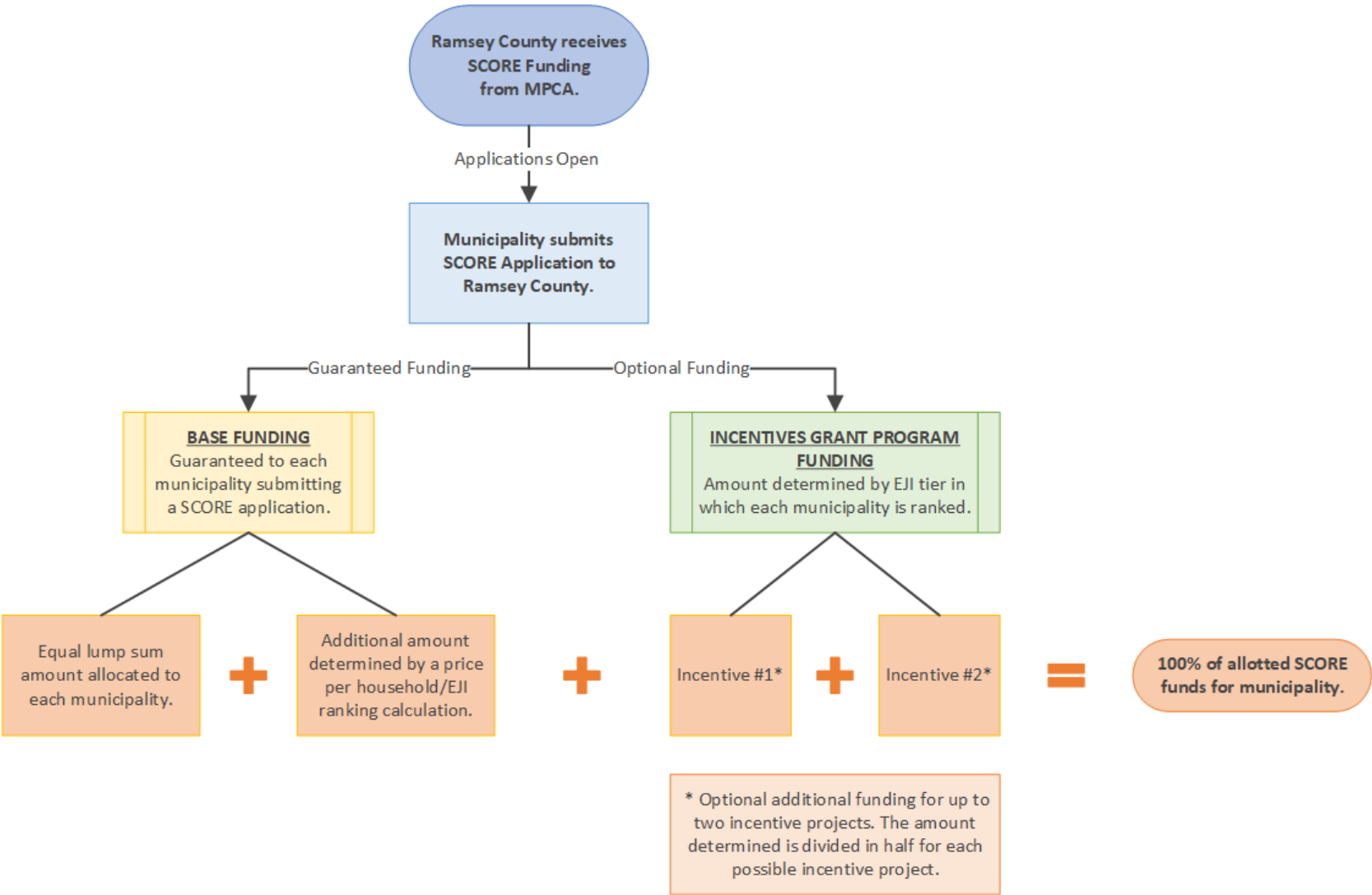
Incentive Grant Program (IGP) Funding

- ◆ Optional IGP funding supports up to two incentive projects completed within the fiscal year.
- ◆ The EJI-tier allocation is split equally between the two possible projects; it supplements guaranteed base funding.



