



Mardag Foundation

Grant Eligibility & Priorities

Basic Eligibility

501(c)3 organizations may apply for support from Mardag Foundation if they meet the following criteria:

- **General operating support**
 - Organizations must explicitly state that 50% or more of their work is conducted in the East Metro or Greater Minnesota. Any organization meeting this threshold is eligible for general operating support (including organizations that have never received Mardag support).
- **Program support**
 - For projects or programs serving 50% or more East Metro and/or Greater Minnesota residents. Any organization is eligible for this type of grant (regardless of overall geographic focus), but the project or program must serve East Metro and/or Greater Minnesota residents (e.g., an organization can do 75% of its work in Hennepin County or elsewhere but would be eligible to apply for a project serving primarily the East Metro and/or Greater Minnesota).
 - Priority will be given to organizations based in Minnesota.
- **Capital support**
 - Capital projects serving 50% or more in the East Metro or Greater Minnesota, likely payable over multiple years.
- **Requests currently ineligible for support include:**
 - Organizations using fiscal sponsors
 - Programs exclusively serving Minneapolis and the surrounding West Metro area
 - Scholarships and grants to individuals
 - Sectarian religious programs or organizations
 - Federated campaigns
 - Events and conferences
 - Capital campaigns of private secondary schools
 - Capital and endowment campaigns of private colleges and universities

Focus Areas

Mardag Foundation has three primary interest areas for its grantmaking.

Improving the lives of low-income Children, Youth and Families that lack access to critical opportunities and resources that they need

Mardag Foundation seeks to support organizations focused on eliminating barriers and increasing access to equitable opportunities for children, youth and families.



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This round, priority will be given to organizations working with marginalized communities (especially Black, Indigenous and communities of color) at the intersections of education, basic needs, mental health, access to healthcare, pathways to employment, and stable and affordable housing.

Supporting older adults across Minnesota who lack access or have barriers to critical opportunities to thrive and create community connections

The Foundation supports organizations directly serving low-income older adults who may also be experiencing other forms of marginality (e.g., BIPOC, people with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ+ community, etc.).

Priorities include meeting basic needs, improving the well-being and quality of caregiving, addressing isolation and mental health issues, services to help older Minnesotans age in place and/or in safe and stable housing, and intergenerational programming.

Building capacity to improve community vitality through Arts and Culture

The Foundation shares Grantmakers in the Arts' view that "[a]ll peoples, their cultures, and their art contribute to the meaning and understanding of our humanity and should be honored and celebrated."

Priority will be given to arts and culture organizations that seek to amplify narratives and voices across BIPOC communities and other communities experiencing marginalization (e.g., older adults, people with disabilities, low-income children/youth/families, members of the LGBTQ+ community, etc.). Please note that the Foundation has not historically supported specific productions, performances, exhibits, artist fees, etc. through this application-based process.

Priorities

While an organization may be eligible to apply, attention and preference will be given to organizations:

- prioritizing those experiencing the most marginalization, especially due to race, ethnicity, gender identity or sexual orientation, age, ability, immigration status, etc.
- whose work is informed, formed and led by the people most impacted by it.
- working with Minnesotans outside the Twin Cities Metro Area.
- seeking multi-year grants, which will place a priority on sustaining the work supported by the Foundation.

A Learning Approach

Our Foundation is always open to new ways of addressing our focus areas. We're in a continuous practice of learning and adapting our understanding of how best to address the focus areas.

In order to set clearer expectations about the scope and scale of our grantmaking, we are sharing some data from our Fall 2022 grant round. We received 368 applications in the fall 2022 grant round and approved 66 grants. Grants ranged in size from \$7,500 to \$50,000 per year, with the largest grants going to capital requests. The average (mean) grant approved was \$23,877, and the median was \$25,000.

[View our grant guidelines](#)