



Fund for Omaha

2025 OVERVIEW & GIVING GUIDE

Fund for Omaha

The Omaha Community Foundation is committed to strengthening our community by supporting nonprofit organizations through the Fund for Omaha.

We believe when people have resources and opportunities, our community becomes stronger and more connected. The Fund for Omaha provides grants to organizations that broaden essential services, foster economic stability, and enhance overall well-being.

We're focusing on addressing funding gaps by supporting organizations that are deeply engaged in their communities. Program goals include:

- Strengthening the capacity of grassroots nonprofit organizations.
- Supporting efforts that improve community systems and services.
- Increasing connections among individuals and organizations.
- Increasing availability of essential resources and opportunities.

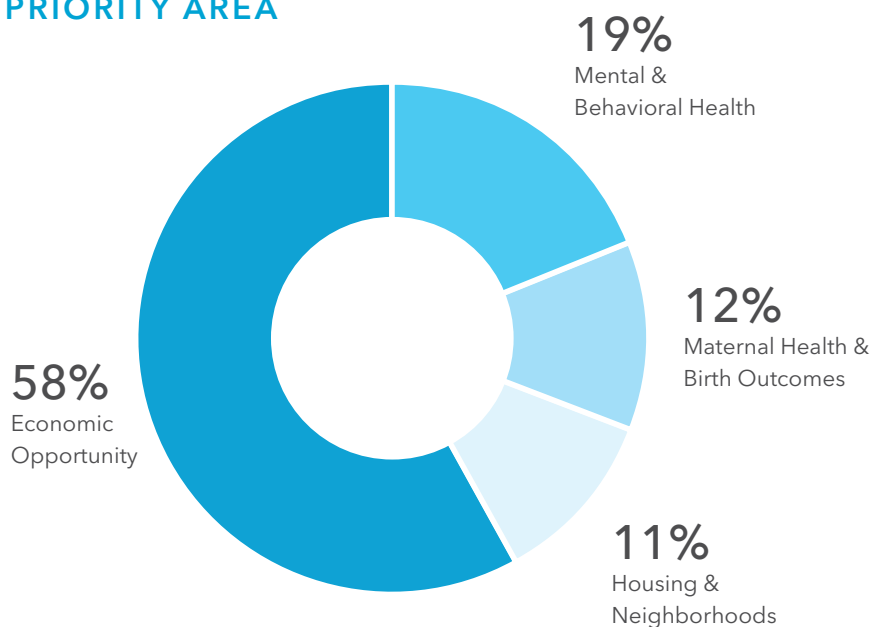
\$2.9M

requested by 123 applicants

\$467,918

awarded to 24 local nonprofits in 2025

WHERE FUNDING WENT BY PRIORITY AREA





INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

The Fund for Omaha supports organizations working to enhance quality of life and build opportunity. Funding priorities include, but are not limited to, the following:

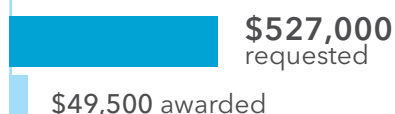
▶ Economic Opportunity

Broadening opportunities for high-quality education, employment, career development, and fair wages.



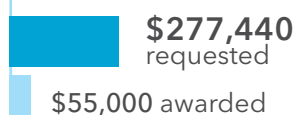
▶ Housing & Neighborhoods

Increase availability of affordable housing, supporting homeownership, and developing public spaces that foster social connections.



▶ Maternal Health & Birth Outcomes

Enhancing healthcare services, resources, and support for pregnant individuals to ensure safe pregnancies and childbirth experiences.



▶ Mental & Behavioral Health

Expanding the opportunity to utilize comprehensive mental and behavioral health services and removing barriers to care.



Enhancing overall well-being

In a highly competitive grant cycle, the Fund for Omaha awarded a total of \$467,918 to 24 nonprofits, representing 20% of this year's applicants.

