

Community Interest Funds

2025 OVERVIEW & GIVING GUIDE



Omaha Community
Foundation

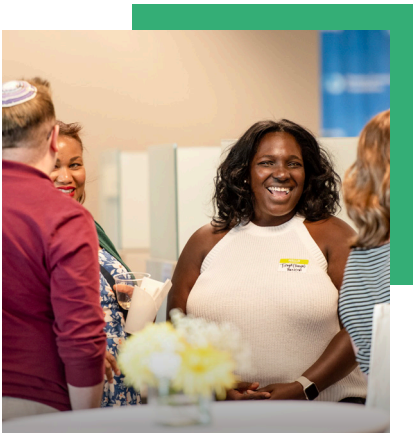
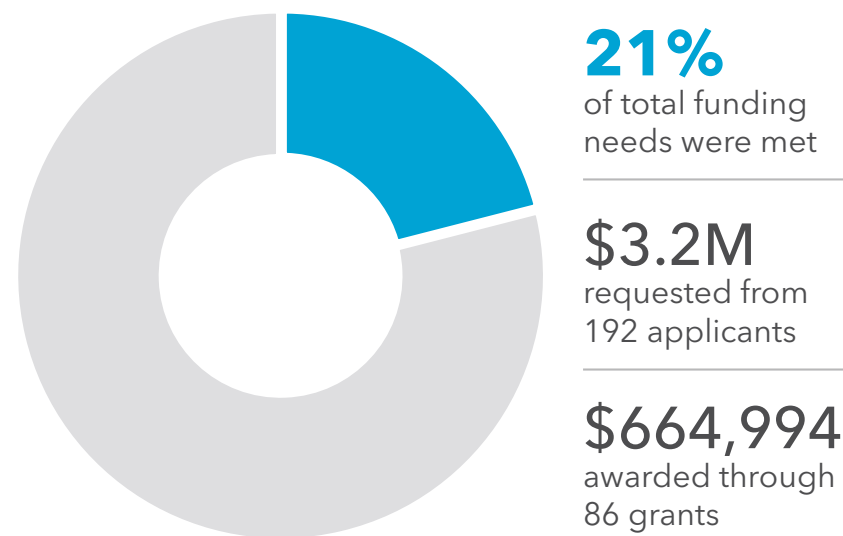
Community Interest Funds

Guided by the decisions of 40 committee members, the Omaha Community Foundation awarded **86 grants totaling \$664,994** to local nonprofits and neighborhood groups in the 2025 grant cycle.

These funds were distributed across our five Community Interest Funds: the African American Unity Fund, Futuro Latino Fund, LGBTQIA2S+ Equality Fund, Refugee Community Grant Fund, and Omaha Neighborhood Grants.

Grants made through our Community Interest Funds are strategic investments. We engage community members to lead grant processes, and we rely on them to exercise and apply their own power and understanding. Each committee is made up of residents who come from or identify with the population being served.

AT A GLANCE



Cover photos clockwise from top left: Nebraska Writers Collective, Raíces de México, Great Plains Theatre Commons, and Inclusive Healers of the Heartland.

OUR MODEL

Resident-led grantmaking leverages the insights, connections, and lived experiences of residents who serve as both community advocates and responsive stewards of investment dollars. This model democratizes philanthropy by engaging and working alongside rather than being prescriptive and doing unto a community.

We made this model a priority for three main reasons.

1

It decentralizes power.

It's a shared opportunity for the funders to get a better understanding of what priorities exist throughout the city. Involving residents in the grantmaking process also allows them to amplify the awareness of smaller, grassroots organizations that are offering effective programs and services but may be otherwise overlooked.

2

It deepens authentic relationships.

Through these resident-led grant committees, we get to know individuals who identify as members of each community, and, in turn, they get to know us. The partnership model develops and deepens relationships in these communities.

3

It strengthens trust between donors and grantees.

By placing the communities we serve at the heart of the decision-making process, resident-led grantmaking shifts power to community members to decide which programs and services will best support and uplift those closest to the issues. Changing who determines grant funding can result in awards that truly reflect the communities' needs. It requires more listening, engagement, and vulnerability.



African American Unity Fund

Established in 2008, the African American Unity Fund invests in the strength and creativity of Omaha's Black community. The fund supports leaders and organizations working to build opportunity, celebrate culture, and address community challenges. Together, these efforts create lasting impact across generations.

AT A GLANCE



12%
of total funding
needs were met

\$1.37M
requested from
64 applicants

\$165,000
awarded through
20 grants

Through the Grief's Art Workshop, Families of the Stolen offers guided art activities, reflection, and peer support – helping families impacted by violence move through grief toward hope. Together, participants build resilience and community connection.