Ramsey County Municipalities	EJI Index	Tiers for 2025 Optional Incentives	Funding Allocation Percentage (%)
North Oaks	0.08	Tier One (< 0.20)	3.50%
Shoreview	0.09		
White Bear Township	0.14		
Vadnais Heights	0.16		
North Saint Paul	0.24	Tier Two ($0.20 - 0.39$)	5.00%
Falcon Heights	0.27		
Maplewood	0.27		
Mounds View	0.27		
White Bear Lake	0.28		
Gem Lake	0.33		
Saint Anthony	0.35		
Roseville	0.35		
New Brighton	0.42	Tier Three (≥ 0.40)	8.50%
Arden Hills	0.42		
Saint Paul	0.44		
Lauderdale	0.46		
Little Canada	0.56		

Total Grant Distribution



Things We Learned/
Results Seen



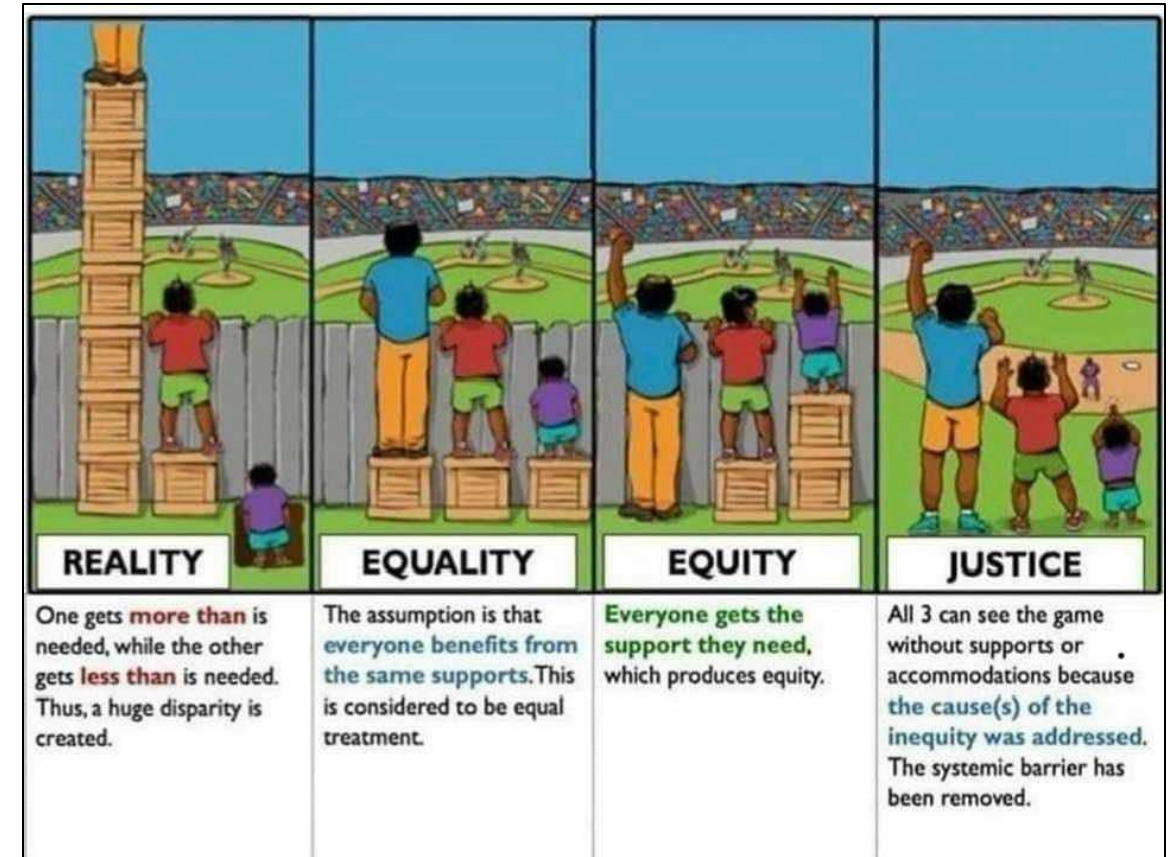
Data Updates Required Recalibrating the Model

