



Mardag Foundation

Food Access Grant Program Guidelines

Program Overview

Mardag Foundation's Food Access Grant Program provides grants in the East Metro and Greater Minnesota to fund systems change and/or direct service work related to food access.

Funding Priorities

Mardag Foundation's Food Access Grant Program supports organizations and programs that ensure access to food and address inequities in the food system.

We will consider proposals that address systems change and/or direct service work to eliminate barriers and increase access to culturally relevant, healthy, affordable food for low-income immigrant/refugee or Native American/Indigenous children, youth and families in the East Metro and Greater Minnesota.

Our Food Access Grant program will consider proposals that address one or more of the following:

- Extent to which the work empowers immigrant/refugee or Native American/Indigenous communities in reclaiming ownership and control of the food system – the right to grow, sell, access and eat food that is fresh, nutritious, affordable, culturally appropriate and grown with integrity for the well-being of the people, land and animals
- Extent to which the work strives to provide culturally relevant food options in areas with lower access

Eligibility

Demonstrated commitment to the geography served with preference for organizations based in Minnesota. Grants can be made to 501(c)3 nonprofits, government entities, educational institutions, groups working through an eligible fiscal sponsor.

Geography

Mardag Foundation makes grants to nonprofit organizations and public entities located within and serving residents of Minnesota. The geographic focus of our grantmaking is the East Metro area of Dakota, Ramsey and Washington counties, as well as Greater Minnesota. We do not fund organizations primarily serving Anoka, Carver, Hennepin or Scott counties.

Types of Grants

Grants will be offered for general operating or program/project support.



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Grant Details

Grant amounts will be \$100,000 per year for a five-year grant period, for total grant amounts of \$500,000 per grantee.

In 2026, up to \$750,000 is available, and we anticipate awarding approximately seven multi-year grants, of which five grantees will be from Greater Minnesota.

Grant Requests Not Accepted

Mardag Foundation will not consider grant requests for support of organizations exclusively serving Minneapolis and the surrounding West Metro area or proposals to replace a loss in government funding.

If your organization does not fit the funding criteria for the Food Access Grant Program, we encourage you to explore other [Grant Opportunities](#), as well as [Resources Beyond the Grant](#) on the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation website. Mardag Foundation is a partner foundation of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation.