

Request for Proposals



Otto Bremer Trust Community Responsive Fund

The Otto Bremer Trust was founded in 1944. Since then, it has granted more than \$1 billion to help further Otto Bremer's mission in communities across Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF) has been selected by the Otto Bremer Trust (OBT) as a philanthropic partner to award funds through its new Community Responsive Fund. SWIF will work closely with OBT to award \$400,000 in grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$75,000 to support local organizations that directly respond to immediate challenges and opportunities in the community.

SWIF is serving as a local expert to ensure the Otto Bremer Trust is increasing the positive impact in the regions it serves by providing guidance on and awarding grants from OBT directly to the organizations in southwest Minnesota that are providing effective services and programs.

Areas of Focus

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

- **Basic Needs:** This funding priority supports organizations assisting displaced individuals or those encountering various challenges in their journey toward self-sufficiency. These grants include those that focus on short-term assistance.
- **Community Asset-building:** This priority includes a variety of investments—all with a central focus on strengthening community assets.
- **Health and Wellbeing:** This priority seeks to increase the health and wellbeing of youth and adults.
- **Restorative and Responsive Services:** This priority focuses on assisting organizations dedicated to restoring stability for individuals and families encountering disruptive forces.

Southwest Initiative Foundation welcomes inclusive partnerships. We know that we are better together! We actively seek grantees and partners who share our commitment to belonging by incorporating diversity into their missions, fostering diverse leadership within their organizations and ensuring the communities they serve are reflected in their work. SWIF's grantmaking reflects this commitment, promoting a southwest Minnesota where all people thrive.

[The grant application deadline is 5 p.m. on April 19, 2024.](#)



Application Process

- Applicants must complete the grant application at: <https://swifoundation.tfaforms.net/4762088>
- You will receive an email confirming our receipt of your application.
- The grant deadline is **5 p.m. on April 19, 2024**.
- If there are questions related to your application, a member of our grant team will contact you.
- You will be informed of the decision by July 10, 2024.
- Southwest Initiative Foundation reserves the right to make modifications to the program in response to community need and available resources.

Grant Guidelines

- All proposals must demonstrate a benefit within one or more of the following 18 counties in southwest Minnesota: Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift and Yellow Medicine; or the Upper Sioux Community or Lower Sioux Indian Community.
- Proposals must be submitted by an independent 501(c)(3) organization. No fiscal sponsorships will be considered.
- **Funding requests from \$10,000 to \$75,000 will be considered.** Additional funds may be awarded, dependent upon availability. This cannot comprise the majority of your annual funding.
- Organizations that are current Otto Bremer Trust grantees are eligible to apply.
- Grants are available for existing operation, program or project support to entities that provide direct service to address immediate needs within their communities (as outlined on previous page). The funding can support ongoing work.
- Projects must be completed within 12 months of the grant award date.
- Only one grant application may be submitted per organization.
- A final report may be due following the grant period.

Grant Exclusions

Ineligible organizations or activities include:

- Grants to individuals.
- Grants to fiscally sponsored organizations.
- Requests for projects outside of the Southwest Initiative Foundation service area.
- Requests from organizations based outside the Southwest Initiative Foundation service area.
- One-time, special project or capital requests (e.g., bricks-and-mortar initiatives/property acquisition).
- Work to influence public policy/advocacy for legislation.
- Annual fundraisers and benefit events (e.g., no sponsorships).
- Debt reduction.
- Endowments.
- Animal welfare and animal-based therapy programs.
- Primary medical research.
- Sporting teams and events.
- 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, including emergency response equipment, parks, and playgrounds.
- Programs principally focused on the arts, including books, theatrical productions, museums, film, video, and other media projects.
- Programs principally focused on environmental appreciation, enhancement, or preservation.