



2025 Otto Bremer Trust Community Responsive Fund

The North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF) was selected by the Otto Bremer Trust (OBT) as a philanthropic intermediary partner to administer and distribute funds through its 2025 Community Responsive Fund. Under the partnership, NDCF will work closely with OBT to administer \$1 million in funds for grants up to \$75,000 to support local organizations that directly respond to immediate challenges and opportunities in the state.

Qualified applicants and projects must fall under one of OBT's six focus areas to receive a grant.

Focus Areas for 2025 Otto Bremer Trust Community Responsive Fund Grants:

- **Literacy.** Organizations and programs advancing literacy. OBT considers literacy through the lens of reading, writing, speaking, and other language skills needed to navigate civic, social, and economic systems. These can include early childhood literacy, tutoring programs, adult basic education, English as a second language, and so forth.
- **Adoption and foster care services.** Organizations and programs that support adoption and foster care.
- **Children's health.** Organizations and programs that provide health-related access and services for children.
- **Children's disability services.** Organizations and programs focused on supporting children with physical/cognitive disabilities.
- **Mental health.** Organizations and programs that support access to and delivery of mental health services, with preference given to work that addresses the needs of children aged 5-15.
- **Capital projects for hospitals and clinics.** Activities supporting the maintenance of hospitals, construction of facilities, and purchase of medical equipment.

Program Eligibility

- The organization must have a 501(c)3 determination from the IRS. (Government entities, including public schools, are not eligible. Non-public schools are eligible. No fiscal sponsorships may be utilized.)
- The work must align with one or more OBT Community Responsive Fund focus areas for 2025.
- Most grants will be awarded to organization with at least five years of successful operations. (Up to 5 grants can be awarded to organizations working in the six focus areas that have less than five years of successful operations.)

- OBT's priority is to award grants to organizations with more than \$2 million in actual expenses in the last fiscal year. (Up to 5 grants can be awarded to organizations working in the six focus areas that have less than \$2 million in actual expenses.)
- The beneficiaries of grantees must primarily reside in ND.
- The organization may not have an open OBT strategic grant (They MAY have been a recipient of a 2024 Otto Bremer Trust Community Responsive Fund grant from NDCF.)
- Grant recipients will be selected by the North Dakota Community Foundation with final approval by Trustees of the Otto Bremer Trust.

Funding Criteria

- Grant awards can be of varying amounts up to \$75,000 to support operations, programming, and/or capital projects.
- The amount awarded may not exceed 10% of the organization's previous fiscal year's public philanthropic financial support.
 - Public philanthropic financial support includes dollars raised through private fundraising (individuals, businesses, foundations, etc.), giving campaigns, fundraising events, United Way awards, and so forth. It excludes government grants and contracts, earned income, investment gains, and so forth. In-kind contributions are also excluded.
- For requests for operating support, no more than 10% can be used for administrative/indirect costs.
 - Administrative expenses include Management and General Expenses and Fundraising Expenses, as is consistent with the organization's Form 990.
- Grantees must complete NDCF's final report and share impact data with NDCF.

OBT Community Responsive Fund grants may not be used for:

- Work to influence public policy
- Sponsorships or annual events
- Fiscal sponsorships
- Regranting

Application Process:

- Applications will be accepted through April 30, 2025.
- Applications must be submitted online through the NDCF Grants Portal.
- Applications will be reviewed by a committee of NDCF Board members and granting recommendations reviewed by the full board prior to being sent to OBT for their review.
- Applicants will be notified of funding decisions in late August/early September.

For questions about the fund or application process, please contact Kevin Dvorak at Kevin@NDCF.net or 701-222-8349.