

Systems Change (Invite-Only) Grant Program Guidelines

Program Overview

F. R. Bigelow Foundation's Systems Change (Invite-Only) Grant Program supports efforts to help systems adapt, transform and/or be disrupted to achieve more equitable results. To do this, we support organizations, programs or initiatives in or serving the East Metro working to address root causes of issues impacting the East Metro.

Funding Priorities

F. R. Bigelow Foundation believes that our community should not only benefit from our work, but inform and form it as well. Creating solutions to today's issues requires a collaborative approach. Our work is also rooted in a commitment to racial equity.

The Foundation's Systems Change (Invite-Only) Grant Program seeks to address root causes of any issue impacting the East Metro, including, but not limited to, the five funding priorities of our Community Solutions Grant Program:

- Arts & Culture
- Community & Economic Development
- Health
- Human Services
- Youth & Education

This includes non-partisan activities such as advocacy, organizing, research, civic engagement, narrative change and/or storytelling, but does not include lobbying.

Eligibility

Grants can be made to 501(c)3 nonprofits, government entities, educational institutions or organizations with a fiscal sponsor. Organizations should have a demonstrated impact or potential for impact in the East Metro (Dakota, Ramsey and Washington counties).

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, age, ability or geography.
- Establishing a clear connection to the Informs, Forms, Benefits framework, which states that those experiencing barriers should not only benefit from the work we support, but inform, form, and lead it as well.

F. R. BIGELOW FOUNDATION

Grant Details

Grants will provide general operating support. Grant amounts and grant periods may vary.

In 2026, up to \$1,200,000 is available for this grant program, and we anticipate awarding approximately two to three grants.

Grant Requests Not Accepted

F. R. Bigelow Foundation will not consider grant requests for support of:

- 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

If your organization does not fit the funding criteria, we encourage you to explore other [Grant Opportunities](#), as well as [Resources Beyond the Grant](#) on the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation website. F.R. Bigelow Foundation is a partner foundation of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation.