Building Community Resilience (BCR) is a public-private initiative managed by the US Attorney’s Office for Minnesota. The BCR program is part of a wider Department of Justice (DOJ) goal of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE). Supporters of BCR claim the program will alleviate systematic disparities that the Somali-American community face, in terms of social service availability, education, income, housing opportunities, and access to employment. BCR addresses these issues in part through grants such as the Somali Youth Development Fund, where the DOJ along with private foundations provide grant money, and Youth Prise administers it to local nonprofits. While any funding is helpful, the Somali-Minnesotan community deserves the very same level of economic opportunity as the rest of Minnesota, without having to justify community funding as a counter-terrorism approach!

$400,000? Somali Youth Development Fund

- Africa Reconciliation & Development Organization ($25k)
- Confederation of Somali Community in MN ($100k)
- Shanta Link ($35k)
- Somali American Parent Association ($85k)
- Ummah Project ($30k)
- West Bank Athletic Club ($25k)

We don’t oppose the motives of the people working for the various nonprofits who have been granted money through BCR. Despite being funded by the DOJ, this money is not intended to be used for community surveillance purposes. The BCR program nonetheless legitimates related programs (such as CVE) which do rely on community surveillance, entrapment, and targeting of people based on race and religion. Accepting BCR grant money results in the normalization of funding from the Dept. of Justice, and in other cases Homeland Security — this only perpetuates Islamophobia!

https://youthprise.org/somali-youth-development/

facebook.com/MinnesotansAgainstIslamophobia
@NixIslamophobia