FOTS (FAMILIES OF THE STOLEN)
2025 Grant Recipient, pictured above

2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The African American Unity Fund received 64 applications with requests totaling \$1,373,965. The committee awarded \$165,000 to 20 organizations.

A Mother's Love

\$10,000 – Transportation Support

All In The Family Mentoring & Support Services

\$10,000 – Youth Mentoring & Support Program

Black Student Leadership Council

\$15,000 – General Operations

BLOOM - Building Lifetime Opportunities

\$7,000 – BLOOM Summer Day Camp

Collaborative Creative Visions

\$12,500 – Melanin City Classic

Creighton University

\$5,000 – North Omaha Basic Human Needs Support

Dreams V Reality

\$10,000 – Mister K's Clubhouse: A Place of Love, Learning & Growth

Emerging Ladies Academy

\$7,500 – Tech Academy

FOTS (Families of the Stolen)

\$2,500 – Grief's Art Workshops

Hello Joy

\$5,000 – Capacity Building Initiative

Identity Preparatory Academy

\$15,000 – Pilot Academy Launch

Inclusive Healers of the Heartland

\$5,000 – Inclusive Impact Campaign

J's Braintrust Consulting Services

\$7,000 – Sports Officiating Training

MOMentum

\$5,000 – Rides to Work Program

Native Omaha Days Organizing Committee

\$15,000 – Native Omaha Days Festival

North Omaha Good News Bears

\$11,000 – Youth Club

Omaha Cares Mentoring Movement

\$5,000 – Capacity Building Initiative

One Stop Cancer Shop Nebraska

\$5,000 – General Operations

Black Literacy Matters

\$7,500 – Read to Rise

Together We Achieve Miracles

\$5,000 – Walking Through Memory Lane with Nebraskans' African American Activists



By pairing youth with mentors and offering hands-on activities, BLOOM's Summer Day Camp nurtures confidence, social skills, and a love for learning. The program creates a supportive environment where campers form connections, discover strengths, and explore opportunities for growth.

BLOOM - BUILDING LIFETIME OPPORTUNITIES
2025 Grant Recipient



Futuro Latino Fund

Since 2009, the Futuro Latino Fund has amplified the voices and leadership of Omaha's Latino community. By supporting programs that nurture youth, strengthen families, and expand opportunities, the fund helps ensure Latino residents can thrive while contributing to a vibrant and inclusive city.

AT A GLANCE



31%
of total funding
needs were met

\$477,198
requested from
22 applicants

\$150,000
awarded through
12 grants

By combining mindfulness, movement, and creative expression, Fern Foundation for Kids helps with managing stress, building self-awareness, and strengthening emotional regulation. Programs like yoga, mindful hikes, and a running club nurture resilience while fostering stronger connections at home and in the community.

FERN FOUNDATION FOR KIDS
2025 Grant Recipient, pictured above

2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Futuro Latino Fund received 22 applications with requests totaling \$477,198. The committee awarded \$150,000 to 12 organizations.

Barrientos Scholarship Foundation

\$10,000 – Student Success Mentor & Life Skills Coaching Program

Families in Action

\$10,000 – Familias Creciendo en Salud

Fern Foundation For Kids

\$10,000 – Mindfulness for Kids in Omaha

For All Counseling

\$12,000 – Specialty Mental Health Care (Evaluations & Trauma Support Group)

Gomez Heritage Elementary PTO

\$20,000 – Edward Babe Gomez Heritage Elementary PTO Playground Upgrade

Jackson Boxing Club

\$20,000 – Program Support

Latino Economic Development Council

\$10,000 – Groundbreaking Year, Engaging Youth

LIVE Leadership Camp

\$4,000 – Program Support

Metro Young Latino Professional Association

\$10,000 – MYLPA Scholarship, Professional Development & Mentorship

Raíces de México

\$15,000 – Danza Raíces de México of Omaha

South Omaha OLG Youth Athletics

\$4,000 – Program Support

True Potential Scholarships

\$25,000 – Program Support



True Potential Scholarships helps immigrant students pursue their dreams of higher education by breaking down financial barriers and opening doors to opportunity.

TRUE POTENTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

2025 Grant Recipient



LGBTQIA2S+ Equality Fund

Since 2018, the LGBTQIA2S+ Equality Fund has cultivated an inclusive community in Omaha, supporting expansive gender and sexual identities. The fund is dedicated to building strong support networks, amplifying voices, and addressing gaps in social, economic, political, and justice systems.

