

For Immediate Release

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Elected Officials, National Experts to Speak at Forum on Combating Financial Insecurity in the Twin Cities

New Data Reveals that Communities of Color are Disproportionately Affected by the Downturn

What: A forum exploring strategies for increasing financial security and opportunity in the Twin Cities and statewide.

Speakers will include Mayor Chris Coleman, State Rep. Morrie Lanning, St. Paul City Council Member Melvin Carter, Minneapolis City Council Member John Quincy, Commerce Commissioner Michael Rothman, and other state officials and national experts.

When: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Where: Northwest Area Foundation
60 Plato Blvd East, Suite 400,
St. Paul, MN ([click here](#) for directions)

Washington, D.C. — The Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) will release its Asset & Opportunity profiles for Minnesota and St. Paul, and facilitate a local conversation about wealth, poverty and opportunity in the Twin Cities and statewide, at an Oct. 18 forum featuring state and local elected officials and national experts.

The profiles present new data compiled by CFED revealing sharp disparities along racial lines in the Twin Cities in overall income, homeownership rates and savings during this economic downturn. Participants will hear from elected officials about opportunities to improve financial stability in the Twin Cities and from a panel of experts about promising strategies that are currently being implemented.

The Assets & Opportunity profiles were created to fuel a local conversation about income and asset poverty in Minneapolis and St. Paul. CFED has been working with cities across the country to expand access to mainstream banking, financial education and income and asset-building opportunities, as well as help families protect the assets they have so they can become more financially stable. The organization is assisting Twin City officials to help bring about similar changes in the metropolitan area and throughout the state.

In addition to CFED, the forum is being hosted in partnership with Greater Twin Cities United Way and the Legal Services Advocacy Project. It is made possible with support from the Northwest Area Foundation.

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[CFED](#) expands economic opportunity by helping Americans start and grow businesses, go to college, own a home and save for their children's and own economic futures. We identify promising ideas, test and refine them in communities to find out what works, craft policies and products to help good ideas reach scale, and develop partnerships to promote lasting change. We bring together community practice, public policy and private markets in new and effective ways to achieve greater economic impact. Established in 1979 as the Corporation for Enterprise Development, CFED works nationally and internationally through its offices in Washington, DC; Durham, North Carolina; and San Francisco, California.

[Greater Twin Cities United Way](#) addresses our community's most critical issues by focusing on three key areas: Basic Needs, Education and Health. We attack poverty on multiple, interconnected fronts to achieve lasting change – through 10 measurable goals – by collaborating with business, government and nonprofit organizations to create solutions and carry out our call to action to LIVE UNITED by encouraging everyone to Give. Advocate. Volunteer. United Way serves people living in or near poverty in nine counties: Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott and western Washington. Join the movement. LIVE UNITED.

[Legal Services Advocacy Project](#) (LSAP) is a statewide division of Mid-Minnesota Legal Services. LSAP advocates on behalf of low-income Minnesotans, including elders and persons with disabilities, in legislative and administrative forums on issues affecting health, home, income and asset security.