

# 2026 Minneapolis Climate Action and Racial Equity Fund

## *Grant Guidelines and Application Preview Worksheet*

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### **Purpose**

The Minneapolis Climate Action and Racial Equity Fund provides grants for place-based, community-driven initiatives and projects that contribute to a reduction in local greenhouse gas emissions and increase the livability and resilience of local communities. This year marks the final grant cycle under the fund's current guidelines. The next chapter of our work, including updated guidelines, will be announced in 2027.

### **Funds Available to Grant**

We have approximately \$300,000 available to grant, with awards expected to range between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

### **Priorities for Funding**

Priority will be given to projects that further one or more of the goals of the City of Minneapolis' Climate Equity Plan, specifically those related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the City of Minneapolis' Strategic and Racial Equity Action Plan.

Priority will also be given to projects that are based in and serve residents within designated Green Zones in the City of Minneapolis.

### **Eligibility**

This funding opportunity is open to 501(c)(3) nonprofits, government entities, school districts, religious institutions, and organizations with a fiscal agent or sponsor.

### **City of Minneapolis Climate Equity Plan and Priorities**

Climate equity ensures that all people share the benefits of climate protection efforts. Achieving equity means that all people—regardless of their race, color, gender, age, sexuality, national origin, ability, or income—live in safe and healthy communities. The City of Minneapolis' Climate Equity Plan sets a goal to significantly reduce climate pollution by 2030 and become carbon neutral by 2050.

### **Priorities of the City of Minneapolis' Climate Equity Plan**

- Energy Efficiency: Significantly improve the energy efficiency of our commercial, residential, and public buildings.
- Renewable Energy: Increase our use of local, renewable energy.
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled in Minneapolis or support access to and use of low-to-no emission modes of transport.
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Shrink our waste stream by reducing waste, encouraging reuse, and increasing recycling of both organic and inorganic materials.

Learn more about the Climate Equity Plan:

<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/climate-equity/climate-equity-plan/>

## Green Zones and Their Priorities

Low-income communities, Indigenous communities, and communities of color in Minneapolis experience unequal health, wealth, employment, and education outcomes. They are also overburdened by environmental conditions such as traffic and stationary pollution sources, brownfield sites, blight, and substandard housing. The City of Minneapolis has designated portions of the city as “Green Zones.” These zones were defined by a place-based policy initiative aimed at improving health and supporting economic development using environmentally conscious efforts in communities that face the cumulative effects of environmental pollution, as well as social, political, and economic vulnerability. The idea for developing a Minneapolis Green Zones initiative came from the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan Environmental Justice Working Group.

### Priorities of Minneapolis Green Zones

- Air, Water, Land: Clean up soil and water contamination. Improve air quality, livability, and environmental quality in business and transport. Decrease transportation and pollution to improve neighborhood health and safety. Reduce cumulative pollution and health impacts.
- Green Workforce: Increase investments in green jobs and career opportunities.
- Energy, Housing, and Anti-Displacement: Increase high-quality and affordable housing.
- Residents and Small Businesses: Reduce the cost of electric and heating utilities.
- Healthy Food Access: Invest in and increase access to affordable and healthy foods by supporting local food growers, production, and distribution.
- Environmental Education: Support community organizing and advance environmental education in communities and schools.
- Emergency Preparedness: Support actions targeting community organizations for emergency preparedness for households and community spaces for extreme heat, cold, and weather events.

### Green Zones

Explore a map of the Green Zones:

<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/health/sustainability-homes-environment/sustainability/green-zones/map/>

Learn more about the Northside Green Zone:

[https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCAV2/18347/NGZ%20Work%20Plan\\_Final\\_Accessible.pdf](https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCAV2/18347/NGZ%20Work%20Plan_Final_Accessible.pdf)

Learn more about the Southside Green Zone:

<https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCAV2/18349/SSGZ-Work-Plan-Report-Final.pdf>

## The City of Minneapolis’ Strategic and Racial Equity Action Plan and Priorities

Projects should also advance one or more goals of the City of Minneapolis’ Strategic and Racial Equity Action Plan. The City of Minneapolis defines racial equity as the development of policies, practices, and strategic investments to reverse racial disparity trends, eliminate institutional racism, and improve outcomes and opportunities for all people.

The Strategic and Racial Equity Action Plan is a four-year plan that embeds racial equity principles into the goals, operations, programs, services, and policies of the city. With the elimination of racial disparities as the primary aim, the plan provides city leaders with a common focus and direction for prioritizing work and resources. The City of Minneapolis completed racial equity planning and goal setting around four racial equity areas related to workforce, spending, racially disaggregated data, and community engagement.