AT A GLANCE



39%

of total funding
needs were met

\$381,956

requested from
21 applicants

\$150,000

awarded through
18 grants

The ACLU of Nebraska helps LGBTQIA2S+ Nebraskans live authentically, protect their rights, and strengthen communities where all belong. Through advocacy, education, and legal support, they work to ensure fairness, dignity, and freedom.

ACLU OF NEBRASKA

2025 Grant Recipient, pictured above

The LGBTQIA2S+ Equality Fund is a collaboration between the Sherwood Foundation, Mutual of Omaha, Conagra Brands Foundation, and Peter Kiewit Foundation.

2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The LGBTQIA2S+ Equality Fund received 21 applications with requests totaling \$381,956. The committee awarded \$150,000 to 18 organizations.

Access Period

\$8,000 – Free Inclusive Period Underwear

ACLU of Nebraska

\$10,000 – Defending Civil Rights in Nebraska

BFF Omaha

\$12,000 – Queer Artist Support

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands

\$15,000 – Mentoring with Pride

Collaborative Creative Visions

\$5,500 – Velvet Curtain Vibe

Community Bike Project of Omaha

\$2,500 – WTF Wrench Night

Inclusive Communities

\$7,500 – IncluCity

Jackson Boxing Club

\$2,500 – Training & Community for LGBTQIA2S+ Youth

Legal Aid of Nebraska

\$5,000 – Name Change Clinic

Nebraska AIDS Project

\$15,000 – Enhanced Testing & Outreach

Nebraska Writers Collective

\$5,000 – 2025/26 All Writes Reserved Program

Omaha ForUs

\$10,000 – Mental Health Capacity Building

OneWorld Community Health Centers

\$2,000 – LGBTQIA2S+ Health Care Promotion/Access

Planned Parenthood of the Heartland

\$10,000 – LGBTQIA2S+ Inclusive Sexual & Reproductive Health Education

River City Mixed Chorus

\$12,500 – 2025-2026 Season

United in Pride

\$10,000 – Youth Pride & Scholarship Program

Winnebago Two-Spirit Corps.

\$5,000 – Winnebago Two-Spirit Pride Week

Women's Center for Advancement

\$12,500 – Support for LGBTQIA2S+ Survivors



River City Mixed Chorus unites more than 190 singers to create exceptional musical experiences to support diversity, inspire change, and empower communities.

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS

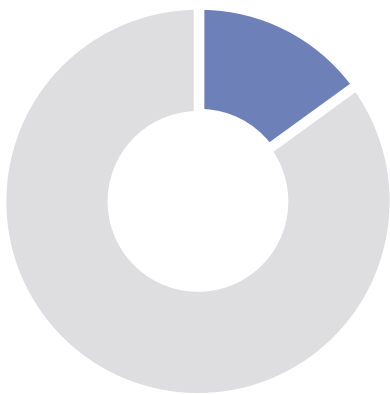
2025 Grant Recipient



Refugee Community Grant Fund

Established in 2020, the Refugee Community Grant Fund centers the voices of refugee families and leaders in Omaha. By investing in programs that foster stability, address urgent needs, and strengthen connection, the fund ensures newcomers have the resources and support they need to rebuild their lives and flourish.

AT A GLANCE



15%
of total funding
needs were met

\$797,400
requested from
43 applicants

\$120,000
awarded through
13 grants

Through collaborative partnerships, Nebraska Diaper Bank works to deliver diapers to families in need, giving children a healthier start in life. Their program focuses on refugee families while also linking caregivers to case management and wraparound supports that reduce stress and build stronger futures.

NEBRASKA DIAPER BANK
2025 Grant Recipient, pictured above

2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Refugee Community Grant Fund received 43 applications with requests totaling \$797,400. The committee awarded \$120,000 to 13 organizations.

African Immigrant Family Services

\$10,000 – African Community Health & Wellness

Intercultural Senior Center

\$7,500 – Transportation for Refugees

International Council for Refugees & Immigrants

\$10,000 – Bridge to Prosperity

Nebraska Diaper Bank

\$5,000 – Changing Diapers Changing Lives 2025

Omaha Welcomes the Stranger

\$7,500 – Omaha Welcomes the Stranger

Refugee Women Organization of Nebraska

\$7,500 – New American Urban Farmers

Refugee Women Rising

\$12,100 – Driving Independence

Restoring Dignity

\$12,500 – Welcome Home Refugee Family Education

St. Pius X / St. Leo School

\$7,500 – English Language Teacher Assistant

Somali Community Services

\$7,500 – Youth Preventive Program

The BLOC

\$7,500 – Personal Board of Directors, Empowering Youth Through Mentorship

The Furniture Project

\$10,000 – Furnishing Hope, Transforming Lives for Refugee Families

Yates Fund

\$15,400 – Yates Illuminates



Restoring Dignity empowers refugee renters and homeowners to create safe, sustainable homes. Their Welcome Home Family Education Program offers hands-on lessons in cleaning, safety, and maintenance, taught by former refugees.

