

RACIAL EQUITY ACCOUNTABILITY GRANTS

PURPOSE

In 2022, the Northwest Continuum of Care embarked on a project called the Racial Equity Accountability Project (REAP). Members of the REAP team serve as the decision-making body for the Northwest Continuum of Care's (NWCoC) board of directors. Membership of the REAP team is primarily comprised of individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, or persons of color, as well as individuals that have experienced homelessness or housing insecurity in Northwest Minnesota's regional homeless response system.

The purpose of this grant is to providing funding in the community to support those working to improve outcomes for individuals who have experienced homelessness.

These goals include:

- **Increasing cultural competency of NWCoC staff:**
 - Grant expenses can cover costs associated with providing and organizing training and professional development for staff working with those living through homelessness
- **Developing stronger relations between those living through homelessness and supportive housing staff**
 - This can be accomplished by providing more culturally relevant events and opportunities for the community to express their cultural identify and provide healing
 - Examples include sweat lodges, traditional ceremonies, drum circles, talking circles, community meals, and support groups
 - Events related to specific cultural and racial identifies
- **Improving outcomes for individuals living through homelessness by increasing stabilization:**
 - Providing job training and acquisition opportunities for individuals leaving homelessness
 - Covering costs needed to maintain stable housing and employment
 - Clothing stipends, furniture stipends, food stipends, hotel vouchers, utility payments, vital document fees, vehicle insurance fees, gas vouchers, or any other services that would improve stable housing outcomes
 - Covering grant expenses related to educational development, business development, or any other form of professional development/entrepreneurship:
 - Professional development training/certifications, scholarship and loan application costs, business development, professional development for individuals living through homelessness, certifications needed to maintain or achieve employment, etc.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS / GEOGRAPHY

501c3 nonprofits, public agencies, and tribal organizations located within the Northwest Continuum of Care's service area that includes the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Red Lake Nation, White Earth Nation, and 12 counties (Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomon, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake Falls, and Roseau).

Eligible applicants include organizations in the non-profit, public, or private sector. Eligible applicants can also include individuals that have lived through homelessness and housing insecurity.

PROJECT SUMMARY

This grant opportunity supports the development and advancement of locally driven diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in Northwest Minnesota that will improve outcomes for individuals living through homelessness. Grant proposals should demonstrate the local situation or need, identify who is involved in the initiative, and define the greater goals of the effort.

TIMELINE

Applications will be accepted until April 30th, 2024

Grant performance period will end by June 30th, 2025

Total available funding is approximately \$30,000.

Maximum grant award is \$7,500

- The average expected grant is estimated to be between \$2,000 and \$7,500

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Expenses may include, but are not limited to: professional development, job training and acquisition expenses for individuals living through homelessness, staff and board training, purchasing professional licenses or certificates, travel, community/cultural events, technical assistance, organizational or operational audits, culture diversity education and awareness initiatives, or other efforts that increase stable outcomes for individuals that have lived through homelessness.

Examples of potential projects:

- Job training program for individuals living through homelessness:
 - Expenses could cover clothing stipends, gas vouchers, training costs, or any other costs associated with job acquisition
- Professional development for nonprofit agencies working to increase cultural competency
 - Grant expenses could cover costs associated with increasing an agency's internal capacity needed to develop staff training programs

- Expenses could include costs associated with hiring professionals to provide training and professional development opportunities with a focus on racial justice and cultural competency
- Hosting various culturally relevant events and opportunities for individuals living through homelessness
 - Expenses could cover costs associated with hosting community talking circles, traditional ceremonies/events, or other culturally relevant community events
- Any other creative projects that improve outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness

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

A final summary report will be required upon completion of grant.

HOW TO APPLY:

- **Step 1:** Those wishing to apply will need to be approved to access our NMF Grants Web Portal.

Please send an email to frontdesk@nwmf.org with the subject line: **REAP Application**

Include in the following details in the body of your email:

- First name
 - Last name
 - Organization name
 - Email address (you will use this as your login to the Web Portal)
 - Phone number
- **Step 2:** For proposals that register to apply, NMF will send out e-mails with invitations and materials to submit full applications.
- **Step 3:** Applications must be submitted via the NMF Web Portal no later than April 30th, 2024.
- **Step 4:** 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 Cory Boushee, Director of Programs, coryb@nwmf.org, 218-759-2057

Northwest Minnesota Foundation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.