

## June 2023 Grantmaking Cycle Guidelines

### Eligibility

The Basic Needs Giving Partnership will accept applications from organizations that meet all of the following basic eligibility requirements:

- The geographic focus of your work is in at least one of the following 10 counties: Brown, Kewaunee, Oconto, Calumet, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Green Lake, Waushara, or Winnebago.
- Your organization is designated as a 501(c)(3), has a fiscal sponsor, or is a governmental body such as a school or municipality. We'll also consider organizations with documentation of a pending 501(c)(3) application with the IRS.
- Your organization submits a complete application by the deadline of 5:00 p.m. Central Time on June 15, 2023.\*

*\*The application will be posted to the Basic Needs Giving Partnership website by May 1, 2023.*

### Funding Priorities and Grant Amounts

In this round of grants, support to organizations or programs whose work focuses on at least one of the following areas will be prioritized:

- 1) Early Care and Education (ages birth to 5)
- 2) Housing Access
- 3) Mental Health and/or Substance Use

Grants will be for general operating support in the amount of \$30,000. As general operating grants, funding can support a wide range of uses, including overhead costs (salaries, rent, etc.), program costs, training, events, supplies, or stipends. These grants are intended to give organizations as much flexibility as possible to carry out their work.

While the elements below are **not required**, in making grant decisions, we will prioritize organizations that:

- Do not currently have an active grant with the Basic Needs Giving Partnership
- Design programs with the involvement of people who have lived experience with the issue the organization is working to address. Examples:
  - An early childhood learning center that involves parents on the board, advisory group, committees, or other decision-making bodies.
  - A shelter that includes people with personal and first-hand experience of being unhoused in staff leadership roles of the organization.
- Currently apply or are actively working to build a racial equity lens and are working with communities that have been systematically denied access to economic, political, and cultural participation as a result of racism and other forms of oppression.

- Include advocacy or community organizing efforts. Community organizing is an approach to addressing shared grievances or interests in a given community. It involves a relationship-based and community-led process to identify concerns and shift power through collective action. More information about community organizing can be found [here](#).
  - Example of advocacy:
    - A non-profit childcare provider that dedicates a portion of a staff member’s time to educating policy-makers about the need for increased public funding for quality childcare.
  - Example of community organizing:
    - A counseling program that builds and centers the leadership of people impacted by mental health challenges in decision-making and mobilizes them to change mental health policies that impact them.

**Timeline**

April 28 at Noon:	Information session
May 1 – May 15:	Window to submit required <i>Intent to Apply Form</i> *
May 1 – June 15:	Application open
June 15:	Application due by 5:00 p.m. Central Time
Mid-July:	Grant decisions finalized
End of July:	Grants announced

\*To gauge the level of interest, we are requiring applicants to complete an *Intent to Apply Form* that will request simple information about your organization. We are only asking for the following information: name of organization, name of contact person, contact information, whether you are working in any of the priority areas, and the geographic footprint of your organization. The form will also give you an opportunity to ask questions of Basic Needs Giving Partnership staff.

**Decision-making**

Applications will be reviewed by the Basic Needs Giving Partnership's new Director of Grantmaking, Stephanie Gyldenvand. The Director will make grant recommendations to a Transitional Program Committee that will include representation from the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation (Amber Paluch), Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region (Jenny Krikava), Oshkosh Area Community Foundation (Amy Putzer), J. J. Keller Foundation, and 2 - 3 community members from the Basic Needs Giving Partnership’s Board of Directors. Grant decisions will be confirmed by the Basic Needs Giving Partnership’s Board of Directors.

**Grantmaking Guidelines  
Frequently Asked Questions  
March 2023**

**Why are only one-year grants available this year?**

In 2023, the Basic Needs Giving Partnership will distribute a total of over \$3M in multi-year grants committed in previous years. We remain committed to grantmaking practices that respond to the needs of nonprofits. As we build on our community partnerships and work to strengthen our staffing and infrastructure this year, the grantmaking approach will reflect our commitment to our strategic framework and values. As a result, in this transitional year, we are taking a pause on **additional** multi-year commitments. Our goal is to begin offering multi-year grants again as part of our granting portfolio in 2024.