Ramsey County Municipalities	EJI Rank	
	Pre-Update	Post-Update
North Oaks	0.08	0.43
Shoreview	0.09	0.25
White Bear Township	0.14	0.27
Vadnais Heights	0.16	0.53
North Saint Paul	0.24	0.51
Falcon Heights	0.27	0.44
Maplewood	0.27	0.44
Mounds View	0.27	0.56
White Bear Lake	0.28	0.4
Gem Lake	0.33	0.5
Saint Anthony	0.35	0.35
Roseville	0.35	0.52
New Brighton	0.42	0.58
Arden Hills	0.42	0.54
Saint Paul	0.44	0.52
Lauderdale	0.46	0.5
Little Canada	0.56	0.61

- ◆ In December 2024, CDC updated EJI data to reflect the 2020 Census. The 2025 allocations used September 2024 data based on the 2010 Census.
- ◆ Municipal rankings changed and the range narrowed, requiring new tier parameters.
- ◆ EJI ranks remain percentile-based across census tracts in the contiguous United States.
 - ◆ This means that tract has a higher combined environmental and social burden than X% of census tracts in the contiguous U.S.
- ◆ Included “other households” such as townhomes, duplexes to quads, manufactured homes and accessory dwelling units to better support true population/household numbers.

Environmental Justice Is an Ongoing Commitment

- ◆ Improve the model annually as data and community needs change.
- ◆ State funding changes each year; the mechanism held through these changes.
- ◆ The Solid Waste Plan embeds EJ principles to address systemic inequalities, reduce toxin exposure and promote a safer environment
- ◆ Encourage Incentive Grant Program projects to incorporate EJ principles.



Environmental Justice Is Making a Difference

	2024 Total SCORE Allocation (Pop.)	2025 EJI Ranking	2025 Total SCORE Allocation (EJI)	2026 EJI Ranking	2026 Total SCORE Allocation (EJI)
Ramsey County		0.3		0.47	
Municipalities					
Population Under 5,000					
Gem Lake	\$ 1,370.00	0.33	\$ 24,913.98	0.5	\$ 22,913.23
Lauderdale	\$ 5,746.00	0.46	\$ 43,219.23	0.5	\$ 29,645.23
Saint Anthony	\$ 9,268.00	0.35	\$ -	0.55	\$ 12,660.04
Population Under 10,000					
North Oaks	\$ 13,439.00	0.08	\$ 25,710.11	0.43	\$ 34,829.23
Falcon Heights	\$ 13,914.00	0.27	\$ 36,635.48	0.44	\$ 36,803.23
Arden Hills	\$ 25,046.00	0.42	\$ 52,139.13	0.54	\$ 44,893.24
Population Under 15,000					
Little Canada	\$ 27,503.00	0.56	\$ 72,646.23	0.61	\$ 53,257.04
White Bear Township	\$ 27,955.00	0.14	\$ 32,973.11	0.27	\$ 29,853.83
North Saint Paul	\$ 32,299.00	0.24	\$ 44,132.48	0.51	\$ 55,551.04
Vadnais Heights	\$ 34,327.00	0.16	\$ 38,106.11	0.53	\$ 60,002.64
Mounds View	\$ 33,538.00	0.44	\$ 51,731.48	0.56	\$ 58,217.04
Population Under 50,000					
New Brighton	\$ 60,544.00	0.42	\$ 117,332.43	0.58	\$ 87,313.64
White Bear Lake (part)	\$ 62,898.00	0.28	\$ 80,865.23	0.39	\$ 87,719.23
Shoreview	\$ 70,208.00	0.09	\$ 97,314.11	0.25	\$ 79,658.83
Roseville	\$ 95,218.00	0.35	\$ 118,698.73	0.52	\$ 129,052.04
Maplewood	\$ 107,560.00	0.27	\$ 111,052.98	0.44	\$ 123,875.23
Population over 120,000					
Saint Paul	\$ 804,462.00	0.44	\$ 828,343.83	0.46	\$ 821,669.23
SCORE Totals	\$ 1,425,295.00		\$ 1,775,814.62		\$ 1,767,913.99

Q&A



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**Download your CDC EJI
Explorer data and report**