



Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program (via Minneapolis Foundation)



Application deadline¹: 11/2026

(Evaluated on a rolling basis every 3-4 months)



Available funding for 2025: \$40M

(30% of funding will be set-aside for tribes, 25% for rural communities, and 45% for urban communities)

1. Deadline for application submission to The Minneapolis Foundations. Deadlines may vary by grant-makers or regions.

Source: [The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program](#)

Note: This fact pack has been created with the program NOFO as of January 24th, 2025. NOFOs may be subject to change. Please monitor [grants.gov](#) and source material for additional information

The Minneapolis Foundation's administration of the Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program



Goals and merit criteria for Thriving Communities

- The Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program has designated \$40M for community-based organizations and community-based innovation in the Great Lakes region (Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio). These projects will center around environmental concerns and uplifting public health in EPA-defined disadvantaged communities
- Grants will be distributed by regional sub-granters – for the Great Lakes, the regional sub-granter is **The Minneapolis Foundation**.¹ **The foundation will be leading** the Great Lakes TCGM Partnership with 5 other organizations. The partnership will prioritize applications from:
 - Federally recognized tribes Native American, Indigenous, and community-based nonprofits with budgets under \$5 million
 - Native American, Indigenous, and community-based nonprofits with fewer than 10 full-time (or equivalent) staff members
 - Communities that have received federal or state disaster declarations in the past five years
 - Communities with populations under 10,000

1. Note additional grantmaking will occur nationally. The National Grantmaker for Regions 5-7 will be The Research Triangle Institute. This fact pack only captures application requirements set forth by The Minneapolis Foundation for regional grantmaking to Region 5 (Great Lakes).

Source: [Minneapolis Foundation](#)

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Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Program Details

Match funding requirement: N/A

Direct Pay applicability: Yes¹

The program provides 3 “tiers” of grants, each of which is focused on a different level of funding and complexity of grant

Eligible grant uses	<i>Tier 1:</i> assessment and engagement efforts that increase understanding of the breadth, depth, or impact of local environmental or public health issues (e.g., GIS mapping, public engagement)	
	<i>Tier 2:</i> community-focused efforts that design, inform, and highlight solutions to local environmental or public health priorities	
	<i>Tier 3:</i> to pilot or implement project plans (e.g., stormwater and green infrastructure, emergency preparedness, disaster resilience, etc.)	
Award amounts	Tier 1 grants	\$25k - \$150k
	Tier 2 grants	Up to \$250k
	Tier 3 grants	More than or equal to \$350k
	Period of performance	3 years
Previous awards (sub-granters)	Awards to be announced from 10 regional grantmakers (\$40M-\$50M each) and 3 national grantmakers. Awards will be distributed on a rolling basis through the Environmental Justice Program	
Previous awards (national/MI)	Awards to be announced on a 3-4 month rolling basis	

1. Direct Pay may be applicable to projects focused on renewable energy or electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Source: [Minneapolis Foundation](#); [FAQs – The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program \(EJ TCGM\)](#)

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High level requirements to apply for The Minneapolis Foundation's grantmaking of Thriving Communities

Each tier of grant will require a different application and set of requirements based on type of project being submitted

NON-EXHAUSTIVE



Eligible Entities

- Tribal governments (both federally and state-recognized) and intertribal consortia
- Native American and Indigenous organizations, including groups, cooperatives, nonprofit corporations, partnerships, and associations
- Community-based and grassroots nonprofit organizations
- Philanthropic and civic organizations with 501(c)(3) nonprofit non-profit status
- Local governments
- Institutions of higher education



Key Grant Application Components

- Tier 1 includes a 6-12 month workplan, organizational budget, and proof that their project benefits disadvantage communities using the EJScreen tool
- Tier 2 includes a 12-24 month workplan, an evaluation plan, and preliminary data for proof-of-concept for planning, partnership building, and community involvement
- Tier 3 includes a 12-24 month workplan and specific budget template, plus documentation for up to 10 partners if applying as a coalition.
- All tiers require written narratives to describe the lead applicant and proposed project

Supplemental documents

- Organizations will be required to submit relevant federal documents including SF-424, SF-424A, EPA Form 4700-4, EPA Form 5700-54
- If applying as a partnership, the application will include a template for the partnership agreements that are established; for Tier 2 and Tier 3 applications, partnerships will be required to be listed up to 10 partnerships
- All grants must identify if the community being helped is a disadvantaged community per the EPA's definition using the EPA's EJScreen

Source: [Minneapolis Foundation Grant Guidelines](#)

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4