100 Black Men of Omaha

Provides a variety of programming to mentor and support African-American men in areas like education, community, and emotional well-being. Programs intentionally foster personal growth, academic achievement, leadership development, and successful post-secondary transitions through long-term mentoring relationships and targeted enrichment activities. (\$25,000)

African Immigrant Family Services

Empowers African immigrant and refugee families through health, education, and family support services. AIFS delivers linguistically and culturally appropriate programs, including maternal health, youth development, and community wellness. (\$20,000)

Bluebird Cultural Initiative

Offers youth and family programs that promote healing and healthy futures through Native arts and traditions, supporting cultural preservation and community well-being. Bluebird also provides professional development for educators, healthcare providers, and other institutions to deepen cultural understanding and responsiveness. (\$25,000)

Eastern Nebraska Community Action Partnership

Partners with individuals and families facing poverty to provide emergency assistance, food access, and financial empowerment. (\$25,000)

For All Counseling Services

Increases access to mental health care for immigrants and asylum seekers by providing evaluations that ensure critical psychological factors are considered in legal cases and creating viable pathways to ongoing therapy. (\$10,000)

Generation Diamond

Offers transitional services like tattoo removal, peer support, emergency essentials, and skill development to adults facing employment instability, system involvement, or acute life disruption. (\$16,000)

Girls Inc. of Omaha

Offers holistic, research-based after-school and summer programming for nearly 800 girls along with college and career preparatory program for teens. Girls Inc. supports young women ages 19-24 through an alumni network, mentoring program, and transitional living program. (\$20,000)

Healing Ribbons

Fosters intergenerational healing, cultural revitalization, and community wellness for Native women, two-spirit relatives, and their families through programs like the Art of Healing, regalia-making workshops, and cultural gatherings. (\$10,000)

Heartland Workers Center

Develops immigrant leaders, promotes workers' rights, and fosters civic engagement by supporting immigrant families through safety planning, leadership training, workforce development, and education. (\$25,000)

IBBG

Builds economic opportunity, political power, and improved maternal-health through community-led leadership. (\$25,000)

inCOMMON Community Development

Works alongside local residents to help neighbors overcome poverty through programs that build economic self-sufficiency and community connections. They invest in affordable housing, neighborhood revitalization, and engagement initiatives. (\$22,000)

Latino Center of the Midlands

Guides middle/high school students, young adults exploring careers, and adult learners through education, opportunity and wellness. (\$25,000)

Learning For ALL

Provides free English language classes, Adult Basic Education, GED preparation, one-on-one tutoring, and conversation classes to adults across Omaha for people who face barriers to education. (\$15,418)

Lending Link

Combats predatory lending practices through its low-interest loan fund and provides educational programming, strengthening the regional economy and promoting greater financial stability in Omaha. (\$25,000)

Midlands African Chamber

Provides a mechanism to establish, administer and finance programs that enhance the robust African and African American communities' crucial needs, in line with the goals of the Midlands African Chamber. (\$25,000)

MOMentum

Secures career opportunities for un/underemployed moms through career coaching and support services like transportation, housing, or childcare. (\$10,000)

No More Empty Pots

Addresses food security, education, and economic opportunity. They connect people to improve self-sufficiency, regional food security, and economic resilience through advocacy and action. (\$25,000)

Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty

Equips individuals with tools to more confidently budget for day-to-day and housing expenses, become self-assured in navigating unexpected costs, and learn to build on their support systems. (\$25,000)

One Omaha

Engages communities and their leaders by providing education, facilitation services including brainstorming, visioning sessions, budget planning, and technical application assistance. (\$10,000)



Project Houseworks

Provides essential home repairs, accessibility modifications, and revitalization services for low income homeowners, focusing on older adults, immigrant and refugee families, and low to middle income families seeking homeownership. (\$17,500)

Refugee Women Rising

Empowers refugee and immigrant women through culturally grounded programs in three core areas: driving and transportation, culinary opportunity, and holistic wellness. (\$22,000)

RISE Academy

Offers inmates an in-prison character development and job readiness program. Following reentry, graduates continue receiving support through opportunities such as the RISE Business Academy, family programs, policy work, and employment services. (\$25,000)

The Bike Union Mentoring Project

Provides workforce development and personal growth opportunities to young adults impacted by the foster care system including with workforce development at Astute Coffee, financial literacy, cooking and nutrition, mindfulness meditation, academic tutoring, and more. (\$10,000)

Youth Emergency Services (YES)

Provides emergency services to runaway, homeless, and near-homeless youth for over 50 years. YES is a National Safe Place organization and the only organization in the Omaha metro focusing directly on helping youth ages 16-24 address immediate crises and work to become self-sufficient. (\$10,000)

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 working to broaden resources and opportunities. Funding decisions are made with the following considerations:

Community Impact

Does the nonprofit provide meaningful opportunities that enhance quality of life?

