



# Fund for Omaha

2024 OVERVIEW & GIVING GUIDE

# Fund for Omaha

Through the Fund for Omaha, the Omaha Community Foundation is dedicated to supporting organizations at the forefront of racial equity and social justice work in our community. We actively invest in organizations leading these efforts, empowering grassroots nonprofits to build their capacity and supporting advocacy initiatives that aim to bring about systemic change in communities of color.

The grant program's mission extends beyond financial support - we're committed to fostering connections within and across communities, uniting us in our shared commitment to equity and justice. Together, we can ensure that people of color have equitable access to opportunities throughout our community.

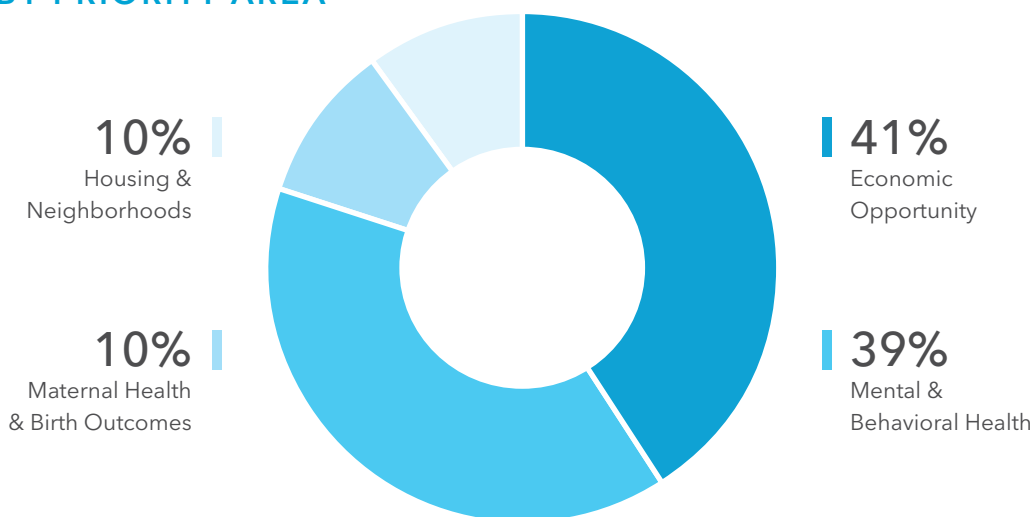
**\$3.3M**

requested by 136 applicants

**\$458,376**

awarded to 28 local nonprofits in 2024

## WHERE FUNDING WENT BY PRIORITY AREA



Cover photos clockwise from top left: *The Union for Contemporary Art*, *African Immigrant Family Services* and *House of Bah Foundation*, *I Be Black Girl*, *Culxr House*





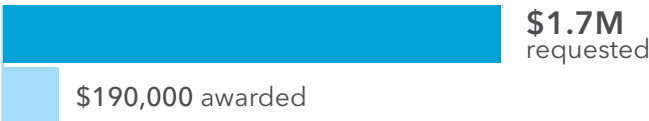
Intercultural Senior Center

## INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Funding priorities focus on the following four areas with an overarching emphasis on racial equity and social justice. Requests far outpaced available grant funding.

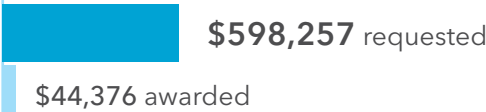
### ▶ Economic Opportunity

Expanding access to high-quality education, meaningful employment and career development opportunities, and equitable pay in our community for people of color.



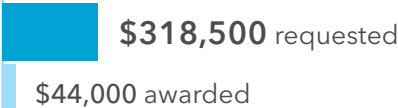
### ▶ Housing & Neighborhoods

Ensuring affordable housing options, facilitating pathways to homeownership, and developing public spaces that foster social connections for people of color to feel safe and supported.



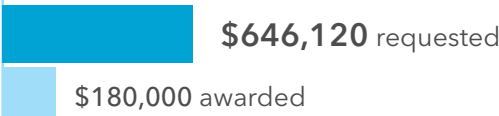
### ▶ Maternal Health & Birth Outcomes

Enhancing healthcare, resources, and support provided to pregnant individuals for safe pregnancies and childbirth experiences, and reducing maternal morbidity and mortality rates.



### ▶ Mental & Behavioral Health

Ensuring individuals can obtain comprehensive services, removing barriers to care for both mental and behavioral health needs.



