

Spring 2023 Grant Eligibility & Priorities

Basic Eligibility

501(c)3 organizations, public entities and organizations using fiscal sponsors may apply for support from F. R. Bigelow Foundation if they meet the following eligibility criteria:

- **General operating support**
 - o To be eligible for general operating support, organizations must serve at least 50% or more East Metro (Dakota, Washington and Ramsey County) residents.
- **Program support**
 - o For projects or programs serving 50% or more East Metro residents. Any organization is eligible for this type of grant, regardless of overall geographic focus (e.g., an organization can do 75% of its work in Hennepin County or elsewhere but would be eligible to apply for a project serving mostly Dakota, Washington or Ramsey County residents).
- **Capital support**
 - o Capital projects must be located in the East Metro with 50% or more of services from that facility benefiting East Metro residents.
- **Requests currently ineligible for support include:**
 - o Sectarian religious programs or organizations
 - o Grants to individuals
 - o Medical research

Focus Areas

F. R. Bigelow Foundation has six primary interest areas for its grantmaking.

Arts & Culture

The Foundation shares Grantmakers in the Arts' view that "[a]ll peoples, their cultures, and their art contribute to the meaning and understanding of our humanity and should be honored and celebrated."

Priority will be given to arts and culture organizations that seek to amplify narratives and voices across BIPOC communities and other communities experiencing marginalization (e.g., people with disabilities, low-income communities, members of the LGBTQ+ community, formerly incarcerated people, etc.). Please note that the Foundation has not historically supported specific productions, performances, exhibits, artist fees, etc. through this application-based process.

Community & Economic Development

The Foundation seeks to invest and partner in solutions informed and formed by the people facing the highest barriers to wealth creation, economic security and family-sustaining career pathways. Specific priorities for wealth creation include strengthening the entrepreneur ecosystem and increasing local ownership of businesses and homes. Regarding economic security, the Foundation recognizes the importance of anchor institutions embedded at the neighborhood level. For workforce development, we will prioritize employment pathways that meet the needs of individuals and employers alike.

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Education & Youth Development

The Foundation recognizes how important it is for students and young people to feel cared for, protected, valued and seen. This is complex and urgent work, and the Foundation will prioritize organizations that blend academic, social and emotional supports for young people most impacted by educational inequity.

The Foundation will also prioritize support to organizations working to build a robust early childhood system that gives children and families access to high-quality care and education programs.

Health

The Foundation continues to prioritize health organizations that focus on health equity and increasing access to affordable, culturally relevant health services. The Foundation hopes to better align its health grants to be inclusive of programs and organizations that serve low-income families and provide free or affordable, culturally relevant services and holistic care.

Given the increase in severity, cost of and demand for mental health services, urgent care and/or crisis prevention, access to reproductive health care, trauma-informed health care, and free or reduced services for uninsured or underinsured communities, the Foundation will prioritize these programs and organizations to continue to serve our most vulnerable and marginalized communities.

Housing

The Foundation embraces the vision for [housing justice](#) articulated by the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness. The Foundation will prioritize work that ensures the most marginalized people experiencing housing instability and homelessness are able to access housing that is “safe, decent, affordable,” and “free of prejudice” while also receiving the additional supports and services they need.

Human Services

The Foundation will prioritize grants that assist residents in navigating life transitions, find safety and stability, and promote independence. In addition to supporting work that centers the voices of the people most impacted by an organization’s work, special priority will be given to disability support services, child welfare support services, family and parent support services, food relief and assistance, older adult services, immigration and legal services, and re-entry supports for formerly incarcerated people.

Priorities

While an organization may be eligible to apply, attention and preference will be given to organizations:

- prioritizing those experiencing the most marginalization, especially due to race, ethnicity, gender identity or sexual orientation, age, ability, immigration status, etc.
- whose work is informed, formed and led by the people most impacted by it.
- seeking multi-year grants, which will prioritize sustaining the work supported by the Foundation.

In order to set clearer expectations about the scope and scale of our grantmaking, we are sharing some data from our Fall 2022 grant round. We received 282 applications in the fall 2022 grant round and approved 134 grants. Grants ranged in size from \$10,000 to \$100,000 per year, with the largest grants going to capital requests. The average (mean) grant approved was \$28,173, and the median was \$30,000.

[View our grant guidelines](#)