



Otto Bremer Trust Community Responsive Fund FAQs

Last Revised: April 23, 2026

Eligibility Criteria

1) Are national organizations allowed to apply on behalf of an affiliated organization or program in our region?

OBT prefers to directly support local affiliates to retain the most financial resources possible for direct service work. Therefore, the assessment of local organizations with national affiliations will be based on the size of the local organization itself. Local organizations that do not meet the established OBT Community Responsive Fund criteria are not eligible.

2) Our organization is the backbone of a local coalition. Can we apply for a grant through the OBT Community Responsive Fund on behalf of the coalition?

No. Partnerships and coalitions of nonprofit organizations are not eligible.

3) Can organizations apply as a coalition and consolidate their finances—including their previous fiscal year’s actual expenses—into one entity?

No. The legal entity receiving grant funds must have had previous fiscal year’s actual expenses of more than \$3 million.

4) Are government-owned hospitals or joint-powers healthcare systems eligible?

No. However, affiliated 501(c)(3) hospital and healthcare foundations may be eligible.

Grant Terms / Finances

5) What information will GTCUW use to determine if my organization meets the \$3M budget minimum?

GTCUW will use Part 1, Line 18, Total Expenses, from your organization’s most recently filed 990.

6) Can you clarify the use of grant funds in relation to the guidance that no more than 10% be used for administrative expenses?

Ninety percent of grant funds are restricted to programs and direct services that align with the focus areas. Staff time required for the successful delivery of aligned direct services may be included in that ninety percent. Note that the grant funds may be utilized by multiple programs as long as the activities align with the focus areas.

7) The grant terms state, “No more than 10% of grant funds may be used for administrative expenses.” What does OBT consider to be administrative

expenses? Are these additional expenses beyond traditional indirect expenses?

Administrative expenses include management and general expenses and fundraising expenses, which are consistent with Form 990 (Part IX, Statement of Functional Expenses). No, administrative expenses through the OBT Community Responsive Fund are not additional expenses beyond traditional indirect expenses.

8) Our organization works in multiple locations across OBT's funding geography. Are we eligible to receive multiple grants through the OBT Community Responsive Fund?

Yes. However, pooling multiple regions together to receive a larger grant is not allowed. The maximum grant per organization is \$75,000.

9) If an eligible healthcare entity (e.g., hospital, clinic, etc.) applies for and is awarded a grant, would it be allowable for the grant funds to be disbursed to its related foundation?

Yes. The grant can be made to either the hospital or its related foundation.

10) Many hospitals have a foundation to support fundraising activities. Which set of financials should we use when determining eligibility for the OBT Community Responsive Fund?

It is acceptable practice to assess hospitals utilizing the financials of both the hospital and its foundation. The hospital's expenses may be used to determine eligibility regarding prior fiscal year actual expenses. The hospital foundation's revenues may be used to determine public philanthropic financial support.

11) In your Grant Terms you state that grants cannot be more than 10% of organization's philanthropic revenue (revenue less government funding, earned income, investment gains, fee for service, and in-kind contributions). What does that mean?

Grants through this fund have a maximum award of **\$75,000**. One important limit to be aware of is that grants **cannot exceed 10% of an organization's philanthropic revenue**. When we say philanthropic revenue, we are *excluding* government funding, earned income, investment income, fee for service revenue, and in-kind contributions. We will use your most recent form 990, part 8 (VIII), line 1f to identify your organization's philanthropic revenue. If needed, grant amounts may be adjusted to stay within that 10% threshold. For example, if your philanthropic revenue is \$600,000, your organization would be eligible for a \$60,000 grant.

12) Are there any exceptions that can be made for organizations that don't meet all the eligibility expectations?

GTCUW is able to consider an extremely limited number of organizations that do not meet all the eligibility criteria for this funding opportunity. Exceptions will be made by GTCUW on an invitation only basis.

13) How do I find my 501c3 determination letter?

You can download or request a copy of your organization's non-profit determination letter from the IRS website: <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/eo-operational-requirements-obtaining-copies-of-exemption-determination-letter-from-irs>

Focus Areas - Food

14) Food banks that procure and distribute food to partner meal sites and food pantries are not eligible for their “food banking” activities. What if a food bank also operates its own meal site or food pantry? Would grants for those purposes be eligible?

Yes, direct meal sites and food pantry services are eligible for consideration. However, large-scale food storage and distribution center activities that primarily function to supply food to other local organizations are not eligible for support through the OBT Community Responsive Fund.

15) Churches often operate food shelves and food pantries. Are food shelves and pantries provided by churches eligible?

Yes, provided they meet the overall criteria already established.

16) Many daycare centers and other day programs provide meals, although these are not typically open to the broader community. Would meal programs at daycare centers and other day programs be eligible under the focus area of food?

