



Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Otto Bremer Trust Community Responsive Grant Guidelines and Procedures Effective March 2024

As a trusted partner to the Otto Bremer Trust (OBT), Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) will award grants to organizations from the Otto Bremer Trust Community Responsive fund. This one-year capacity building program will support organizations that are directly responding to immediate challenges in their communities.

Program Requirements and Criteria

- Existing organizations and/or programs that address relevant community priorities and align with the following areas: Community Asset Building or Health and Wellbeing.
- Existing programs that provide direct service to address immediate needs within their communities.
 - Capacity for direct services to support programs or activities that work directly with individuals, families, groups, or organizations. This work improves the lives of service recipients and, by extension, the health of communities or populations. Direct services include organizations that provide technical assistance and capacity building, but not those that provide research or advocacy.
- IRS determined 501(c)3 organizations, Unit of Government, Public Agency. No fiscal sponsorships.
- Grant amounts will be between \$10,000- \$50,000 per organization.
- Beneficiaries of grantees must reside within SMIF’s 20-county region or Native nation (Prairie Island Indian Community):

Blue Earth	Fillmore	Le Sueur	Olmsted	Wabasha
Brown	Freeborn	Martin	Rice	Waseca
Dodge	Goodhue	Mower	Sibley	Watonwan
Faribault	Houston	Nicollet	Steele	Winona

Funding Priorities

Community Asset Building

The funding priority for Community Asset Building includes a variety of investments, all with a central focus on strengthening community assets, including:

- Small business development
- Diversity initiatives
- Community planning





Health and Wellbeing

The Health and Wellbeing funding priority seeks to help increase the well-being of adults and youth, and supports work including:

- Early education and parenting programs
- Physical and mental health services for children & their families
- Youth support and enrichment for young children

Ineligible projects:

- Work to influence public policy
- One-time, special projects, or capital requests
- Regranting
- New programming
- Annual fundraisers and benefit events (e.g., we do not offer sponsorships)
- Debt reduction
- Endowments other than for the development of community foundations
- Animal welfare, Animal-based therapy programs
- Primary medical research
- Sports teams and events
- Core K-12 academic curriculum and staff
- One-time experiences, such as camps, trips, conferences, and events
- Religious programs for the purpose of religious education or proselytization
- Historical preservation and interpretive centers
- Municipal infrastructure projects
- Programs principally focused on the arts
- Programs focused on environmental appreciation, enhancement, or preservation

Process

- For grant award consideration, submit a completed application by April 17, 2024, through our online grant application system.
- Applicants will be notified of award decisions no later than July 2024.
- A Year-End Project Completion Report with information on outcomes and impacts achieved must be provided to SMIF no later than August 1, 2025.

For further information or questions regarding the application, contact Rae Jean Hansen, Vice President Early Childhood, through email only at raejeanh@smifoundation.org.

SMIF is a member of the Minnesota Council of Foundations and adheres to the Council of Foundation's Statement of Principles and Practices. SMIF's annual report is available online at www.smifoundation.org.

