

## **WELCOMING COMMUNITIES**

### **PURPOSE & PROJECT SUMMARY**

The Northwest Minnesota Foundation seeks to support non-profit, governmental, and public organizations addressing equity-focused welcoming and inclusion initiatives in our region.

We are specifically looking for projects contributing to more Welcoming Communities. Efforts should be intentionally focused on improving the inclusion of newcomers and/or underrepresented community members. Initiatives should result in a stronger culture and policy environment where all residents feel empowered to work with each other in strengthening the social, civic, and economic fabric.

Examples of such efforts could include:

- a. Building connections and trust between residents (facilitating opportunities and spaces for immigrant and non-immigrant residents to have constructive interactions, develop relationships, and deepen their understanding of one another)
- b. Furthering cooperation among institutions including local government, businesses, faith communities, and nonprofits to identify and address newcomer and underrepresented needs, including gaps in services and access to services, particularly in the areas of housing, health, transportation, financial services, and the justice system.

### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS / GEOGRAPHY**

501c3 nonprofits, public agencies, and tribal organizations located within the Northwest Minnesota Foundation service area that includes Red Lake Nation, White Earth Nation, and 12 counties (Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau).

### **TIMELINE**

Opens February 7, 2024. Awards will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis while funds are available.

### **ELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

Expenses may include, but are not limited to, cultural diversity education and awareness initiatives, trainings, community events, collaborative work, technical assistance, travel, or other efforts as defined by the applicant that advance welcoming communities, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

## **INELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

Grants cannot fund political activities, religious activities, discriminatory practices, past operating debts, legal fees, or similar activities. This fund will not consider applications for fundraising planning, feasibility studies, membership or subscription dues, computer license fees, financial audits, building construction, or capital campaigns.

## **PROJECT REQUIREMENTS**

- Share progress reports, media coverage, social media campaigns, and other relevant updates with NMF.
- Share impact stories related to the project.
- Participate in peer-to-peer learning opportunities.

## **HOW TO APPLY:**

- Step 1: Complete the Intent to Apply pre-screening online form using the link provided here: <https://form.jotform.com/NMF1986/welcoming-communities-rfp>
- Step 2: The Intent to Apply pre-screening form will be reviewed by NMF staff for eligibility and program fit. At that time NMF may request a follow-up call, site visit, or offer guidance on the project, including budget.
- Step 3: For proposals that meet the program goals, NMF will send out e-mails with invitations and materials to submit full applications within 30 days of the initial preproposal submission.
- Step 4: Applications can be submitted via the NMF Web Portal no later than 90 days after receiving an invitation to apply for funding (Step 3).
- Step 5: Full applications will be reviewed and approved or denied based on program fit, available funding and may require board approval. A final determination should take no longer than 60 days from when the full application was received.

## **CONTACT**

If you have any questions about the review process or need assistance, please e-mail or call Kristin Anderson, Program Officer, at [kristina@nwmf.org](mailto:kristina@nwmf.org), 218-558-5331.