

## **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 Racial Equity Accountability Team will serve as the decision-making body for the Northwest Continuum of Care's (NWCoC) board of directors. Membership of the Racial Equity Accountability Team is primarily comprised of individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, or persons of color, as well as individuals who have experienced homelessness or housing insecurity in Northwest Minnesota's regional homeless response system.

The purpose of this grant is to provide grants out to the community 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 identity, and provide healing
  - Examples include sweat lodges, traditional ceremonies, drum circles, talking circles, community meals, support groups
  - Events related to specific cultural and racial identities
- **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, the Red Lake Nation, the White Earth Nation, and 12 counties (Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake Falls, and Roseau).

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

This grant opportunity supports the development and advancement of 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 June 4th, 2025

Grant performance period will end by June 30th, 2026

Total available funding is approximately \$25,000.

Maximum grant awards are \$7,500

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

## **ELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

Eligible applicants include organizations in the nonprofit, public, or private sector. Eligible applicants can also include individuals who have lived through homelessness and housing insecurity.

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 the grant.
- 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: REGISTER OR LOGIN TO THE NMF GRANTS WEB PORTAL**

Access the NMF Web Portal registration and login page: [NMF Grants Web Portal - Sign In](#)

Create a Username and Password and store this info. You will need it each time you log in or out and if you apply for other NMF grants in the future. New registrations have to be manually approved by NMF staff and can take 1-2 business days. You will be notified via email when you have been approved.

#### **STEP 2: FILL OUT AND SUBMIT YOUR GRANT APPLICATION**

Once logged in, you will be taken to the “Welcome Grant Applicant” page. Hover over the “Grant Applicant” tab, then click on “Available Grants” and select the grant you are applying for: **REAP 2025**

Fill out all questions and required fields under each tab. You will receive auto-confirmation to your email address when you submit your application.

### **WEB PORTAL NOTES & TIPS:**

- You must use **Google Chrome** as your internet browser on a laptop or desktop computer. Accessing the portal will not work on smartphones and tablets.
- “Save” your work as you go. You’ll be able to log in and out of the portal and work on your application when you have time; please make sure you are hitting “Save” periodically.
- Web Portal auto-correspondences come from [frontdesk@nwmf.org](mailto:frontdesk@nwmf.org). Please add this email to your contact list and check your “Junk Mail” folder for emails as they may be sent there due to your email filters.
- Use only PDFs for any files you are asked to upload as supporting documents to your application

*You can send an email to [grants@nwmf.org](mailto:grants@nwmf.org) or call 218-558-5326 if it has been more than 48 hours and you have not received notification of your registration approval, or if you experience any technical difficulties.*

## **CONTACT**

If you have any questions about the review process or need assistance, please e-mail or call Barbara Johnson, Program Officer, at [barbaraj@nwmf.org](mailto:barbaraj@nwmf.org) or 218-230-4119.