

**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 February 16, 2021, with applications due on March 19, 2021. 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 \$9,700,000 in grant funds for a two-year grant period from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023. Twenty-five proposals – 18 for Bridges and seven for Bridges RTC – were received in response to the RFP. Seventeen proposed serving Greater Minnesota and eight proposed serving the metro area for a total request of \$7,980,803.

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 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 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

Selected Applicants	Total Amount Requested	Geographic Boundaries	Final Score	Selection Amount
<b>Bridges</b>				
Brainerd Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 148,824	Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena Counties; Leech Lake and Mille Lacs Band of Tribal Nations	80	\$ 148,824
Carver County Community Development Agency	\$ 369,234	Carver County	82	\$ 266,669
Cloquet Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 148,152	Carlton County	72	\$ 111,114
Dakota County Community Development Agency	\$ 413,450	Dakota County	73	\$ 270,668
Douglas County Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 165,000	Douglas, Pope, Grant, Stevens, and Traverse Counties	74	\$ 120,956
Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Bemidji	\$ 297,325	Beltrami County	68	\$ 118,930
Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Duluth	\$ 507,072	St. Louis County, Itasca County	76	\$ 507,072

<b>Selected Applicants</b>	<b>Total Amount Requested</b>	<b>Geographic Boundaries</b>	<b>Final Score</b>	<b>Selection Amount</b>
Kandiyohi County Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 182,136	Chippewa, Cottonwood, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Renville, Swift, Yellow Medicine Redwood and Jackson Counties	69	\$ 181,776
Koochiching County Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 39,080	Koochiching County	78	\$ 19,540
Mental Health Resources Inc.	\$ 1,219,660	Hennepin County, Ramsey County, Dakota County, Anoka County	87	\$ 1,219,660
Moorhead Public Housing Agency	\$ 301,440	Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, Wilkin Counties	78	\$ 301,440
Olmsted County Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 630,500	Olmsted County	81	\$ 220,538
Owatonna Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 487,650	Steele, Waseca, Mower, Dodge Counties	72	\$ 487,650
Red Wing Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 206,784	Red Wing	73	\$ 206,784
Scott County Community Development Agency	\$ 269,921	Scott County	84	\$ 192,900
St. Cloud Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 523,920	Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright Counties	79	\$ 523,920
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.	\$ 238,358	Marshall County, Norman County, Polk County, Mahnomen County, Red Lake County, Kittson County, Pennington County and Roseau County. Also part of White Earth Reservation that is in Mahnomen County	83	\$ 189,660
Washington County Community Development Agency	\$ 600,670	Washington County	75	\$ 502,570
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,747,476</b>			<b>\$ 5,590,671</b>

Selected Applicants	Total Amount Requested	Geographic Boundaries	Final Score	Selection Amount
<b>Bridges RTC</b>				
Carver County Community Development Agency	\$ 59,319	Carver County	86	\$ 59,319
Guild Incorporated	\$ 204,377	Dakota and Ramsey Counties	82	\$ 204,377
Mental Health Resources, Inc.	\$ 775,192	Hennepin County, Ramsey County, Dakota County, Anoka County	92	\$ 775,192
Olmsted County Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 70,999	Olmsted County	85	\$ 33,328
Scott County Community Development Agency	\$ 60,096	Scott County	87	\$ 60,096
Southwestern Minnesota Adult Mental Health Consortium	\$ 37,760	SW-18 Region	60	\$ 37,760
St. Cloud Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$ 25,584	Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright Counties	83	\$ 25,584
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,233,327</b>			<b>\$ 1,195,656</b>

**NOTE:** Three Bridges grantees that were awarded funds under the 2020-2021 RFP did not apply for the 2022-2023 RFP so Minnesota Housing withheld \$2.9 million of available funding under this RFP. This allowed Minnesota Housing to later commit those funds to the grantees who will accept additional program participants from the three grantees that did not reapply to the program but continue to be eligible for this program. The amount was based on the number of households Minnesota Housing staff anticipates transitioning, an average rent amount for a particular area, and the duration of the contract period.