Grant Request for Proposal Cover Sheet

Purpose

This cover sheet is required for all executive branch granting agencies issuing competitive grant RFPs. It provides a high-level overview of the grant program and funding opportunity to help potential applicants determine whether to pursue a grant opportunity.

Applicants should review the full RFP before submitting an application.

Name of Granting Agency: Minnesota Housing Finance Agency

Title of Grant Program: Bridges and Bridges Regional Treatment Center Rental Assistance Programs

Table 1: RFP Summary

Topic	Description	RFP Page Number
Overview, Grant Description and Purpose	Bridges Programs provide temporary rental assistance, security deposits, and access to housing supports and supportive services for People with Mental Illness.	1
Eligible Applicants	Housing Agencies (housing authorities, nonprofit organizations and Tribal Nations) are eligible to apply in partnership with a local mental health entity. The partnership must identify behavioral health service partners that will serve participants in the service area.	3
Eligible Projects	Selected grantees must service participants who meet the following requirements: • The head of household or other household member is 18 years of age or over and has a diagnosed mental illness, as defined in Minn. Stat. 245.462, subd. 20 (a), verified by a mental health professional; • The household is eligible to receive an HCV or other permanent housing option or can become eligible based on successful participation in the Bridges Program; and • The gross income of the household at the time of initial eligibility is at or below 50% of the area median income for the household size.	4-5

Topic	Description	RFP Page Number
	Funds may be used for: • Monthly administrative fees • Lease-up fees • Direct payment to property owners for subsidy portions of the rent • Direct payment to property owners for security deposits • Direct payment to property owners for application fees • Direct payment to property owners for vacancy payments and damage claims • Direct payment to utility companies for utility connection fees • Direct payment to financial assurance/risk mitigation programs to provide housing to potential participants	
Amount available, award amounts and key funding items	Minnesota Housing anticipates awarding up to $14 million for a two-year grant period. • A pre-award risk assessment is required for grants of $50,000 or more. • Funds may not be spent before the grant contract agreement contract is signed.	2
Application Timelines	• The RFP opens on Monday, November 9, 2026 • Submit questions to ellie.miller@state.mn.us by noon, Central time on Wednesday, November 23, 2026. • All application materials are due by noon, Central time on Wednesday, January 13, 2027	13
Application Format	The RFP can be viewed on Minnesota Housing's Bridges Program webpage. Submit application materials to Minnesota Housing's Secure Upload Tool. Using the online tool, send items to mhfa.app@state.mn.us. Review the Secure Upload Tool Instructions for more information. Documents must be uploaded in their original format, except for the Application Signature page which may be submitted as a PDF.	
Questions, Technical Assistance, Contact Information	• Applicants should also review the Bridges and Bridges RTC Rental Assistance Program Guide. • The RFP Information session will be held via Microsoft Teams at 10 a.m. Central time on Thursday, November 12, 2026.	18, 13

Topic	Description	RFP Page Number
	• Questions are accepted until noon, Central time on Monday, November 23, 2026. • Answers to questions will be posted on Minnesota Housing's webpage on or around Wednesday, December 2, 2026. • Questions can be directed to Ellie Miller at ellie.miller@state.mn.us.	
Grant Implementation Requirements	**Prior to Award:** • A pre-award risk assessment is required for grants of $50,000 or more. • Organizations selected for funding must submit all required due diligence documents. **During Award Period:** • Grantees must comply with all contractual requirements. • Grantees are required to participate in monitoring visits and financial reconciliation of grantee expenditures. • Reporting requirements are outlined in the RFP Instructions. **Post-award:** • Minnesota Housing will complete a Grantee Performance Evaluation at the end of the grant term. For all contracts over $25,000, Evaluation information will be submitted to the Office of Grants Management and made available publicly online. • Grantees are required to maintain financial and records for a minimum of six years after the Grant Contract Agreement has ended. Grantees are subject to the Office of Grants Management Polices.	