Housing Grant Description

Service Area
The Northwest Minnesota Foundation invests resources in communities located, within the counties of Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake-of-the-Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau.

Purpose
We lead and support collaborative efforts to add housing capacity in the region. We build better lives by ensuring that our region has sufficient housing availability and that lack of housing is no longer an obstacle to shelter and jobs. It is NMF's goal to help add 1,500 new housing units to the region’s housing inventory by 2024.

How to Apply
NMF will offer grants up to $5,000 for selected projects. Eligible projects will be prioritized for funding based on the reasonable expectation that the grant funds will help a housing project come to fruition that aligns with the desirable project goals listed below. Eligible organizations receiving grants must be 501(c)3 nonprofit or public organization, or as sanctioned by a tribal government as a nonprofit agency. Final grant decisions will be based on information received during the application process.

Maximum grant dollars available from October 1, 2019 through October 1, 2020 will be capped at $5,000 per project. NMF requires a 1:1 match, of which a minimum of 50% should be in the form of cash. From October 1, 2019 through October 1, 2020 NMF will have an open grant funding period until available funding is committed. Grant applications will be accepted at any time and considered for funding on a first come first serve basis. A pre-proposal application can be found on the NMF website under the housing grant page. Once the pre-proposal has been completed, and NMF staff has verified that the proposed project meets minimum standards, a full grant application may be invited. In order to apply for full grant funding the applicant will be asked to submit an application detailing:

1. The problem that your project will address
2. Who are the responsible parties
3. Timeline for completing goals
4. Proposed budget
5. Detailed breakdown of matching funds
**Grant Description**

NMF has developed four grant categories for housing program grants which are Community Planning, Community Engagement, Innovation Pilot Grants, Expansion Grants and Construction Trade Grants. These categories are considered priority areas for funding but are not meant to represent the entirety of projects that NMF will fund.

**Community Planning Grant:** uses include but are not limited to:
- Housing studies
- Economic development studies that research the effect on economic development from lack of housing
- Comprehensive city plans that include a detailed analysis for housing needs
- Feasibility studies that focus on proposed housing projects

**Community Engagement Grant:** uses include but are not limited to:
- Community training specific to housing
- Conducting community surveys focused on housing
- Convening meetings to address housing topics

**Innovation Pilot Grants & Expansion Grants:** uses include but are not limited to
- Piloting new projects or programs that address the desirable project attributes listed below
- Piloting innovative solutions to the unique housing challenges of a given area
- Significantly expanding the geographic service area of an existing program
- Significantly expanding types of services offered under an existing program

**Construction Trade Grants:** uses include but are not limited to
- Projects that train people to enter the housing construction industry
- Projects that promote employment in the housing construction industry

At this time NMF will not be accepting grant applications to support on-going institutional operating expenses such as paying for staff time; however, staff expense to expand services would be eligible. When evaluating grant applications, NMF staff will assess and measure the reasonable expectation that the use of grant funds will help bring a project to fruition that aligns with NMF's desirable project attributes. Examples of desirable project attributes include projects that address or encourage:
- Housing in downtown areas including mixed use buildings
- Housing needs of the elderly
- New housing units
- Affordable housing units
- Housing projects that address the needs of low-income persons
- Projects that refurbish existing housing units and preserve current housing stock
- Housing projects in high workforce need areas
- Initiatives that lead to single-family refurbish projects
- Projects that support the development of single-family homes that address the area's defined value gap
- Initiatives that lead to multi-family refurbish projects
Projects that support the development of multi-family homes that address the area’s defined value gap

**Contact Information**
Anyone wishing to apply for funding through this program should contact Robert Maher at robertm@nwmf.org. Grant applications and details about how to apply can be found at [www.nwmf.org](http://www.nwmf.org).

**Equal Opportunity**
This institution is an equal opportunity provider. NMF is committed to fairness, objectivity, and nondiscrimination in its funding policies and considerations.