



2024 Grant Eligibility & Priorities

Eligibility

Each year, we consider where we can make the most impact as we listen to our nonprofit partners share their greatest needs and challenges. We recognize our partners are in the best position to determine internal priorities — and flexibility is essential. To better focus on organizations in the strongest position to benefit our Greater Minnesota and East Metro populations, in 2024 we will be offering general operating support to organizations that primarily serve Greater Minnesota and/or the East Metro and capital support to organizations with capital projects located in Greater Minnesota or the East Metro AND primarily serving Greater Minnesota and/or the East Metro. Program/project support will not be available in 2024. Our general focus areas remain unchanged.

Greater focus in our grantmaking aims to provide clearer guidelines, saving valuable time for organizations navigating the grant application process. We encourage anyone wanting to learn more to register for one of our upcoming [grant information sessions](#), which will provide more detailed information about 2024 eligibility and priorities.

Grants can be made to 501(c)3 organizations if they meet the following criteria:

- **General operating support**
 - These grants provide flexible funding for nonprofits.
 - Organizations must primarily serve Greater Minnesota and/or East Metro with 50% or more of all services provided by the entire organization benefiting Greater Minnesota and/or East Metro (Washington, Dakota and Ramsey counties) residents.
- **Capital support**
 - Capital projects must be located in Greater Minnesota or the East Metro AND 50% or more of all services provided by the entire organization must benefit Greater Minnesota and/or East Metro (Washington, Dakota and Ramsey counties) residents.
 - Grants are designed to support investment in buildings, facilities and equipment. Foundation investments are typically limited to buildings owned by nonprofits or held by long-term lease agreement.
 - These grants are generally paid over multiple years.
- **Requests ineligible for support include:**
 - Organizations using fiscal sponsors
 - Organizations 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



Mardag Foundation

- Program/project specific requests

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.

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.) through the arts.

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.