

## 2025 ADVANCING ECONOMIC MOBILITY – CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS

The Minneapolis Foundation announces a call for proposals from organizations that advance economic mobility. This grant round reflects updates we have made to our Racial and Economic Justice grant program in response to feedback about the need for more flexible resources to support nonprofit organizations working in this space. Our 2025 grants will focus on capacity building and operating support as these organizations adjust to changes in the funding and policy landscape.

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### Guidelines and Application Preview

*This document is intended to help prospective applicants prepare to apply for an Advancing Economic Mobility – Capacity Building grant from the Minneapolis Foundation. It offers a preview of what you will see in our online portal when this grant round opens. Please note that the wording and placement of some prompts and questions may be slightly different in the online application. All applications must be submitted through our online portal.*

### ELIGIBILITY AND PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING

Funding will be awarded to organizations working to build a more sustainable economic landscape in which communities can thrive, and individuals have greater economic mobility.

Eligible applicants include:

**Small- to Medium-Sized Nonprofits** with budgets of up to approximately \$3 million and a **track record of demonstrated success** in:

- Advancing structural and systems change through civic participation, community organizing, and policy advocacy.
- Investing in economic systems and practices that support economic mobility, close wealth gaps, and stabilize communities.

**Nonprofit Intermediaries** with larger budgets that have experience providing capacity-building services to small- to medium-sized nonprofits that align with the description above.

Priority will be given to organizations **based in and serving** Minneapolis communities and the **inner-ring suburbs** of Hennepin County (Brooklyn Center, Edina, Golden Valley, Richfield, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park).

Priority will also be given to organizations that foster economic mobility by providing support to small businesses in key commercial corridors.

### BACKGROUND

The Minneapolis Foundation's staff-directed grantmaking focuses on advancing equity in three core areas:

Economic mobility, education, and the environment. Our work is guided by our [Strategic Framework](#), which calls on us to support those most affected by issues and to invest in community-led solutions.

This grant round is the latest iteration of our Racial and Economic Justice grant program, which funds grant partners working on issues related to economic mobility. It was influenced by the voices of many key stakeholders as well as investments we have made over the past four years to support economic mobility by strengthening small businesses investing in key commercial corridors. We aim to support those most impacted by economic issues and to invest in community-led solutions.

## WHAT WE WILL FUND

We will fund activities that support scenario and transitional planning that build capacity and strengthen nonprofit organizational structures. These include, but are not limited to:

**Financial Assessment and Management** to properly assess, manage, and identify private, institutional, state, and federal funding sources.

- Diversifying and rightsizing funding and revenue sources
- Upgrading financial systems to track and report financials to ensure long-term financial health

**Staff and Administrative Capacity** to manage and improve programs that have experienced increased demands.

- Staffing to meet increased demand
- Evaluation of program efficacy

**Technology Resources** to help nonprofit organizations update and evolve the systems they use to meet community needs.

- Database system updates to efficiently capture and organize data on service delivery and outcomes
- Cybersecurity updates to accurately track and protect data

**Organization Planning** to help nonprofit leaders and their boards reflect and seek advice to increase organizational sustainability.

- Strategic planning to guide organizational development and services
- Leadership transition planning, including succession or collaborative leadership modeling
- Exploration of organizational mergers and consolidations
- Scenario planning and evaluation to identify long-term risks and opportunities
- Mission re-alignment to define mission, vision, and goals

**Community and Stakeholder Engagement** to build stronger connections with the community, supporters, and donors for increased visibility and impact.

- Development of strategic partnerships to amplify impact and responsiveness
- Advocacy and community organizing to foster civic participation
- Increased communications, information sharing, and engagement with community and stakeholders

**Legal Resources** to ensure nonprofits can operate while minimizing legal risks and maximizing their ability to serve communities.

