

**Overview of the Bridges and Bridges Regional Treatment Center Programs Request for Proposals**

The Bridges and Bridges Regional Treatment Center (RTC) Program is a state funded grant program that provides rental housing assistance for low-income people with mental illness. The Bridges and Bridges RTC programs provide temporary rental assistance, security deposits, and access to housing supports and supportive services. The rental assistance is intended to bridge the housing gap between exiting institutional facilities, segregated settings, supervised release, and homelessness, to securing permanent affordable housing. The grantees have local partnerships with behavioral health service agencies to provide access to supportive services to help households maintain housing stability. The supportive services are funded through various resources outside of this grant program.

Minnesota Housing, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) Behavioral Health Division, issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on January 9, 2023, with applications due on February 14, 2023. Eligible applicants were Housing Agencies (HA), tribal nations, or nonprofit organizations. All applicants must have demonstrated experience working with low-income housing programs and with people exiting Institutions, segregated settings, and supervised release. Applicants must also have a documented partnerships with a local mental health entity that will collaborate with the rental assistance administrator to implement the program at the local level. The partnership must also identify behavioral health service partners that can and are committed to serve Bridges and Bridges RTC participants in their service area.

Minnesota Housing made available up to \$11,500,000 in grant funds for a two-year grant period from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025. Twenty-one proposals requesting a total of \$13,229,594 were submitted; seventeen proposals for Bridges and four for Bridges RTC. Fifteen proposed to serve greater Minnesota and six proposed to serve the metro area.

This document provides general information regarding Minnesota Housing's process of selecting program administrators under this RFP.

**Overview of Selection Framework**

The selection process for the program involved a multi-phased evaluation. Applications not passing the requirements of a particular phase would not proceed to the next stage in the review process.

Initially, all submitted applications were assessed for completeness; incomplete applications were not considered. The next phase evaluated applications to make sure applicants were eligible, as detailed in the RFP. Applications were then scored by a team of reviewers, including Minnesota Housing staff, DHS staff, and community reviewers with industry knowledge. Scores were based on the scoring rubric outlined in the RFP, which totaled 100 points for Bridges applicants and 105 points for Bridges RTC applicants. The application was 65% of the score and the remaining 35% was based on past performance or responses to the New Applicant section of the application. Per the Department of Administration Office of Grants Management Policy 08-06, staff also completed a financial review of nongovernmental

organizations to make sure that organizations were financially stable to carry out the purpose of the grant. For additional information on application requirements, eligibility, and the scoring rubric, refer to the [RFP Application Instructions](#)

## Final Selections

In addition to the grant evaluation process, Minnesota Housing also considered several additional factors, including the ability to serve the priority populations; the program design and implementation with an emphasis on resources, practices, and partners to serve the intended region; the ability to be inclusive of diverse populations; and the collaborative partnerships and access to mental health services provided to participants. The scoring rubric informs the process but was not the only deciding factor.

Minnesota Housing provides an opportunity for all applicants to receive a formal debrief to review their evaluation and to discuss how to strengthen potential future applications for funding.

The following table outlines selected applicants, the total amount requested (along with the selection amount), geographic boundaries, and the score each applicant received. All applicants passed the initial phase of review and were selected for funding.

## Results of the Bridges and Bridges RTC Program

Administrator	2023-24 Award
<b>BRIDGES</b>	
Brainerd Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 178,776
Carver County Community Development Agency	\$ 299,234
Douglas County Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 173,127
Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Bemidji	\$ 175,526
Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Duluth	\$ 204,960
Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Itasca	\$ 303,600
Mental Health Resources, Inc. (MHR)	\$ 4,747,680
Moorhead Public Housing Agency	\$ 395,472
Olmstead County Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 390,912
Owatonna Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 542,500
Red Wing Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 225,792
Saint Cloud Housing and Redevelopment Authority 7-E	\$ 227,304

Saint Cloud Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 550,338
Scott County Community Development Agency	\$ 272,850
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.	\$ 192,220
Washington County Community Development Agency	\$ 574,548
White Earth Nation	\$ 505,310
<b>TOTAL BRIDGES</b>	<b>\$ 9,960,149</b>
<b>BRIDGES RTC</b>	
Carver County Community Development Agency	\$ 41,664
Mental Health Resources, Inc (MHR)	\$ 536,032
Scott County Community Development Agency	\$ 78,420
<b>TOTAL BRIDGES RTC</b>	<b>\$ 656,116</b>
<b>TOTAL BRIDGES</b>	<b>\$ 9,960,149</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>\$ 10,616,265</b>

**NOTE:** Two Bridges grantees that were awarded funds under the 2022-2023 RFP did not apply for the 2024-2025 RFP, consequently Minnesota Housing did not commit \$186,000 of available funding under this RFP. This allowed Minnesota Housing to later commit those funds to the grantees who accepted the program participants from the two grantees that did not reapply to the program. The \$186,000 was based on the number of households Minnesota Housing staff anticipates transitioning to the new grantees, an average rent amount for a particular area, and the duration of the contract period.

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