



Minnesota Helps – North Minneapolis Recovery Fund

Grantmaking Process Update & Frequently Asked Questions

June 24, 2011

Grantmaking Process Update

We awarded four grants in May and early June totaling \$206,123 to support emergency relief, neighborhood cleanup, and home repairs. We then created a request for proposal process so nonprofits and public agencies delivering services to people affected by the tornado could apply for funds to help them continue their work. The RFP process will be ongoing - proposals can be submitted at any time and will be regularly reviewed by a committee of local funders with requests funded on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Here are the results of the first grant round:

- We funded [13 organizations](#) for a combined \$430,629 to help tornado victims on the Northside. You can learn more about the impact they're making [here](#).
- We received a number of requests that have not been funded, but are still under consideration. We are working directly with those applicant agencies to better understand their programs and the needs they're serving.

Any applicant who has been denied funding is welcome to reapply. If an applicant has questions about their denial, they are encouraged to call the Foundation. We expect that programs doing effective work serving tornado victims on the Northside would be welcomed by North Minneapolis organizations to collaborate.

What factors are considered during the grantmaking process?

When reviewing applications, the grantmaking committee will consider the following:

- Need - Is this effort addressing a critical need?
- Scope of impact - How many people will be served?
- Efficiency of service delivery - Is this a cost-effective model?
- Degree of collaboration - Is this group working in concert with other agencies?
- Organizational capacity - Does this group have the resources and expertise to perform the services described?

What's next for the North Minneapolis Recovery Fund?

To date, \$1.3 million has been raised and the first round of grant applications requested more than \$2 million in support. While every applicant is doing important work, helping tornado victims in the immediate aftermath and continuing to support them now, we have had to make hard choices and some great programs were not funded due to limited resources.

The needs are far greater than the funds available, and we want to be sure the funds do the most good possible. We also need to ensure the community's contributions will not leave major needs unmet. That is the risk of distributing all of the dollars within the first several weeks without a plan in place to identify and address the longer term needs of the individuals, families, businesses, and neighborhoods affected by the tornado.

Based on our joint experience with disaster relief, The Minneapolis Foundation and Greater Twin Cities United Way are aware that variety of needs typically arise several weeks after the disaster that were unanticipated in the immediate aftermath. We will continue to distribute funding to the relief and recovery efforts with grants awarded on an ongoing basis, while seeking additional funds to allow us to meet more emerging and long-term needs.

Why invest in immediate, interim, and long-term needs?

We have an obligation to those who donate –both to give the assistance out very quickly and to also ensure the funds are used effectively. We are working closely with groups “on the ground” and other funders and public entities to evaluate needs and determine where the public’s contributions can do the greatest amount of good.

What is the process and who qualifies for funds?

The Minnesota Helps - North Minneapolis Recovery Fund will support the immediate and long-term needs of the individuals and families in north Minneapolis impacted by the tornado. Funds will be distributed to nonprofits that apply through an application process. The nonprofits are then able to cover eligible expenses and provide services to individuals, families, and small businesses affected by the tornado.

Applicants must be an **IRS 501(c)(3)** nonprofit, a public agency/unit of government, or have a fiscal agent to administer the grant.

When is the grant application deadline?

The first round of grants were distributed June 23rd following the initial deadline of June 15th. Request for Proposals (RFPs) - which are now being accepted by The Minneapolis Foundation on a rolling basis – can be submitted by email or fax. RFPs will be reviewed on a weekly basis.

What do we fund?

Requests for funding are specifically available to support recovery efforts which benefit north Minneapolis residents affected by the May 22, 2011 tornado. Requests must support at least one of following: basic needs, children/youth, employment/job training, assistance for small businesses, transportation, housing, behavior/mental health needs, and case management.

We do not fund the following activities:

- Sponsorships
- Requests for matching grants
- Events
- Fundraising events, dinners, and raffles
- Conferences, seminars, and workshops

How long will funds be available?