- Implementation of risk management strategies
- Creation and review of contracts, mergers, acquisitions, and dissolutions
- Work to ensure compliance with changing state and federal regulations

## **FUNDS AVAILABLE TO GRANT**

We have approximately \$3 million available to grant, with awards expected to range between \$50,000 and \$75,000. Organizations may allocate up to 25% of the total grant amount for overhead costs. These overhead costs are intended to cover indirect expenses that support the overall operation of your organization but are not directly tied to the execution of the capacity building project.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE**

All applications must be submitted through our online portal. We will begin accepting applications on March 12, 2025. The deadline to submit your application is **1 p.m. on April 15, 2025**. Late applications will not be accepted. Please do not submit multiple applications; only one application per organization will be reviewed.

We encourage you to log in to our application portal well before the deadline to ensure you have access to it and that your organization's contact information is current. For assistance with our online portal, including help with your username and/or login information, please contact our Grants Administration team at [grantsupport@mplsfoundation.org](mailto:grantsupport@mplsfoundation.org). Please include "Advancing Economic Mobility" in the subject line of your message.

## **FUNDING DECISIONS AND TERMS OF GRANT**

Funding decisions will be made in May 2025.

The grant period for this opportunity will be from June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026. Grant recipients will be required to submit a final report 60 days after the conclusion of the grant period.

## **QUESTIONS ABOUT GUIDELINES**

Contact Program Officer [Josh Johnson](mailto:JJohnson2@mplsfoundation.org) at [JJohnson2@mplsfoundation.org](mailto:JJohnson2@mplsfoundation.org)

# Application Preview

Title of the Application <i>The title of the application should reflect your specific request.</i>	<i>Enter the name of the application request.</i>
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START

CANCEL

## GETTING STARTED

Below is the status of your application for an Advancing Economic Mobility – Capacity Grant. This application has four required parts: An application narrative, an organization budget, a workplan, and a capacity building project budget. If applicable, you will also be asked to upload a collaboration list.

Any answers you provide will be saved as you navigate the application. However, you **MUST** click "Save & Go Next" or "Save and Return to Details" to save a page as complete. When the application, organization budget, workplan, project budget, and any additional documents are validated and uploaded (see table below), you will be able to sign and submit your application.

Please click on any of the sections to begin or resume your application. You will receive a confirmation email after you have confirmed the information, signed, and submitted your application.

- Section 1: Organization information
- Section 2: Contact information
- Section 3: Population served and geographic location of the work
- Section 4: Proposed work
- Section 5: Capacity Category
- Section 6: Understanding your approach
- Section 7: Learning and sharing
- Section 8: Review and Submit

NAME	CURRENT STATUS	MANDATORY	DUE DATE	DESCRIPTION	DATE COMPLETED	TYPE	ACTIONS	UPLOAD
Organization Budget		YES	04/15/2025	Organization’s most recent annual budget. <i>There is no template for the organization budget.</i>		Financial Statement	<a href="#">Details</a>	<a href="#">Upload</a>

Project Budget		YES	04/15/2025	Please use the template provided to complete your project budget and committed funding.		Financial Statement	<a href="#">Details</a>	<a href="#">Upload</a>
Project Workplan		YES	04/15/2025	Please use the template provided to show project goals, outcomes, and milestones.		Supporting Documents	<a href="#">Details</a>	<a href="#">Upload</a>
Collaboration List		IF APPLICABLE	04/15/2025	Applicable if request is a collaborative effort. Include partners and partner roles.		Supporting Document	<a href="#">Details</a>	<a href="#">Upload</a>

Instructions for templates: Please download the templates and fill in the information. Once completed, please *save the templates as PDFs* and upload them to the system.

## Section 1: Organization information

If you are a returning user and your organization has an existing profile, this section will populate with the information we have on file. Please review and update it as necessary. If you are a new user and this is your first time using the portal, you will be asked to complete the following fields.

