

Community Interest Funds

2026 OVERVIEW & GIVING GUIDE



Omaha Community
Foundation

Community Interest Funds

Guided by the decisions of 32 committee members, the Omaha Community Foundation awarded **90 grants totaling \$827,800** to local nonprofits and neighborhood groups in the 2026 grant cycle.

These funds were distributed across our five Community Interest Funds: the African American Unity Fund, Futuro Latino Fund, 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

28%

of total funding
needs were met

\$2.98M

requested from
197 applicants

\$827,800

awarded through
90 grants



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

16%

of total funding
needs were met

\$1,368,209

requested from
65 applicants

\$225,000

awarded through
20 grants



Pictured: *Melanin Market Omaha* (above), *Skatefest Omaha* (right)

2026 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The African American Unity Fund received 65 applications with requests totaling \$1,368,209. The committee awarded \$225,000 to 20 organizations.

A Mother's Love Inc.

\$11,000 – A Mother's Love & Empower Classes

Black Police Officers Association of Omaha

\$11,250 – 2026 Omaha Teen Summit (OTS)

Code Black Professional Tech Network

\$5,100 – Code Black Capacity Building Grant

Dreams V Reality

\$9,000 – Mister K's Clubhouse, Season 6: Arts as an Essential Component of Accessible Early Education

Good News Bears Club of Omaha, Inc.

\$18,000 – North Omaha Good News Bears

HALLINS Corporation

\$12,000 – HALLINS Jazz Masterclass

Hello Joy Inc.

\$15,000 – Her R.I.S.E.

The House of Afros, Capes & Curls

\$22,500 – "The House" Capacity Building 2026

House of Bah Foundation

\$10,000 – Benson Global Kitchens (High School Program)

Institute for Black Literacy/ Black Literacy Matters

\$15,000 – Read to Rise

Inclusive Healers of the Heartland

\$2,500 – Inclusive Impact Campaign

Ivy League Youth Sports Academy

\$18,750 – Game Ready, Life Ready: ILYSA Youth Sports Access Initiative

The Joy Ambition

\$5,000 – 7th Annual Juneteenth JoyFest

The Keys Foundation

\$7,500 – Black Girls Leadership & Wellness Pipeline

Melanin Market Omaha

\$15,000 – Melanin Market Omaha

One Stop Cancer Shop Nebraska

\$5,000 – One Stop Cancer Shop – North Omaha

Pear Tree Performing Arts

\$22,500 – Pear Tree Performing Arts Capacity Building

Room for Roots, Inc.

\$2,400 – K.I.F.A (Kids Interested In Fine Arts)

Skatefest Omaha

\$7,500 – SkateFest North Omaha Programming

Urban Survival Club

\$10,000 – Urban Survival Club Entrepreneurship Pipeline





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

40%

of total funding
needs were met

\$419,730

requested from
23 applicants

\$167,800

awarded through
10 grants



Pictured: *Raíces de México* (above), *Metro Young Latino Professional Association* (right)

2026 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Futuro Latino Fund received 23 applications with requests totaling \$419,730. The committee awarded \$167,800 to 10 organizations.

Amanecer Inc

\$12,800 – Comunidad Sana: Bilingual Community Mental Health Training Series (Spanish/English)

Danza Raíces de México

\$20,000 – Promoción de la cultura a través de la danza folklórica

For All Counseling Services Inc.

\$25,000 – Specialty Mental Health Services

Gomez Heritage Elementary PTO

\$12,500 – Gomez Heritage PTO Playground and Outdoor Classrooms Renovations

Interfaith Health Service dba Families in Action

\$15,000 – Mujeres en Bienestar

Jackson Boxing Club

\$25,000 – JACKSON BOXING 2026

LIVE Leadership Camp

\$5,000 – LIVE Leadership Camp 2026

Metro Young Latino Professional Association

\$15,000 – MYLPA Scholarship and Professional Development

South High PTO

\$12,500 – South High School PTO

True Potential Scholarships

\$25,000 – Program Support





Equality Fund

Since 2018, the **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

53%

of total funding
needs were met

\$355,712

requested from
21 applicants

\$190,000

awarded through
15 grants



Pictured: *ACLU Nebraska Foundation, Inc. (above), BFF Omaha Inc. (right)*

2026 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Equality Fund received 21 applications with requests totaling \$355,712.
The committee awarded \$190,000 to 15 organizations.

Access Period

\$11,000 - Continued Support for Free Inclusive Period Underwear

ACLU Nebraska Foundation, Inc.

\$20,000 - Protecting Trans Youth and Families in Omaha

BFF Omaha Inc.

\$16,790 - First Friday Pride

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands

\$10,000 - Mentoring with Pride: Building a Stronger Future for LGBTQIA2S+ Youth & Allies

Legal Aid of Nebraska

\$7,077 - LGBTQIA2S+ Name Change Clinic

Nebraska AIDS Project

\$10,000 - Enhanced Prevention Services

No More Empty Pots

\$2,605 - Safe Spaces in Florence: Connecting Community Through Food and Learning

Omaha ForUs

\$20,000 - Mental Health Capacity Building II

Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, Inc.

\$20,000 - LGBTQIA2S+ Inclusive Sexual and Reproductive Health Education in Omaha

River City Mixed Chorus

\$20,000 - RCMC 2026-2027 Season: Tyler's Suite

United in Pride

\$5,000 - Youth Pride & Scholarship Program

Visiting Nurse Health Services

\$25,923 - Public Health Nursing for Equity Pilot Initiative

The Wellbeing Partners

\$7,205 - Connect and Thrive: Expanding Access to LGBTQIA2S+ Culturally Relevant Mental Health Support

Winnebago Two-Spirit Corps.