#### **The City of Minneapolis Strategic and Racial Equity Action Plan Focus Areas:**

- **Workforce/Team Structure:** Assess organizational workforce and/or project team composition to ensure it reflects the diversity of the community your proposed project aims to benefit.
- **Spend:** A key mechanism to advance racial equity is through spending organizational funds with businesses owned by Black or Indigenous communities, people of color, and/or immigrants, particularly in industries where these businesses are underutilized.
- **Racially Disaggregated Data:** It is impossible to address issues of racial inequity without first naming the nature of disparity through the use of data that is disaggregated by race. Community-level data of this nature is available from many sources to describe the disparities that exist in housing, health, education, sustainability, employment, and more. Where it is not available, organizations and individuals need a strategy to capture this data through community engagement, particularly with the communities most impacted by systemic and institutional racism.
- **Community Engagement:** Initiatives focused on reducing and/or eliminating racial disparities are only effective when they are informed by the communities they are designed to benefit.

Learn more about the city's work:

<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/racial-equity/what-we-do/strategic-racial-equity-action-plan/>

#### **Application Process and Deadline**

All applications must be submitted through our online portal. We will begin accepting applications on Thursday, June 25, 2026. The deadline to submit your application is **1 p.m. on July 23, 2026**. Late applications will not be accepted. Please do not submit multiple applications; only one application per organization will be accepted and reviewed.

We moved to a new portal in June 2025. If you have not applied for funding from the Minneapolis Foundation since then, you will need to [register](#) in the new portal. 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 [grantsadministration@mplsfoundation.org](mailto:grantsadministration@mplsfoundation.org). Please include "Climate Action and Racial Equity" in the subject line of your message.

## Funding Decisions and Terms of Grant

Funding decisions will be made by late September 2026, with the grant period for this opportunity running from September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027. Grant recipients will be required to submit a final report 60 days after the conclusion of the grant period.

## Questions About Guidelines

Contact Senior Director of Community Impact, [Josh Johnson](mailto:Josh.Johnson@mplsfoundation.org) at [JJohnson2@mplsfoundation.org](mailto:JJohnson2@mplsfoundation.org).

<b>Quick Guide to Climate Action and Racial Equity Grants</b>		
<b>Eligible Applicants</b>	Nonprofits, government entities, school districts, religious institutions, and organizations with a fiscal agent or sponsor	
<b>Eligible Project Locations</b>	All projects must occur within the City of Minneapolis; preference will be given to projects based in and serving Green Zone residents	
<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Planning or General Operating Grant</b>	<b>Implementation Grant</b>
<b>Description</b>	To create a plan for a project or general operating support	To implement a project
<b>Grant Size</b>	<b>Up to \$25,000</b>	<b>Up to \$50,000</b>
<b>Eligible Uses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project planning</li> <li>• Consultant fees related to research, planning, etc.</li> <li>• Design fees</li> <li>• Outreach and engagement related to project design</li> <li>• Community engagement</li> <li>• Translation and interpretation services</li> <li>• Staffing (project-related salaries)</li> <li>• General operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach and engagement related to project implementation</li> <li>• Consultant fees related to the implementation of projects</li> <li>• Educational materials (design, printing, etc.)</li> <li>• Stipends to resident ambassadors</li> <li>• Community engagement</li> <li>• Translation and interpretation services</li> <li>• Staffing (project-related)</li> </ul>
<b>Ineligible Uses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City staff or city government costs</li> <li>• Activities that occur prior to or after grant execution and expiration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City staff or city government costs</li> <li>• Activities that occur prior to or after grant execution and expiration</li> </ul>
<b>Grant Deadline</b>	<b>July 23, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.</b>	

<b>Grant Term</b>	<b>1 year</b>
<b>Reporting Requirements</b>	Report via Minneapolis Foundation’s online application system; include project photos, budgeted vs. actual expenses, expense receipts, and a written description of deliverables, outcomes, and lessons learned as listed in the grant agreement.

## **Application Preview Worksheet**

*This document is intended to help prospective applicants prepare to apply for the 2026 Climate Action and Racial Equity grant. 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 online. Applicants are encouraged to use the worksheet below to preview and draft application questions.*

### **Organization and Contact Information**

#### **Please provide your organization's:**

Legal name:

Employer Identification Number (EIN):

Type of applicant:

- 501(c)(3)
- Government Entity/School District/Religious Institution
- Utilizes a fiscal agent or sponsor
- Other (please use this space to describe how your group is organized)

Street Address, City, State, Zip Code:

Website:

Phone number:

Year of establishment:

Mission or vision statement(s):

Annual operating budget:

#### **Please tell us about the head of your organization:**

Name (first and last):

Email:

Phone:

Title:

#### **Are you the contact person for this application?**

- Yes
- No

*If no, provide the contact information for the application (first name, last name, title, email, phone number, mobile number)*

#### **If you have a fiscal agent, please provide the following:**

Legal name of fiscal agent:

Employer Identification Number:

Fiscal agent's address:

Fiscal agent's street, city, state, country, and ZIP code:

Fiscal agent's contact person for fiscal agent (first name, last name, title, email):

**PROPOSED WORK**

Title of application:

Amount requested:

Type of funding requested (planning or implementation support):

- Planning
- Implementation

Term of grant:

- 1 year

Exact (or nearest) address where the project will occur:

Is the project located in a designated City of Minneapolis Green Zone?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, which Green Zone?