No.

17) Some youth development programs provide dinner during the school year and lunches in the summer for participants. They also provide certain holiday meals and grab-and-go pantry items. Would these types of youth programs and related services be eligible for consideration under the focus area of food?

No. The intent of the focus area is that hunger relief efforts are a major emphasis of the organization's work.

Focus Areas - Shelter

18) Short-term and emergency shelter beds are described in the focus area of shelter. Does this focus area allow for providing hotel stays when shelters are full, or providing hotel stays in rural areas where a stand-alone emergency shelter does not exist?

Yes, both examples are eligible.

19) Churches often operate overflow shelter services, either onsite or via hotel vouchers. Are emergency overflow shelter services provided by churches eligible?

Yes, provided they meet the overall criteria already established.

Focus Areas – Low-Income Healthcare Clinics

20) The focus area of low-income healthcare clinics suggests the emphasis is on charitable clinics and safety net providers. Would programs and services specifically targeted to low-income communities be eligible for consideration, even if they are provided by a larger healthcare system whose sole focus is not low-income healthcare?

Yes.

21) How are you defining “clinics” for this focus area?

For the purpose of this grant, we are considering a clinic an organization or program that primarily provides affordable medical, dental, and/or mental health services to people with limited financial resources or who are uninsured/underinsured. Eligible clinics are those that provide preventative and responsive clinical care.

22) Are clinics providing mobile health services eligible?

Yes, these are eligible.

23) Is providing clinical health services in environments such as drop-in centers or shelters eligible? Many of these environments provide on-site clinics that help to improve accessibility of comprehensive health services to people who experience barriers to accessing healthcare.

Yes, these are eligible.

24) If my organization only provides one or two kinds of health services (regardless of environment) are we eligible? Is a comprehensive service model required?

A comprehensive model is not required. An organization/program is eligible so long as they provide at least one kind of the health services listed in the focus area.

Focus Areas – Disability Services

25) Our disability services organization provides waived services; housing with support services; and/or vocational rehabilitation, but does not focus specifically on working with people who have experienced chronic or long-term homelessness. Are we eligible to apply?

No. In alignment with Greater Twin Cities United Way’s focus on ending homelessness, the intent of the Disability Services funding is that organizations have dedicated programs for working with people who meet the definition of chronic or long-term homelessness, and who have a disabling condition.

Focus Areas – School-based mental health

26) How are you defining “school-based” mental health for the purposes of this grant?

School-based mental health refers to programs and services provided to K-12 youth in schools as well as school-linked services, when the school plays a significant role in

the coordination of care. School-based mental health interventions can occur before or after school. These services can include in-person mental health services accessed at school or near campus, as well as services accessed through telehealth. Services must be delivered by a licensed clinician.

27) Under the focus area of school-based mental health, what services are eligible?

Eligible services under the school-based mental health focus area are individual and/or group therapy delivered by a licensed clinician (LPCC, LICSW, LMFT, or LP)

28) Our program supports the social-emotional learning of young people through in- and after-school activities such as sports, volunteering, STEM workshops, and the arts, all of which improve mental health. Are these services eligible?

No. The Otto Bremer Trust's intent in the school-based mental health focus area is to fund clinical services only.

29) Under the focus area of school-based mental health, are Head Start, early learning, and similar programs eligible?

No. For the purpose of this grant the Otto Bremer Trust's intent is to fund K-12 school-based mental health programs and services. Early childhood centers, colleges, universities, etc. are not eligible.

30) Under the focus area of school-based mental health, are mental health services provided by public school districts or government entities eligible?

No. Government entities and public schools are not eligible for this opportunity. Non-public schools are eligible if they meet all eligibility criteria.

31) In Minnesota, school-based mental health services are often called "school-linked" or "School-Linked Behavioral Health". Do these mean the same thing for this RFP?

Yes, for the purpose of this grant "school-linked" and "School-Linked Behavioral Health" programs and services are considered part of school-based mental health services.

32) Under the focus area of school-based mental health, are college and university, and similar post-secondary focused programs eligible?

No. For the purpose of this grant the Otto Bremer Trust's intent is to fund K-12 school-based mental health programs and services. Colleges, universities, etc. are not eligible.

Timeline

33) Do funded programs need to spend OBT Community Responsive grant funds within 12 months?

Yes. Funded programs must spend the funds within 12 months. The start date occurs

when the grant is made from the intermediary to the grantee. The grant period will be October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027.

34) When will we find out if our organization has been awarded a grant?

Greater Twin Cities United Way will submit recommendations for grants to the Otto Bremer Trust in June for their approval. We anticipate notifying organizations of final grant decisions by mid-September.