

ELIGIBILITY

My initiative only focuses on a small portion of the BNGP region. Am I eligible? What if my organization serves a large region or the whole state?

To be eligible for this grant opportunity, an organization must *work within at least one geographic area* of our region. Organizations that work in a very local or a small portion of the region are welcome to apply! Likewise, we will also support initiatives that work at a regional level. If your initiative serves a large area with significant portions of work outside the BNGP's service area (for example, your service area is predominantly outside of BNGP's and/or includes the whole state), we will be looking to see that the initiative is doing place-based work. This means having established relationships and partnerships with local people and organizations in the service area. This may also include dedicated staff within BNGP's region and a track record of work being done locally within communities.

Can my organization apply for a multi-year grant if we are named as a collaborator/partner on a different project that has received or is applying for a multi-year grant with BNGP?

Yes. Nonprofits that are collaborating on a project that receives or is seeking BNGP funding may submit their own application. To be eligible, your organization cannot be the lead on a current multi-year grant and your proposal must be for an entirely different project. Each eligible organization may only submit one application per cycle.

I'm part of a systems change project along with several other organizations. Can each of us apply for a grant to support this same project?

No. Each initiative is eligible to submit one application to the BNGP in this current funding cycle. Grants are permitted to be shared with or sub-granted to more than one organization. When applying, consider the resources needed to support your initiative, including sub-granting to support the engagement and leadership of partnering organizations in the work.

My organization currently has a multi-year grant with BNGP, can we apply for a second multi-year grant for a different project?

No. To support a greater number of organizations and communities across the 10-county region, we are limiting organizations to one multi-year grant at this time.

My organization currently has a single-year grant from BNGP, can we apply for a multi-year grant?

Yes, organizations awarded a grant in the 2024 single-year cycle may apply for a multi-year grant if they meet all of the eligibility requirements for this cycle.

If my organization is awarded a BNGP multi-year grant, can we apply for a single-year grant later this year?

No. To support a greater number of nonprofits and communities across the 10-county region, organizations receiving a multi-year grant are not eligible to apply for an additional single-year grant at this time. Organizations applying for a multi-year grant will learn if their proposal is awarded before we close submissions for the single-year cycle. Organizations that are not awarded could submit an application for a one-year grant, if eligible.

My 501(c)(3) nonprofit serves as a fiscal sponsor to another organization. Can my organization submit a grant application and also serve as a fiscal sponsor to another organization applying in this cycle?

Yes. Nonprofit organizations who serve as fiscal sponsors may also apply for a grant in this funding cycle. Appearing on a separate proposal as a fiscal sponsor would not affect an organization's likelihood of receiving a grant. A nonprofit may serve as the fiscal sponsor for multiple organizations—this would not affect the proposal review process for any of the individual organizations. Please keep in mind that only one proposal will be accepted for each initiative/project (see the response to the question above).

GRANT PRIORITIES

Does my initiative have to be working on one of the BNGP priorities (early care and education, housing access, mental health, and substance use) to apply for a grant?

Yes, in 2025, our grant cycles will fund initiatives whose work impacts one or more of the four grant priorities. Detailed descriptions of these priorities can be found in the grant guidelines for this cycle.

My organization has been considering applying for a multi-year grant, but now it looks like we don't fit with the systems change focus under these guidelines. What should we do?

BNGP will continue to support organizations providing direct services to meet the critical needs within our communities. Our single-year grant cycle, which will open later this year, will include grants to organizations offering programs and providing direct services.

What do you mean by emerging systems change initiatives? Does emerging mean that the problem is new to our community or that the work being done to address an ongoing problem is new?

By emerging initiatives, we mean that the initiative is new. If a problem has existed in a community for a while, which is often the case in systems change work, initiatives that are working to address this problem, existing or new, are able to apply for a grant in this cycle.

Systems change takes time. Is my initiative expected to completely solve a systemic problem within three years?

Addressing complex problems at their root takes time, and we do not expect that projects will arrive at long-term solutions within three years. This work is often incremental, meaning there isn't one policy or one shift in how the work is done that will result in long-lasting change.

What we are looking for is how your work has led to shifts in policies and/or practices, how the problem is understood, and/or who is involved in decision-making because of your work. We are also interested in understanding what's been attempted, what you are learning, how learnings have changed your approach, which new relationships have been developed, and how these new partnerships have impacted how you're able to affect change.

Why is BNGP focused on equity?

We recognize the poverty in our region does not impact all communities equally. BNGP believes in acknowledging the wealth and power imbalances deeply embedded in our systems and institutions.

Achieving our vision of *thriving, equitable communities* will require us to address these disparities as we seek economic well-being for everyone in Northeast Wisconsin. For BNGP, advancing equity in this work means that we are challenging our assumptions about why a problem exists, each of us assessing our roles in the system—the barriers we may be holding in place and our ability to effect change—and shifting power to include people who are directly impacted. This means working closely with groups and communities who have been historically under-resourced and excluded through cultural and systemic practices based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and/or geography.

Is there a chance that our proposal could be partially funded by BNGP? What if our expenses are greater than \$100K each year?

There is a possibility that proposals could receive partial funding. While we attempt to fund proposals at the full request level, some considerations may lead to partial funding such as the number and range of requests that come in, the scope of work and funding needs of each initiative, and our aim to support organizations and initiatives across our 10-county region. If partial funding is being proposed, we will be in communication with you to discuss the impact and types of adjustments that may need to be made.

What kinds of activities or work will BNGP not fund?

BNGP does not fund scholarships, event sponsorships, political and electoral legislative efforts, or direct donations or grants to individuals. In addition, BNGP does not fund organizations, projects, and programs that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, or any other legally protected characteristics. BNGP will consider funding faith-based organizations whose work falls within our grant priorities for a given cycle if the work/project being proposed is open to all and does not include activities such as religious worship, instruction, or proselytization.

Who sees my application?

Grant applications, grant budgets, and organizational financial documents are viewed by BNGP staff and grant committee members. A brief summary of your application may be shared with the BNGP Board of Directors.

My organization applied for a grant through the U.S. Venture/Schmidt Family Foundation. Can we also apply for a Basic Needs Giving Partnership Grant?

Absolutely! The Basic Needs Giving Partnership and the U.S. Venture/Schmidt Family Foundation are separate entities that make granting decisions independent of one another.