# Advancing social justice

In a highly competitive grant cycle, the Fund for Omaha awarded a total of **\$458,376** to **28 nonprofits**, representing 21% of this year's applicants. Their work strongly aligns with the grant program's mission and priority areas, particularly in advancing community-based racial equity and social justice.

## 100 Black Men of Omaha, Inc.

Promotes youth development in Omaha's most underserved areas, helping young people become "respectful, responsible, and ready to lead." (\$25,000)

## African Immigrant Family Services

Supports African immigrant and refugee families with culturally specific services, including youth development, mental health, and specialized English programs. (\$10,000)

## A Mother's Love, Inc.

Supports underserved birthing communities with holistic maternal health services, improving birth outcomes through education and access to necessary resources. (\$20,000)

## Black & Pink National

Advocates for LGBTQ+ and systems-impacted individuals through prison abolition and holistic support for those impacted by incarceration. (\$10,000)

## Bluebird Cultural Initiative

Empowers Native American communities and educates broader audiences about Indigenous cultural practices, traditions, and history to inspire future generations. (\$20,000)

## Carole's House of Hope

Addresses the mental health needs of homeless mothers and young children, providing transitional housing and holistic services to promote independence and self-sufficiency. (\$20,000)

## Code Black Tech

Breaks down barriers for people of color to access tech careers through training, mentorship, and job placement, contributing to a more diverse workforce. (\$10,000)

## Culxr House Omaha

Provides a vibrant space for underrepresented voices, fostering economic opportunity, artistic expression, and cultural exchange through diverse programming and initiatives. (\$15,000)

## Familias en Accion

Provides Latina women-led programs like community gardening, mobile clinics, and tutoring, fostering wellness and community leadership. (\$10,000)

## Girls Inc. of Omaha

Inspires young women to be strong, smart, and bold through programs that promote self-advocacy, leadership, and empowerment. (\$20,000)

## Heartland Workers Center

Enhances self-sufficiency and growth of immigrant and underrepresented communities, providing leadership training, advocacy, and access to essential services. (\$25,000)

## Healing Ribbons

Promotes cultural revitalization and healing among Indigenous women and their families, offering safe spaces for reconnecting with heritage and breaking cycles of trauma. (\$10,000)

### **I Be Black Girl**

Creates a bold, innovative, and culturally responsive environment to advance reproductive justice and autonomy for Black women, femmes, and girls.

(\$15,000)

### **Intercultural Senior Center**

Welcomes seniors from around the world with culturally appropriate services and programs to enhance their dignity and well-being. (\$20,000)

### **Latino Economic Development Council**

Promotes economic growth and cultural preservation in Omaha's Latino community, supporting businesses and local initiatives. (\$14,376)

### **Learning For ALL**

Offers free literacy and life skills instruction for low-income residents, refugees, and immigrants, empowering them to achieve personal and professional goals. (\$15,000)

### **MAYS Foundation**

Supports youth with challenging backgrounds by uncovering hidden skills and talents through community programming, enabling them to become productive members of their communities. (\$10,000)

### **Midlands African Chamber**

Strengthens the business ecosystem for African and African American entrepreneurs, promoting equity and economic growth in the Midlands region. (\$25,000)

### **No More Empty Pots**

Addresses food insecurity while fostering self-sufficiency through education, workforce training, and local business development. (\$25,000)

### **Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty**

Equips under-resourced families with tools to overcome barriers to success, fostering economic stability and self-advocacy. (\$20,000)

### **Ooh De Lally**

Trains individuals transitioning out of incarceration for careers in the restaurant industry, providing wrap-around services like transportation and housing. (\$10,000)

### **Project Houseworks**

Enhances the lives of low-income homeowners with no-cost home repairs, contributing to safer, healthier communities. (\$10,000)

### **Q.U.E.E.N.S. Butterfly House**

Offers housing, job readiness, and personal development programs to support the holistic transformation of formerly incarcerated women. (\$25,000)

### **Refugee Women Rising**

Provides culturally appropriate programs that empower refugee women to build sustainable lives, focusing on practical skills and holistic wellness. (\$14,000)

### **RISE Academy**

Breaks generational cycles of incarceration with in-prison programs and post-release support focused on family, employment, and reentry services. (\$20,000)

### **The Collective for Hope**

Provides free, inclusive grief support to help individuals and families navigate loss, contributing to a healthier and more compassionate community. (\$10,000)

### **The Union for Contemporary Art**

Strengthens the cultural and social fabric of North Omaha by using the arts as a vehicle for positive social change through exhibitions, performances, and community engagement. (\$10,000)

### **The Wellbeing Partners**

Builds well-being into communities and organizations through education, advocacy, and collaboration, fostering healthy workplace cultures. (\$20,000)

# How funding decisions are made

Fund for Omaha focuses on organizations with a general operating budget up to \$5 million. Applicants can request up to \$25,000 for operating support. Investments are focused on organizations doing strong and promising work within the priority areas.

