

## 2026 Otto Bremer Trust Community Responsive Fund

As a trusted partner, West Central Initiative will award grants to west central Minnesota organizations from the Otto Bremer Trust Community Responsive Fund. This program will support local organizations that are directly responding to immediate challenges in their communities. Otto Bremer Trust has provided priorities and eligibility requirements for 2026. West Central Initiative will contact eligible organizations directly. However, if you believe your organization is eligible based on the criteria below, please contact us.

### 2026 Funding Priorities

1. **Food:** Organizations and programs that directly operate meal sites and food pantries to meet basic daily needs. (Large, region- and state-wide food bank activities are not included.)
2. **Shelter:** Organizations and programs that provide short-term and emergency shelter beds for people who are housing insecure or facing homelessness.
3. **Low-income healthcare clinics:** Organizations and programs that primarily provide affordable medical, dental, and mental health services to people with limited financial resources or who are uninsured/underinsured.
4. **Disability services:** Organizations and programs that support people with physical/cognitive disabilities.
5. **School-based mental health:** Organizations and programs that have established school-based mental health services.

### Eligibility Criteria

Organizations that apply for a Community Responsive Fund grant must have 501(c)(3) status. Government entities and public schools are not eligible; non-public schools are eligible.

Additionally, eligible organizations:

- Must have physical operations in the granting organization's service area.
- Must have at least five years of operations.
- Must complete annual audited financial statements prepared by an independent CPA.
- Must have had actual expenses of \$2 million or more in the last fiscal year.
- May not have an open Otto Bremer Trust strategic grant. NOTE: This is a grant directly through Otto Bremer Trust and does not include a 2025 Community Responsive Fund grant distributed through an intermediary partner such as the Initiative Foundation or one of its Minnesota Initiative Foundation peer organizations.

## Funding Guidelines

- Grant requests may not exceed 10 percent of your organization's previous fiscal year's public philanthropic support.
- Organizations can use no more than 10 percent of grant funds for administrative expenses.
- Organizations may not use funds for policy advocacy, sponsorships, or annual events.
- Organizations may not use a fiscal agents or fiscal sponsorship.