- North Green Zone
- South Green Zone

You can find a map of the Green Zones here:

<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/health/sustainability-homes-environment/sustainability/green-zones/map/>

Is this a collaborative effort?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please list your partners. (1,500 characters)

<b>Organization Contact Information</b>	<b>Role and Responsibilities in Collaboration</b>
Organization Name <i>Contact full name</i> <i>Contact title</i> <i>Contact email</i> <i>Contact phone</i>	
Partner #1 Information	
Partner #2 Information	
Partner #3 Information	
Partner #4 Information	

Please describe the target population (e.g., age group, race or ethnic population, etc.) impacted by the proposed work. (1,500 characters)

Provide a brief description of the project, the need for it, and the existing conditions that affect it. (Up to 2,000 characters)

Please select how your project best aligns with the City of Minneapolis' Climate Equity Plan by demonstrating a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

- Improving the energy efficiency of commercial or residential buildings
- Increasing the use of local, renewable energy
- Reducing vehicle miles traveled in Minneapolis or supporting access and use of low-to-no emission modes of transport
- Shrinking the waste stream through efforts to reduce, reuse, or recycle
- Other – Describe (Up to 300 words)

Please briefly describe how it's aligned. (1,500 characters)

Please select how your project best aligns with Green Zone priorities:

- Air, Water, Land: Clean up soil and water contamination. Improve air quality, livability, and environmental quality in business and transport. Decrease transportation-related pollution to improve neighborhood health and safety. Reduce cumulative pollution and health impacts.
- Green Workforce: Increase investments in green jobs and career opportunities.
- Energy, Housing, and Anti-Displacement: Increase high-quality and affordable housing.
- Residents and Small Businesses: Reductions in the costs of electric and heating utilities.
- Healthy Food Access: Invest in and increase access to affordable and healthy foods by supporting local food growers, production, and distribution.
- Environmental Education: Support community organizing and advance environmental education in communities and schools.
- Emergency Preparedness: Actions targeting community organizations for emergency preparedness for households and community spaces for extreme heat, cold, and weather events.
- Other – Describe 300 words or less

Please briefly describe how it's aligned. (1,500 characters)

Please select how your project promotes racial equity, environmental justice, and aligns with the Minneapolis Strategic and Racial Equity Action Plan Focus Areas. (Up to 1,500 characters)

- Make our workforce more diverse.
- Spend money with more diverse business owners.
- Make decisions based on data that looks at different races.
- Use boards and commissions to create better connections with communities.

Please briefly describe how it's aligned. (1,500 characters)

How have you engaged the people who will benefit from this project in its design? What is their role in evaluating its success? How will the project drive equitable outcomes and/or engage new

constituencies?(Up to 2,000 characters)

Does your project leverage existing climate change programs or initiatives? If so, please explain. (Up to 1,500 characters)

The Minneapolis Foundation launched its Strategic Framework in late 2020. Has your organization received a grant from the Minneapolis Foundation since 2021? If yes, please list the grant program and the amount you received. (1,000 characters)

**Project Workplan and Evaluation:** Use the workplan below to outline project expenses and milestones.

Quarterly Workplan		
Project Quarter	Projected Expenses Quarters must total the requested grant amount.	Milestones List up to 3 key project activities for each quarter
Quarter 1 (0-3 months)	\$0.00	1. 2. 3.
Quarter 2 (4-6 months)	\$0.00	1. 2. 3.
Quarter 3 (7-9 months)	\$0.00	1. 2. 3.
Quarter 4 (10-12 months)	\$0.00	1. 2. 3.
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	

What does success look like for this project, and how will you measure success? (1,500 characters)

Is there anything else you would like us to know as we consider this request? (1,500 characters)

**ATTACHMENTS**

One or more of the following documents will be asked for based on the questions you answered above.

- Project budget: What is the overall budget for the project? Include all funding sources and uses beyond those coming from the Minneapolis Climate Action and Racial Equity Fund. Include in-kind services like volunteer time. Only PDF files can be uploaded.
- Most current organization budget: A list of expenses and revenue for the organization as a whole. Only PDF files can be uploaded.
- Fiscal sponsor recognition letter. This letter should come from that entity and be signed by the leadership of both parties. Only PDF files can be uploaded.
- Optional: Letters of support from named partners.

We ask that you convert all documents to PDFs prior to uploading them. You can convert Microsoft Word documents using Adobe Acrobat's website. This will ensure that your documents retain your desired formatting.

**SIGNATURE**

Please type the name and title of the person who has authorized the submission of this grant application to the Minneapolis Foundation. This serves as an electronic signature.

Name

Title

**REVIEW AND SUBMIT**

Please review your required responses and confirm that your required documents are uploaded.

**CONFIRMATION**

Thank you! Please confirm and submit your application.