## GRANT REVIEW PROCESS

### STEP 1

Our staff reviews and scores applications. We check for alignment with priority areas, strength of the project, financial management, and infrastructure.

### STEP 2

As needed, we reach out to applicants with follow-up questions to clarify any concerns.

### STEP 3

We develop a list of potential investments and share the proposal with an external review committee made up of community members.

### STEP 4

The external committee individually reviews and scores proposals, then meets as a group to discuss recommendations and select grant recipients.

### Guiding Questions

We support local nonprofits that are working to ensure equitable access to opportunity throughout our community. With this in mind, funding decisions are made with the following considerations:

#### Equitable Access

Does the nonprofit provide an opportunity for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) to thrive, especially those whose voices are least heard?

#### Cultural Awareness

Does the nonprofit demonstrate an understanding of the many cultures represented in the fabric of our community?

#### Authentic Engagement

Does the nonprofit prioritize BIPOC lived experience in the development, deployment, and facilitation of efforts to impact the community?

#### Capacity Building

Does the grant increase the nonprofit's reach and bolster its efforts in the above three ways?





## 2024 FINALISTS

# Recognizing excellence

Here, we highlight the 19 nonprofits that reached the finalist stage but, due to limited funds, did not receive a grant this cycle. Whether you're a fundholder seeking impactful organizations, a nonprofit exploring collaborations, or a community member interested in local initiatives, this list provides valuable insights.

**AT EASE USA:** Offers confidential trauma treatment and comprehensive therapeutic support for active military members, veterans, frontline healthcare workers, and their loved ones impacted by PTSD, moral injury, and suicidal ideations.

**CENTRO LATINO OF IOWA:** Envisions a vibrant and inclusive community for refugees, immigrants, and migrants by equipping them with knowledge, resources, and support to foster future opportunities.

**COLLEGE POSSIBLE:** Provides tools, strategies, and support to navigate and overcome systemic barriers to college graduation for low-income students.

**DIGNITY HEALTH COLLECTIVE:** Expands the number of inclusive healthcare providers and removes barriers to health and wellness fields, focusing on BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities

**FAMILY HOUSING ADVISORY SERVICES:** Helps traditionally underserved BIPOC populations achieve housing stability and financial security, building wealth and combating systemic poverty.

**FOR ALL COUNSELING SERVICES:** Provides affordable, language-accessible mental health evaluations for immigrants and asylum seekers to support immigration cases.





Centro Latino of Iowa

**HOUSE OF BAH FOUNDATION:** Offers culinary training for Omaha's African diaspora, refugee, and immigrant communities, providing accessible pathways to economic opportunity through culturally affirming education.

**IGNITE NEBRASKA:** Secures meaningful job placements with employer partners while offering tailored training, ensuring participants succeed in high-demand careers.

**NEBRASKA APPLESEED:** Combines policy advocacy, legal action, and community organizing to address systemic issues such as poverty, economic inequality, and racial inequities.

**NEBRASKA CENTER FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION:** Offers education and skills training to redirect individuals, including justice-involved citizens, into successful trades and career paths.

**NORTH 24TH STREET BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT ASSOCIATION:** Implements equitable economic development strategies to revitalize the North 24th Street area, focusing on infrastructure, safety, and business growth.

**OMAHA BETTER BIRTH PROJECT:** Works to decrease inequities in childbirth by providing access to doula services, childbirth education, and support for low-income and teen families.

**OMAHA MUNICIPAL LAND BANK:** Helps reduce vacant lots and transforms neglected properties to create thriving, sustainable neighborhoods.

**OPENSKY POLICY INSTITUTE:** Advances evidence-based policies through fiscal research and coalition-building to improve economic opportunity for all Nebraskans.

**PARTNERS FOR LIVABLE OMAHA:** Supports stakeholders and developers in creating infill housing and accessory dwellings to increase community livability.

**REIMAGINE:** Uplifts voices of those with lived experience while providing preventative services and collaboration to create systemic change for homelessness.

**SEVENTY FIVE NORTH REVITALIZATION CORP.:** Builds vibrant, mixed-income neighborhoods by fostering economic development, education, and community health.

**VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION:** Provides compassionate, community-based nursing services to individuals of all ages lacking resources.

**VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING SENIORS:** Offers free, unbiased Medicare counseling and Homestead Exemption Application assistance for seniors in Eastern Nebraska.



# Nonprofit grant opportunities

The Omaha Community Foundation serves as a vital resource and collaborator with local nonprofits, providing a diverse array of grant opportunities year-round. Grant applications are accepted annually during the following dates, closing at 11:59 p.m. on the last day of each application period.

## JANUARY 1 - MARCH 1

*These five resident-led grant programs are a part of our Community Interest Funds. Anyone can donate at [omahafoundation.org/donate/CIF](https://omahafoundation.org/donate/CIF).*

- ▶ **African American Unity Fund**  
Focuses on arts and culture, basic human needs, community development, health and wellness, and capacity building.
- ▶ **Futuro Latino Fund**  
Arts and culture, capacity building, community and economic development, civic engagement, health and wellness, youth, families, and women.
- ▶ **LGBTQIA2S+ Equality Fund**  
Workforce development, healthcare accessibility, justice system involvement, public leadership, safe shelter, and homelessness prevention.
- ▶ **Refugee Community Grant Fund**  
Family stabilization and youth support services, education and culture, physical and mental health, and fostering belonging and inclusion.
- ▶ **Omaha Neighborhood Grants**  
Empowering local residents to lead initiatives and projects in their own neighborhoods, fostering active citizenship and community building in Omaha.

## JANUARY 1 - FEBRUARY 5

- ▶ **Omaha Venture Group Grants**  
Focuses on four areas: arts and culture; education and workforce; health; and civic engagement, neighborhoods, and safety.

## JUNE 1 - JULY 15

*Established by OCF donors, Field of Interest Funds support specific areas.*

- ▶ **Creche Childhood Education Fund**  
Early childhood education.
- ▶ **Jetton Charitable Fund**  
Youth access to art, history, and natural sciences.
- ▶ **Richard A. Shaw Fund**  
History, natural sciences, and outdoor education.

## JULY 1 - AUGUST 1

- ▶ **Building Healthy Futures Fund**  
For programs within Omaha Public Schools that provide access to healthcare for children.
- ▶ **Fund for Omaha**  
Advancing racial equity and social justice.

# Fundholders maximize the power of giving

Having a fund at the Omaha Community Foundation provides you with a dynamic tool to support causes you care about and meet community needs. Here are ways to help.

1

## **Give to the Fund for Omaha**

Our community is stronger and more connected when we embrace diversity, acknowledge areas of racial inequity and injustice, and invest in organizations leading the way. Support this work by donating to the Fund for Omaha at [omahafoundation.org/donate](https://omahafoundation.org/donate).

2

## **Recognize and uplift finalists**

Each year, we receive more grant requests than we can fully fund. Here's where you come in. Consider supporting the outstanding nonprofits that reached the finalist stage but did not receive a grant due to limited funds. Your support acknowledges their excellence and invests in their ability to provide programs and services.

3

## **Amplify the impact of grant recipients**

While applicants can request up to \$25,000 for operating support, this amount is just a fraction of what it takes to effectively run a nonprofit. By supporting grant recipients, you're contributing to their sustained success.





# Open a Fund

A Donor Advised Fund is our most popular fund option. It is a charitable-giving account that allows individuals, families, or organizations to contribute, receive an immediate tax deduction, and support the charitable causes and nonprofit organizations of their choice over time. We offer expertise, guidance, and administrative support, simplifying the giving process.

Learn more at [omahafoundation.org/open](https://omahafoundation.org/open).

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## TYPES OF FUNDS

**Charitable Checkbook®:** Start with an initial contribution of \$1,000 or more. Use the funds to support your favorite nonprofits without any annual fees or charges.

**Donor Advised Fund:** Open with a minimum of \$25,000. This charitable investment account allows you to contribute and recommend grants over time, with immediate tax deduction benefits. Your donation is invested to potentially grow your impact.

**Field of Interest Fund:** Requires a \$100,000 donation. Supports specific areas of interest by evaluating and granting to organizations that align with your chosen cause, creating a lasting legacy or honoring a loved one.

**Designated Fund:** Personalized for a specific purpose or activity, allowing support for a particular organization through a single gift or recurring grants.



## **Omaha Community Foundation**

Growing good,  
together.

The Omaha Community Foundation strengthens our community by building connections between people, ideas, and funding.

By developing a deep knowledge of local needs and the nonprofit organizations that are working on solutions, the team at OCF has established itself as a valued resource and a catalyst for good.

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