



2026 ECONOMIC MOBILITY GRANTS

The Minneapolis Foundation announces a call for proposals from organizations that advance economic mobility. Our 2026 grants reflect important updates designed to meet evolving community needs—particularly challenges stemming from Operation Metro Surge. This year’s funding will focus on nonprofit organizations that provide small business support and play a vital role in strengthening entrepreneurship and the local economy. To deepen our impact, we will concentrate investments in a smaller cohort of grantees, offer larger awards, and extend the grant period to two years. These grants to nonprofits are designed to complement the resources we are distributing to small businesses through our Economic Response Fund, ensuring a coordinated approach to stabilization and growth.

Program Guidelines and Application Preview

This document is intended to help prospective applicants prepare to apply for an Economic Mobility 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.

BACKGROUND

Our Economic Mobility grants support organizations working to build a more sustainable and resilient economic landscape—one in which communities and businesses can thrive, and individuals have greater economic mobility. This work is guided by extensive community input and builds on more than five years of investment in small business development and key commercial corridors. We are committed to supporting those most impacted by economic inequities and to advancing community-led solutions.

Our 2026 grantmaking reflects shifting realities on the ground. Recent federal immigration enforcement activity has created uncertainty for many small businesses, particularly those owned by or employing immigrants and people of color. Business owners and the organizations that support them have reported workforce disruptions, reduced customer activity, and increased hesitation among entrepreneurs to seek technical assistance or capital due to fear and instability. These challenges threaten business stability and slow growth, especially in commercial corridors where small businesses are central to local economic vitality.

FUNDS AVAILABLE TO GRANT

We have approximately \$2 million available to grant. Average grant amounts will range between \$50,000 and \$100,000 per year over a two-year grant period. The maximum grant over two years will be \$150,000.

WHAT WE WILL FUND

We will support organizations that play a vital role in supporting small businesses located in historically underinvested areas, helping them grow and strengthen the local economy. Grants will provide general operating support, offering flexibility to organizations as they build strong, sustainable infrastructure and respond to the evolving needs of the entrepreneurs they serve. Funds may be used to strengthen service

delivery, expand access to capital and technical assistance, invest in staffing and systems, or deepen partnerships across the ecosystem of services and support for small businesses. Strengthening this ecosystem is essential to maintaining resilient local economies, expanding entrepreneurial opportunities, and fostering long-term economic mobility.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) nonprofits that **primarily** support small businesses. Fiscally sponsored organizations are ineligible.

Organizations should demonstrate a track record of supporting the small business ecosystem through equitable capital deployment (access to capital, grants, and loans), technical assistance, and strategies that expand entrepreneurship opportunities, create jobs, and generate lasting economic mobility. We will fund organizations that support small business development and growth through efforts and initiatives that include, but are not limited to:

- **Technical assistance and small business support:** Comprehensive and culturally relevant business development services that increase the business readiness, revenue growth, and long-term viability of small businesses (e.g., business strategy and planning, financial management and capital readiness, procurement and contracting, etc.).
- **Expanding access to capital:** Flexible and responsive capital solutions that expand access to financing for small businesses, particularly those facing systemic barriers (e.g., small business loans, direct grants, alternative financing models, refinancing options, etc.).

PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING

Priority for funding will be given to eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that:

- Are based in and serve Minneapolis communities and the inner-ring suburbs of Hennepin County (Brooklyn Center, Edina, Golden Valley, Richfield, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park).
- Provide multiple services and support to small businesses, with the majority of the organization's programming focused on technical assistance, business development, access to capital, or other initiatives that strengthen and sustain the local small business ecosystem.
- Support entrepreneurs who face systemic barriers to business ownership and growth, including but not limited to businesses located in historically underinvested communities (e.g., areas experiencing higher poverty rates, limited access to capital or financial services, lower small-business density, and/or higher commercial vacancy rates).
- Support small businesses located along key commercial corridors that have experienced historic disinvestment or barriers to capital and resources.
 - Examples in Minneapolis include East Lake Street, West Broadway Avenue North, and Central Avenue Northeast. *We recognize that there are many key commercial corridors throughout Minneapolis and the inner-ring suburbs.*

APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE

All applications must be submitted through our online portal. We will begin accepting applications on **April 15, 2026**. The deadline to submit your application is **1 p.m. on May 15, 2026**. Late applications will not be accepted. Please do not submit multiple applications; only one application per organization will be 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 or updating your contact information, please contact our Grants Administration team at impactgrants@mplsfoundation.org. Please include "Economic Mobility" in the subject line of your message.

