

REBUILD THE HEARTLAND COMMUNITY FUND GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

I. Fund Overview and Purpose

The Rebuild the Heartland Community Fund (RHCF or the fund), an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, was established by First National Bank of Omaha (FNBO), in collaboration with area businesses in response to the historic floods in the spring of 2019 that severely impacted Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota. In recognition of the devastation caused to families, homes, businesses, farms, and communities, the Rebuild the Heartland Community Fund will support nonprofit organizations' and local government authorities' recovery and rebuilding efforts across affected areas.

II. Grant Program Eligibility

Grant eligibility is limited to 501c3 organizations and local government authorities leading and/or engaged in recovery and rebuilding efforts in communities impacted by the spring and summer 2019 floods in Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota. The organization can be located in or serving a flood-impacted community. A flood impacted community is defined as a community located in a county that has received a federal disaster designation for Individual Assistance. (View and download maps [here](#).)

III. Grant Program Strategy

The purpose of the Rebuild the Heartland Fund is to support projects that will contribute to the long-term economic recovery of heartland communities impacted by the flooding. The grant making strategy is to respond to the community needs as articulated by the Long Term Recovery Teams, and/or other organizations working in the areas impacted by the floods, and infuse philanthropic capital into identified rebuilding projects. To that end, grants will be awarded to nonprofit organizations and/or local government authorities in support of the following project types, with a preference given to projects that positively impact socially vulnerable populations:

- Implementing community development solutions such as housing construction or rehabilitation, neighborhood revitalization, housing-related needs, and/or small business assistance
- Addressing and improving health and human services needs
- Cleaning up and protecting natural and environmental resources
- Strengthening infrastructure critical to a healthy and resilient community
- Restoration of agriculture activities
- Developing a comprehensive city/town/village-wide plan to coordinate and implement rebuilding activities

Eligible expenses in support of rebuilding projects can include, but are not limited to, personnel and labor costs, equipment, materials, and sub-contractors. Grant activities will be funded for a one-year period, with an option to extend the grant period, if necessary.

Grants will not be awarded for the following:

- Religious or political activities
- Endowments
- Fundraising events or fundraising campaigns
- Re-granting funds, except in limited situations approved by FNBO.

IV. Grant Award Process

Grant awards will be made according to a rolling grant application and review process. This rolling grant process supports communities that are ready to begin rebuilding projects now, while still being able to support communities that won't be ready until a later date (pending availability of funds). Key process components are outlined below:

- I. **Pre-application:** Organizations interested in submitting an application should first complete the brief pre-application questionnaire summarizing the project concept (pre-application can be accessed [here](#)). The pre-application questionnaire is reviewed in collaboration with the Nebraska Flood Recovery Fund, the Nebraska Community Foundation, and The University of Nebraska Extension Offices to analyze community need, proposed project alignment and community capacity. Within 30-60 days of submission, organizations will be contacted with next steps, which may include an invitation to submit a full application for funding support, referrals for other support such as technical assistance, or a decision not to move forward with the project concept.
- II. **Full Application:** Each application submitted to the Rebuild the Heartland Community Fund will be thoroughly reviewed and evaluated based on the demonstrated understanding of need as a result of the flooding, the extent to which the proposed project responds to the need, coordination with established teams

and resources in the area, and the ability of the applicant to successfully execute the proposed project based on track record and infrastructure. Final grant awards will be based on the strength of individual applications, as well as the diversity (i.e. geography and project type) of the overall grant award portfolio. Organizations will receive notification of funding decisions within 30-60 days of submission.

V. Post-Award Process:

Grant awards will be formalized in the form of a grant agreement between the Nebraska Community Foundation, First National Bank of Omaha, and the grant recipient. Grant funded projects will have one year to be implemented, with an option for extension on an as-needed basis. Funded grantees will provide 6-month status update and a final grant report to FNBO. Grant awards, as well as project impacts will be reported externally and to fund contributors.

Questions regarding the Rebuild the Heartland Community Fund can be directed to: communitydevelopment@fnni.com