\$9,400 - Winnebago Two-Spirit Pride Month

Women's Center for Advancement

\$5,000 - Services for LGBTQIA2S+ Survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking





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

26%

of total funding
needs were met

\$643,413

requested from
40 applicants

\$165,000

awarded through
22 grants



Pictured: Access Period (above), Intercultural Senior Center (right)

2026 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Refugee Community Grant Fund received 40 applications with requests totaling \$643,413. The committee awarded \$165,000 to 22 organizations.

Access Period

\$8,000 - Free Period Products for Refugee-Serving Community Partners

African Immigrant Family Services

\$10,000 - African Community Health Navigation, Education & Screening Initiative – Phase II

All People's Pantry

\$5,000 - Food Distributions

Bethany Lutheran Elkhorn

\$5,000 - Food 4 Families

Chin Youth Organization of Nebraska

\$5,000 - Chin American Momentum Project (CAMP)

The Furniture Project - Omaha

\$10,000 - Furnishing Hope, Transforming Lives For Refugees 2026

Intercultural Senior Center

\$10,000 - Transportation Support for Diverse Seniors

International Council for Refugees & Immigrants, Inc.

\$5,000 - Bridge to Prosperity Refugee Youth Program

Justice for Our Neighbors-Nebraska, dba CIRA

\$10,000 - Refugee Intensive Case Management

KARENNI INDEPENDENT SWEET SMILE, INC

\$8,000 - Khusaoppyar Shine Noe

Learning For ALL

\$5,000 - Adult Education for Omaha Refugees

Nebraska Afghan Community Center

\$5,000 - Family Well-being and Youth Academic Program Expansion and Support

Nebraska Diaper Bank

\$8,000 - Changing Diapers, Changing Lives 2026

No More Empty Pots

\$3,000 - Diversity on a Plate: Intersection of Culture and Cuisine

Omaha Welcomes the Stranger, Inc.

\$10,000 - Omaha Welcomes the Stranger Professional Fees Application

Project Houseworks - HomeWoven

\$10,000 - HomeWoven's Immigrant and Refugee Repair Services

Refugee Women Rising

\$10,000 - Refugee Women Rising: Driving Safer & Stronger

Restoring Dignity

\$5,000 - Welcome Home Refugee Family Education Program 2026

Robinsons Family Advocacy Center

\$5,000 - RFAC Cultural Bridge Network

The Simple Foundation (TSF)

\$8,000 - Safe Place to Play and Learn

St. Pius X / St. Leo School

\$10,000 - English Language Teacher Assistant

Yates Fund - Yates Illuminates

\$10,000 - Weaving community through cultural events, sharing meals, and community gatherings





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

41%

of total funding
needs were met

\$195,024

requested from
48 applicants

\$80,000

awarded through
23 grants



Pictured: [H2O Collective](#) (above), [Great Plains Theatre Commons](#) (right)

2026 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The committee awarded \$80,000 to 23 organizations. The Omaha Neighborhood Grants program received 48 applications with grant requests totaling \$195,024.

Bemis Park Neighborhood Association

\$875 – Tennis Court Spectator Bench

Benson Community Garden

\$1,560 – Benson Community Garden
Education Garden

Benson Creative District

\$5,000 – Benson Creative District
Collaborative Communications

Benson Neighborhood Association

\$3,400 – Clean & Connected:
Benson Safety and Beautification Initiative

Black Police Officers Association of Omaha

\$1,000 – Honoring Through Action: Kerrie Orozco
Memorial Ballfield Community Service Initiative

Casa De La Cultura

\$5,000 – Plaza de la Raza Community Clean-Up
Initiative (Spring and Fall 2026)

City Sprouts

\$4,855 – Growing Together

The Church/Art House

\$4,500 – Community Connect and Create Days/
Día de Conectar y Crear en la Comunidad

Collaborative Creative Visions Inc

\$3,800 – Pull Up and Vibe: The Kickback –
Neighborhood Creative Leadership Series

Free Farm

\$5,000 – Building Neighborhood Food Sovereignty &
Community Trust Through Neighborhood Crop Swaps

Great Plains Theatre Commons

\$2,500 – Stories of O

H2O Collective LLC

\$2,500 – D'Colores - Colors in Motion

KARENNI INDEPENDENT SWEET SMILE, INC

\$5,000 – Karenni Community Leadership
& Cultural Engagement Project

Miller Park Minne Lusa

Neighborhood Association

\$4,700 – Halloween on the Boolevard

Morton Meadows Community Garden

\$1,895 – Improve and Engage

Prairie Lane Neighborhood Association

\$900 – 4th of July Parade

Saddle Creek Corridor Neighborhood Association

\$5,000 – Omaha Seed Saving Leadership Academy

Seventy Five North Revitalization Corp

\$5,000 – Highlander Resident Committee Leadership

South Omaha Business Improvement District

\$3,700 – Community Planting Day on S. 24th Street

SPARKPositivity

\$1,315 – Generational Love: Bridging Generations
Through Kindness

TILT23

\$2,500 – TILT23 Summer of Art Block Party

Union for Contemporary Art

\$5,000 – Abundance Garden – Community Care,
Wellness, and Learning

Walnut Hill Action Committee

\$5,000 – Walnut Hill Action Committee (WHAC)





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 \$2.5 million to local nonprofits through our Community Investment 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.
- ▶ **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

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**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