Cultural Understanding

Does the nonprofit demonstrate awareness of the broad range of needs and perspectives in the community?

Engagement & Experience

Does the nonprofit prioritize community involvement and lived experiences in shaping its programs and services?

Capacity Building

Does the grant support the nonprofit's ability to increase its reach and effectiveness?



Casa de la Cultura

2025 FINALISTS

Recognizing excellence

Here, we highlight the 17 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.

ACLU OF NEBRASKA: Educates, advocates, and litigates to defend and expand the rights and freedoms of all Nebraskans. Their work focuses on voting rights/democracy defense, immigrants' rights, indigenous justice, bodily autonomy, and criminal legal reform.

CASA DE LA CULTURA: Drives community programming emphasizing youth development, tourism initiatives, historic preservation, and professional networking making lasting economic impact across the metro area. Programming includes Cinco de Mayo Omaha, Mi Casa es su Casa networking events, and the USLatinoHeritage.com project documenting Latino history in Nebraska.

COLLEGE POSSIBLE: Empowers students from low-income backgrounds to earn a college degree through access and success programs through a personalized model of coaching and support.

DIGNITY IN HEALING COLLECTIVE: Trains individuals to provide evidence-based behavioral health support as part of collaborative care teams, with a focus on developing a workforce that represents the communities they serve.

FAMILY HOUSING ADVISORY SERVICES: Stabilizes vulnerable families using an approach built on the foundations of HUD-certified education and counseling by addressing the root causes of poverty.

FIREFLY: Offers crucial support services through its family, health, and literacy programs, ensuring everyone has the essential services needed to be school-ready, healthy, and thriving by age 5.

IGNITE NEBRASKA: Upskills local talent and offers career pathways to untapped talent across our communities. Through customized technical and soft skills training, they provide wraparound support that helps participants launch and sustain meaningful careers.

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES: Collaborates with schools, nonprofits, businesses and civic leaders to expand education and community engagement. They also offer leadership development and community building programs.

INTERCULTURAL SENIOR CENTER: Serves adults 50 and older, including refugees and immigrants from 32 countries speaking 25 languages. They provide comprehensive programs and services that nurture the whole person and values the wisdom and experience of our diverse elders and creates opportunities for them to embrace and enhance their community.

LATINO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: Advances growth through culturally rooted economic development, youth leadership, and neighborhood revitalization in South Omaha and beyond. LEDC pairs urgent community support, such as the Community Stabilization Fund, with transformational projects like Plaza de la Raza to strengthen South Omaha's future.

NORTH OMAHA MUSIC & ARTS: Expands opportunities for low-income youth to participate in intensive music education and houses a performing arts venue for live performance in North Omaha.

OMAHA MUNICIPAL LAND BANK: Partners with community entities focused on revitalization and affordable housing to reduce vacant lots and find suitable solutions. This approach unlocks development potential, encourages economic growth, and enhances neighborhood prosperity.



OOH DE LALLY: Empowers people who have been incarcerated to gain skills through comprehensive culinary training and meaningful employment opportunities at their restaurant. They strive to reduce recidivism, foster personal growth, and nurture self-sufficiency while providing exceptional dining experiences.

SHELTERING TREE: Creates and operates affordable, quality, consumer-controlled apartment communities to help low-income adults with developmental disabilities achieve maximum independence, build friendships, and contribute to the greater community in which they live.

SKATEFEST OMAHA: Provides Omaha and surrounding areas with unique skate events, character building programs for youth, and pocket parks in underutilized and abandoned lots.

THE WELLBEING PARTNERS: Specializes in community wellness and workplace partnerships to address local health challenges and grow healthy work cultures.

YOUTH CARE AND BEYOND: Provides in-home services, including foster care, visitation, and parenting services. They also offer community-based family and individual services through the department of developmental disabilities.

Nonprofit grant opportunities

Each year, the Omaha Community Foundation awards over \$2 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.

FEBRUARY 1 - MARCH 1

- ▶ **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.

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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 all individuals and families have resources and opportunities. When we invest in organizations that broaden essential services, foster economic stability, and enhance overall well-being, the entire community benefits. Support this work by donating to the Fund for Omaha at 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.

Want to know more? Reach out to info@omahafoundation.org for details about applicants or community needs.



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.

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 donation of \$100,000 or more. 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.

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