

OTTO BREMER TRUST COMMUNITY RESPONSIVE FUND

PURPOSE

Otto Bremer Trust (OBT) believes intermediaries rooted in communities are more knowledgeable and better able to identify and invest in approaches that are relevant, timely, and effective. OBT has chosen to partner with the six Minnesota Initiative Foundations (MIFs) including Northwest Minnesota Foundation (NMF) as regional intermediaries to help them administer and distribute grant funds to support organizations responding to immediate high-priority challenges in their communities.

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, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau).

INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS / GEOGRAPHY

Fiscally sponsored organizations, regranteeing entities, and historical preservation and interpretive centers. Projects outside of Minnesota will not be considered.

PROJECT SUMMARY

This grant opportunity supports organizations and programs that provide direct service to address immediate and relevant needs within their communities. Grant recipients will be selected by intermediary partners with final approval by trustees of the Otto Bremer Trust. OBT has chosen four (4) instrument funding areas they are prioritizing to receive grant funding.

Organizations should demonstrate in their application that their programs, services, and/or initiatives align with at least one of the following criteria:

- **Basic Needs**
 - This category includes nonprofits that focus on short-term assistance through food shelves and outreach programs, cash or vouchers, and auto repair, along with refugee resettlement efforts, transitional housing programs, and homeless shelters.
- **Community Asset Building**
 - This category covers a range of investments, including small business development, diversity initiatives, community planning, long-term housing programs, transportation, literacy, and adult education, all which are focused on building strong community assets.
- **Health and Wellbeing**
 - A range of care, including medical, dental, vision services, and wellness programs for families and the elderly, particularly supporting services in underserved and rural communities.
 - Other examples include early education and parenting programs, physical and mental health services, youth support and enrichment, post-secondary education, and job skills.
- **Restorative and Responsive**
 - Organizations working to bring stability to individuals and families facing disruptive forces in life. Grants include those that address domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and recovery, disaster response, economic stabilization, and helping people navigate the judicial and legal system/

TIMELINE

- April 21st – Applications due to NMF
- April 22nd -May 3rd – NMF will review and rank applications
- May 3rd – Agencies selected for funding will be notified of next steps.
- June 30th – Final approval received from Otto Bremer Trust
- July 31st – Grant contracts signed; awards made to grantees.

TOTAL FUNDING

Total funding for NMF to administer is \$350,000.

Maximum grant awards are up to \$75,000.

- The average expected grant is estimated at \$15,000

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Expenses may include, but are not limited to, staff and board training, purchasing professional licenses or certificates, travel, community events, technical assistance, organizational or operational audits, culture diversity education and awareness initiatives, or other efforts as defined by the applicant that advances equity and inclusion initiatives.

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Grants cannot fund political activities or work to influence public policy, religious activities, discriminatory practices, past operating debts, legal fees, or similar activities. This fund will not consider applications for fundraising planning, animal welfare or animal-based therapy, core k-12 curriculum and staff, sporting events, feasibility studies, and medical research.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

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

HOW TO APPLY:

- Step 1: When you are ready to complete the application, use this link: <https://form.jotform.com/NMF1986/otto-bremer-trust-rfp>
- Step 2: Your application 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: NMF will send our recommendation for funding to the Otto Bremer Trust board for final approval in June. Upon approval, funding will be released to grantees. The funding will come from the Initiative Foundation, which is the lead grantee with Otto Bremer Trust supporting the Community Responsive Fund work.

CONTACT

If you have any questions about the review process or need assistance, please e-mail or call Chloe Keprios, Program Specialist, at chloek@nwmf.org or 218-759-2057.

Northwest Minnesota Foundation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.