

2024 Grant Eligibility & Priorities

Eligibility

Each year, we consider where we can make the most impact as we listen to our nonprofit partners share their greatest needs and challenges. We recognize our partners are in the best position to determine internal priorities — and flexibility is essential. To better focus on the organizations in the strongest position to benefit our East Metro population, in 2024 we will be offering general operating support to organizations that primarily serve the East Metro and capital support to organizations with capital projects located in the East Metro AND primarily serving the East Metro. Program/project support will not be available in 2024. Our general focus areas remain unchanged.

Greater focus in our grantmaking aims to provide clearer guidelines, saving valuable time for organizations navigating the grant application process. We encourage anyone wanting to learn more to register for one of our upcoming [grant information sessions](#), which will provide more detailed information about 2024 eligibility and priorities.

Organizations eligible to apply to F. R. Bigelow Foundation include 501(c)3 organizations, public entities and organizations using fiscal sponsors if they meet the following eligibility criteria:

- **General operating support**
 - To be eligible for general operating support, organizations must primarily serve the East Metro area with 50% or more of all services provided by the entire organization benefiting East Metro (Washington, Dakota and Ramsey counties) residents.
- **Capital support**
 - To be eligible for capital support, capital projects must be located in the East Metro AND 50% or more of all services provided by the entire organization must benefit East Metro (Washington, Dakota and Ramsey counties) residents.
 - Grants are designed to support investment in buildings, facilities and equipment.
 - Foundation investments are typically limited to buildings owned by nonprofits or held by long-term lease agreement.
 - These grants are generally paid over multiple years.
- **Requests currently ineligible for support include:**
 - Capital projects located outside Dakota, Ramsey and Washington counties
 - Organizations not primarily serving residents of Dakota, Ramsey and Washington counties
 - Sectarian religious programs or organizations
 - Grants to individuals
 - Medical research
 - Program/project specific requests

Focus Areas

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

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Arts & Culture

Strengthening the arts & culture sector to serve all individuals and all communities across the East Metro region by supporting capacity building general operations and capital projects.

- 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.) through the arts.

Community & Economic Development

Building a strong and vital East Metro through community building, physical development and strengthening support for low-income individuals, families and underrepresented communities through workforce development and training.

- 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.

Education & Youth Development

Supporting under-served children, youth and young adults by investing in access to high-quality education and youth development both in and out of school from cradle to career.

- 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

Increasing health equity through quality, affordable, culturally relevant services, particularly for low-income, uninsured, under-insured and socially marginalized individuals.

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- 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

Improving access for low-income individuals and families to affordable quality housing, preventing and ending homelessness.

- 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

Investing in basic needs for individuals and families, helping them be safe, stable and independent.

- 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.