Grants will be distributed until the funds are no longer available. We know that recovery is a process that will take a long time, as well as commitment and strategic investments. Disasters like this take a minimum 3-5 years to recover from and we will continue to leverage existing funds raised and encourage others to contribute to the Minnesota Helps - North Minneapolis Recovery Fund throughout the end of the year.

If you are currently a Minneapolis Foundation or Greater Twin Cities United Way grantee, are you eligible to apply for funding?

Yes, current grantees are eligible to apply; however, funding requests must be specifically related to support recovery efforts that benefit North Minneapolis residents affected by the tornado.

How long is the grant period?

The grant period is based on the work and activities you propose to address and how long it will take to accomplish. We do expect short term requests, six months or less, and those requests that may represent up to 12 months of activities. We will not be making multi-year commitments due to the limited amount of funds available.

What is the average grant size?

Most grants will range from \$5,000 - \$35,000. A limited number of larger grants may be awarded.

What type of reporting is required for this grant?

A simple reporting form will be provided to grantees with basic questions that are similar to the grant application. Every grantee will be required to submit a final report. Reporting will help us report back to the community on the progress of the fund and hopefully encourage donors to continue support for the Fund. Failure to report will make grantees ineligible for future funding from the Minnesota Helps Fund, The Minneapolis Foundation and Greater Twin Cities United Way.

Who is making decisions on the grant applications?

Representatives from foundations and business partners who have contributed actual dollars to the Minnesota Helps Fund will review and make decisions on all grant applications. A complete review of grants is made by a team that is familiar with the grantmaking process and all final decisions are agreed upon.

When will the rolling grant deadline end?

When funds are no longer available. We anticipate making grants throughout the summer and into the fall of 2011.

Why are we encouraging collaboration?

In the wake of this disaster, a number of groups have already developed collaborative efforts to support the needs of individuals and families impacted by the tornado. Collaboration between existing nonprofits, faith-

based organizations and public entities is encouraged. We hope to leverage our dollars and maximize outcomes through existing and developing collaborations that are coordinating their efforts and current resources to best serve residents in North Minneapolis.

Can funds be used for expenses already incurred during the first days of recover efforts?

Yes, funds can be used for expenses already incurred after the tornado. However, we expect these requests will be smaller sized grants. Applicants must demonstrate how they incurred these expenses and provide documentation on how their funds were used.

How soon will applicants be notified?

Review of applications and grant awards notification will continue bi-weekly. Requests needing further review may be deferred until adequate information is available to determine the final recommendation.

Will all applications receive some level of funding?

No. This is still a competitive grantmaking process. The committee will review requests and make recommendations on those requests that align with the grantmaking guidelines and demonstrate the best value for investment of funds.

Why is this Fund at The Minneapolis Foundation?

The Minneapolis Foundation has a long standing relationship with north Minneapolis neighborhoods as a funding and investment partner. Because of this relationship and our role as a community foundation, we stand ready to help our fellow community members during this difficult time.

The Minneapolis Foundation also has demonstrated its expertise and commitment to assist in other disaster relief efforts. After the I-35W Bridge collapsed in 2007, the Foundation set up a fund to aid survivors of the bridge collapse, as well as those who lost loved ones in the disaster. For more information, contact The Minneapolis Foundation for the community report on this fund.

How are we different from other tornado response efforts?

The Salvation Army and Red Cross are very well known and designed for crisis response. They have the infrastructure and processes in place to get immediate relief to people in the wake of a disaster, as well as the ability to respond to individual needs.

In addition to ensuring that immediate needs are met through initial grants, we're also committed to supporting interim and long-term recovery needed to lift this vital part of our community from this disaster, and this type of investment requires a more thorough grantmaking process.

How will the Foundation report back to the community, donors, and supporters on activities?

Regular updates on the progress of the fund are available online at www.MinnesotaHelps.org.

What is the application process?

Complete the application and attachments and mail, fax or email to:

Minnesota Helps – North Minneapolis Recovery Fund™
The Minneapolis Foundation
800 IDS Center
80 South Eighth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Phone: (612) 672-3878
Email: RFP@mplsfoundation.org
Fax: (612) 672-3846 | Attention: Paul Verrette

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