RESTORING DIGNITY

2025 Grant Recipient



Omaha Neighborhood Grants

Strong neighborhoods start with engaged residents. The Omaha Neighborhood Grants program helps local leaders turn good ideas into action, strengthening connections and improving quality of life across the city. Through hands-on projects, neighbors gain experience in leadership, planning, and collaboration while creating safer, more welcoming places to live.

AT A GLANCE



40%
of total funding
needs were met

\$201,403
requested from
51 applicants

\$80,000
awarded through
24 grants

At the heart of Northwest Omaha, Rambleridge Park brings neighbors together. Current projects include restoring the landmark cupola, replacing storm-damaged trees, and improving the pond's ecosystem – all efforts that preserve the park as a vibrant gathering place.

RAMBLERIDGE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
2025 Grant Recipient, pictured above

2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The committee awarded \$80,000 to 23 organizations. The Omaha Neighborhood Grants program received 51 applications with grant requests totaling \$201,403.

Benson Little League

\$1,800 – Community Picnic

Benson Neighborhood Association

\$2,500 – Beautify Benson Campaign

BFF Omaha

\$5,000 – Youth Artist Market

Canopy South

\$5,000 – Community Gardens

Casa De La Cultura

\$5,000 – Cinco de Mayo Cleanup

City Sprouts

\$4,000 – Growing Together

Community Bike Project of Omaha

\$2,500 – DIY Repair Shop

Fairfax Neighborhood

\$5,000 – Community Lot Enhancement

Falcon Ridge Home Owners Association

\$2,500 – Native Wildflower Garden

Free Farm Syndicate

\$5,000 – Neighborhood Food Networks

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

\$4,891 – Summer of Community Building

Grammercy Park Collective

\$4,992 – Green & Clean with Free Libraries

Great Plains Theatre Commons

\$2,500 – Stories of O

inCOMMON Community Development

\$4,000 – Entryway Lighting in Walnut Hill

Kiwanis Club of Florence

\$2,500 – Youth Mental Health Program

Peony Park Neighborhood Association

\$2,986 – Garden & Outreach Programs

Prairie Lane Neighborhood Association

\$1,100 – 4th of July Parade

Rambleridge Property Owners Association

\$4,000 – Park & Pond Improvements

Seventy Five North Revitalization Corp

\$2,500 – Resident Committee Leadership

Skylark/Cryer Neighborhood Association

\$3,225 – Camaraderie & Park Improvements

South Omaha Business Improvement District

\$3,000 – Street Cleanup & Maintenance

The Church / Art House

\$2,500 – Friday2 Art Walk

The Country Club Community Council

\$3,500 – Garden & Education Partnership



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's how you can contribute.

Give to the Community Interest Funds

Your contribution ensures vital resources reach local nonprofits and community organizations driving meaningful change. Support this work by donating to the Community Interest Funds at omahafoundation.org/donate/CIF.

Amplify the impact of grant recipients

The grants awarded are 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, making giving easy.

» Learn more at omahafoundation.org/open.

Nonprofit grant opportunities

Each year, the Omaha Community Foundation awards around \$1 million to local nonprofits through our grant programs. This list represents the full scope of competitive funding available through OCF. Applications close at 11:59 p.m. on the final day of each period.

JANUARY 1 - MARCH 1

These five resident-led grant programs are a part of our Community Interest Funds.

- ▶ **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 6

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

JUNE 1 - JULY 15

Established by OCF donors, Field of Interest Funds support focus 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 providing access to healthcare for Omaha Public Schools students and their families.
- ▶ **Fund for Omaha**
For organizations that broaden essential services, foster economic stability, and enhance overall well-being.

CONTACT US

Anne Meysenburg
Director of Community Investment
anne@omahafoundation.org
402-933-4237

Laura Contreras
Senior Program Manager
laura@omahafoundation.org
402-884-0792

Dasia Horne
Senior Program Manager
dasia@omahafoundation.org
402-933-4245



**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.

» [**omahafoundation.org**](https://omahafoundation.org)