Legal name of organization	<i>Open text</i>
Organization doing business as name (if different than legal name)	<i>Open text</i>
Employer Identification Number	<i>Numeric</i>

<i>For returning organization, system will auto populate Organization address, website and phone Number</i>	
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<i>For new organizations, please complete</i>	
Organization address	<i>Open text</i>
Organization website	<i>Open text</i>
Organization primary social media handle	<i>Open text</i>
Organization main phone number	<i>Numeric</i>
Organization mission	<i>Open text</i>
<i>For returning organization, system will auto populate Organization address, website and phone Number</i>	

Head of organization name	<i>Open text</i>
Head of organization title	<i>Open text</i>
Head of organization email	<i>Open text</i>

Head of organization phone	<i>Open text</i>
Head of organization cell phone	<i>Numeric</i>
Is the above accurate?	<i>Yes</i> <i>No → Update information</i>
Type of organization  <i>Descriptions in guidelines.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit</li> <li>• 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Intermediary</li> <li>• 501(c)(4)</li> </ul>

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## Section 2: Contact information

Name of contact person for the application  <i>For returning users, system will auto populate.</i>	<i>Open text</i>
Contact person title	<i>Open text</i>
Contact person email	<i>Open text</i>
Contact person phone	<i>Open text</i>
Contact person cell phone	<i>Open text</i>
Is the above accurate?	<i>Yes</i> <i>No → Update information</i>

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## Section 3: Population served and geographic location of the work

This set of questions asks about the demographics of the population served. Who will be **primarily served** by the grant and where will the work take place?

Describe the primary communities served by your organization. Please be as specific as possible.	<i>1,500 max characters</i>
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## Section 4: Proposed work

The next set of questions asks you to describe the work, whether it is collaborative, and your approach to developing stronger, more vibrant communities. In addition to the following questions, we request you upload a

workplan that describes the key activities, milestones, and outcomes as well as a budget for this project. Please use the provided templates. *You will need to download and complete them, then save them as PDFs and upload them to the portal.*

- [Workplan Template](#)
- [Project Budget Template](#)
- [Collaboration List Template](#)

Title of the Application <i>The title of the application should reflect your specific request.</i>	<i>Enter the name of the application request.</i>
Annual Operating Budget	<i>Numeric</i>
Total project budget  <i>Please submit a detailed project budget using the template available on the main Details Page</i>	<i>Numeric</i>
Amount Requested	<i>Numeric</i>
Is this request a collaborative effort? <i>If yes, please submit a list of partners and roles using the template available on the main Details Page</i>	<i>Yes / No</i>

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Section 5: Capacity Category

This section asks you to help us understand how capacity building will strengthen your organization.

Please select the capacity building category or categories that best align with this request:	<div><div></div>Financial Assessment and Management</div> <div><div></div>Staff and Administrative Capacity</div> <div><div></div>Technology Resources</div> <div><div></div>Organization Planning</div> <div><div></div>Community and Stakeholder Engagement</div> <div><div></div>Legal Resources</div> <div><div></div>Other</div>
If Other, please describe:	<i>Open text, 200 max characters</i>
How will this capacity (or capacities) make your organization more effective at achieving its mission?	<i>Open text, 1,500 max characters</i>

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## Section 6: Understanding your approach.

The Minneapolis Foundation believes that these principles contribute to stronger, more vibrant communities:

- advancing structural and systems change through civic participation, community organizing, and policy advocacy
- investing in economic systems and practices that support economic mobility, close wealth gaps, and stabilize communities

We want to learn from you and understand your approach. Below, please provide an overview of your past and current work related to the principles.

Please provide a summary of your past and current work with systems change through policy, advocacy, community organizing, and civic engagement.	<i>Open text, 1,500 max characters</i>
Please provide a summary of your past and current work with investing in economic systems and practices that build wealth and stabilize communities.	<i>Open text, 1,500 max characters</i>

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## Section 7: Learning and sharing

This section asks you how you reflect on and evaluate your work, and how you will share your findings with the Minneapolis Foundation and broader community.

What does success look like for this project and how will you measure success?	<i>Open text, 1,000 max characters</i>
Is there anything else you would like us to know as we consider this request?	<i>Open text, 1,500 characters</i>

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## Review & Submit Application

Please take this opportunity to review your responses and **verify required documents are uploaded**. You may choose to use the links to sections or preview your application PDF.

Once you are certain your answers are complete, please confirm and sign below.

## Confirmation and Signature



☐ By checking this box, the applicant confirms the submission of this application and certifies all the information is true and accurate

Please type the name and title of the person who has authorized the submission of this report to the Minneapolis Foundation. Typing the name and title here is an electronic signature.

Name	<i>Type name</i>
Title	<i>Type Title</i>