**Why are the priorities narrower this time?**

Applying for a grant can take a tremendous amount of time and energy, especially for smaller organizations without dedicated fundraising staff. Our narrower guidelines are in place so organizations can decide whether or not to dedicate staff time to applying. Our goal is to be as transparent as possible and to remove some of the guesswork that can come with applying for funding. We anticipate a broader focus in 2024.

**My organization has been considering applying this year, but now it looks like we don't fit the priorities under these new guidelines. What should we do?**

This is a transitional year for the Basic Needs Giving Partnership. We know the guidelines reflect a shift from previous years. In alignment with the Basic Needs Giving Partnership's previous priorities, the majority of funding distributed this year will be in the form of multi-year grants that have been committed. At the same time, we are dedicating a portion of our funding to align with our new framework as we deepen our learning. Any interested grantees and applicants are welcome to join us for our information session at the end of April, where you can learn more about how the priorities will be applied.

**My organization only works in a small portion of the Basic Needs Giving Partnership region, am I eligible? What if my organization serves a large region or the whole state?**

To be eligible for this grant opportunity, an organization needs to work within at least one geographic area of the Basic Needs Giving Partnership's region. Organizations that work in a small portion of the region are welcome to apply. For organizations that serve a wide area that might overlap with parts of the BNGP region, we will be looking to see that the organization is doing place-based work (i.e., staff in the region, office in the region, work being done locally).

**My organization works in multiple locations across the region, can we apply for more than one grant?**

Each organization is eligible to submit one application to Basic Needs Giving Partnership in this current funding cycle.

**My 501(c)(3) nonprofit serves as a fiscal sponsor to another organization. Can my organization submit a grant application and also serve as a fiscal sponsor to another organization that applies for a grant in this funding cycle?**

Yes. Nonprofit organizations who serve as fiscal sponsors may also apply for a grant in this funding cycle for their own organization. They are able to apply for a grant on behalf of the organization they are sponsoring. Appearing on a separate proposal as a fiscal sponsor would not affect an organization's likelihood of receiving a grant. Similarly, multiple organizations with the same fiscal sponsor could apply for a grant, and this would not affect the proposal review process for any of the individual organizations.

**Why are the grant amounts pre-determined?**

We are aiming to take as much of the guesswork out of applying for a grant as possible. All grants will be for general operating support in the amount of \$30,000. For this cycle, established grant amounts provide clarity, while also streamlining the process as we continue to build a new framework.

**I noticed the priority for organizations working to build a racial equity lens. What does that mean?**

A racial equity lens is a way of thinking about decisions, practices, and policies to make sure they are fair for all people. It takes into account how history and systems have contributed to different outcomes across race and ethnicity. Organizations connect this understanding to their mission and build approaches that lead to equitable outcomes for all.

We understand that organizations are at different places in their racial equity journeys. We are not requiring groups to be in a particular place on that journey. Actively working to apply a racial equity lens is a priority, **not** an eligibility requirement. To learn more about these terms, we recommend this [overview](#) by Race Forward or these [definitions](#) from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

**Why the focus on racial equity?**

We recognize that poverty in our region does not impact all communities equally. And we know that there are historical reasons for this. Achieving our vision of *thriving, equitable communities* will require us to acknowledge and address these disparities as we seek economic well-being for everyone in Northeast Wisconsin. We enter this work with humility. The Basic Needs Giving Partnership is also learning what it means to apply a racial equity lens.

**How are you defining an “active grant”?**

An active grant means an organization has a current grant with the Basic Needs Giving Partnership and the grant period ends after June 30, 2023. This includes organizations who have received extensions for the work to be completed beyond June 30, 2023. Organizations with a grant period that ends before June 30, 2023, would be prioritized in our grant making decisions.

If an organization is the lead on an active grant and has a fiscal sponsor, the organization leading the work is considered to have an active grant. If an organization is a collaborator on an active grant, but not a lead, the collaborating organization would be prioritized in this cycle.