FUNDING DECISIONS AND TERMS OF GRANT

Funding decisions will be made by a review committee in mid-June 2026.

The grant period for this opportunity will be from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028. Grant recipients will be required to submit an interim report after the first year of the grant period and a final report 60 days after the conclusion of the second year of the grant period. Grants will be distributed in two separate transactions. Organizations awarded a two-year grant in 2026 will not be eligible to apply for funding in the 2027 economic mobility grant cycle, as they will already be receiving support through this grant program.

QUESTIONS ABOUT GUIDELINES

Please contact Josh Johnson at JJohnson2@mplsfoundation.org and include "2026 Economic Mobility" in the subject line of your message. Please allow 1-2 business days for responses from our staff.

Application Preview Worksheet

Pre-Application Eligibility Questions:

Please answer the following questions to determine your eligibility.

- Is the organization a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit?
 Yes No
- Does the majority (50% or more) of the organization's programming serve Minneapolis or the inner-ring suburbs (e.g., Brooklyn Center, Edina, Golden Valley, Richfield, Robbinsdale, or St. Louis Park)?
 Yes No
- Does the majority (50% or more) of the organization's work focus on supporting small businesses through services such as technical assistance, access to capital, business development, and other support?
 Yes No

ORGANIZATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide your organization's:

Legal name:

Employer Identification Number:

Type of applicant:

- 501(c)(3) Nonprofit

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 Name):

Title:

Email:

Office phone:

Mobile phone:

Contact Information

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)

PROPOSED WORK

1. Title of application:
2. Did your organization receive an Economic Mobility grant from the Minneapolis Foundation in 2025?
 - a. If no, skip.
 - b. If yes, please list how much you received and provide an update on this grant. (up to 1,500 characters)
3. Total amount requested (\$150,000 maximum over 2 years):
4. Amount requested by year:
 - a. 2026: \$

b. 2027: \$

Organization Experience:

5. Describe your organization’s experience supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs. Please include details on how long you have been providing these services, the types of support offered (e.g., technical assistance, number and amount of grants, loans), and the approximate number of businesses you serve annually in the priority area of Minneapolis and the inner ring suburbs. (up to 2,500 characters)

Populations Served:

6. Describe the entrepreneurs or small business owners your organization serves. Explain how these populations experience systemic barriers to starting or growing a business (e.g., entrepreneurs of color, immigrant entrepreneurs, low-income entrepreneurs, etc.) and how your organization helps address these barriers. (up to 2,000 characters)

Geographic Focus:

7. Identify the geographic areas and key commercial corridors where your organization supports small businesses and explain why these areas are a focus of your work. Please provide examples of how these locations represent historically underinvested communities or areas where small businesses face barriers. (up to 2,000 characters)

Implementation Plan:

8. Please describe your implementation plan or milestones and timeline. Please identify the services you plan to provide and your plan for delivering these services during the grant period. Explain how these services lead to improved outcomes for the businesses you support. (up to 2,500 characters)

Measuring Impact and Success

9. How does your organization define success, and how do you measure it? Please include specific metrics and tools you use to track outcomes for businesses, such as the number of businesses served, businesses launched or expanded, jobs created or retained, revenue growth, and access to capital. Explain how you collect this data and how you use it to improve programs or share results. (up to 2,500 characters)

ATTACHMENTS

One or more of the following documents will need to be uploaded based on the questions you answered above.

- Organizational Budget - organization’s most recent annual budget
- Form 990 – organization’s most recent Form 990

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.