

Request for Proposals



Otto Bremer Trust Community Responsive Fund

The Otto Bremer Trust is a private charitable trust based in St. Paul, Minnesota. Founded in 1944 by business and community leader Otto Bremer, it is committed to supporting an enhanced quality of life for residents of Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Since its founding, OBT has invested more than \$1 billion in its region's people, places, and opportunities.

Southwest Initiative Foundation has been selected by the Otto Bremer Trust (OBT) as a philanthropic intermediary to distribute funds through the Otto Bremer Trust Community Responsive Fund. SWIF will direct \$400,000 in grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$75,000 to support local organizations for operations, programming or capital projects.

Areas of Focus

Southwest Minnesota nonprofits may apply for funding from the OBT's Community Responsive Fund through SWIF. Qualified applicants focus on:

- **Literacy:** Organization and programs advancing literacy.
- **Adoption and foster care services:** Organizations and programs that support adoption and foster care.
- **Children's health:** Organizations and programs that provide health-related access and services for children.
- **Children's disability services.** Organizations and programs focused on supporting children with physical/cognitive disabilities.
- **Mental health:** Organizations and programs that support access to and delivery of mental health services, with preference given to work that addresses the needs of children aged 5-15.
- **Capital projects for hospitals and clinics:** Activities supporting the maintenance of hospitals, construction of facilities, and purchase of medical equipment.

Note that priorities have changed from 2024; applicants that don't fit within the current 2025 funding priorities will not be considered.

The grant application deadline is 5 p.m. on May 22, 2025



Application Process

- Applicants must complete a screening questionnaire at: <https://swifoundation.tfaforms.net/wf5Wwxl>
- You will receive an email confirming our receipt.
- If you meet the eligibility criteria, you will be invited to submit a full application.
- The grant application deadline is **5 p.m. on May 22, 2025**.
- If there are questions related to your application, a member of our grant team will contact you.
- You will be informed of the decision in August 2025.
- Southwest Initiative Foundation reserves the right to make modifications to the program.

Eligibility

- Must have 501(c)(3) status and active operations for five years.
- Government entities and public schools are not eligible.
- Non-public schools are eligible.
- Must have at least five years of operations.
- Must have had actual expenses of \$2 million or more in the last fiscal year.
- Must have physical operations and headquarters in one of the following: Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift or Yellow Medicine counties; or the Upper Sioux Community or Lower Sioux Indian Community.
- May not have an open OBT strategic grant. (This is a new grant directly through Otto Bremer Trust and does not include the 2024 Community Responsive Fund grants, or previous OBT grants).
- Only one grant application may be submitted per organization.

Grant guidelines

- Requests must be between \$10,000 and \$75,000 for operations, programming or capital projects.
- Grant requests may not exceed 10 percent of your organization's previous fiscal year's public philanthropic support.
- No more than 10 percent of grant funds may be used for administrative expenses.
- Funds may not be used for policy advocacy, sponsorships or annual events.
- No fiscal sponsorships.
- Projects must be completed within 12 months of the grant award date.
- A final report will be due following the grant period.