



BUSH PRIZE: MINNESOTA PROGRAM GUIDELINES

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The [Bush Prize: Minnesota](#) program identifies and honors extraordinary organizations that consistently engage and lead their community toward creative solutions, provides them with flexible support to keep doing that work, and supports them to amplify their story to inspire others.

In 2026, two organizations will be selected as Bush Prize: Minnesota honorees. Honorees receive a package of recognition, including an award of \$250,000. The Bush Prize award is unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purposes in the state of Minnesota, including operating costs, program-related expenses, capital expenditures or whatever else would best support the organization's ongoing work.

Previously known as the Bush Prize for Community Innovation, the Bush Prize is implemented in partnership between the Bush Foundation and its four community grant partners – the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation, [Good Relatives Collaborative](#), [South Dakota Community Foundation](#) and [Strengthen ND](#).

The Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation was selected as the community grant partner for Minnesota and began implementing Bush Prize: Minnesota in 2024. This collaboration furthers the Foundation's commitment to supporting and advancing creative community-led solutions across Minnesota.

You can learn more about [2025 Bush Prize: Minnesota honorees and finalists](#) on our website.

For more information on the Bush Prize and to find previous years' Bush Prize recipients, visit the [Bush Foundation's website](#).

ELIGIBILITY

Wondering if your work is a fit for the Bush Prize? We're here to help. If you have specific questions about eligibility or selection criteria, contact the Foundation's Bush Prize: Minnesota team at bushprizeminnesota@spmcf.org or 651.325.4202.

Honorees will be selected among Minnesota organizations meeting the following criteria:

- Organizations must be located in Minnesota, and the specific work of the organization highlighted in the Bush Prize: Minnesota application must also have occurred within the state of Minnesota. If awarded, all grant funds must be used for charitable purposes to benefit communities in Minnesota.
- Organizations that are 501(c)(3) public charities or government entities (including schools and tribal governments) are eligible to apply.

- Organizations or programs that are fiscally sponsored. Fiscal sponsors must be 501(c)(3) public charities or government entities (including schools and tribal governments).
 - The sponsored organization or program should register and complete the application as the primary applicant and will be asked to provide information on their fiscal sponsor and a copy of a fiscal sponsorship agreement.
 - If the applicant is selected as a grant recipient, their fiscal sponsor will serve as the grantee and receive the funds.
- Groups of organizations (such as coalitions or collaboratives) are eligible to apply, but only one organization may apply and receive the award on behalf of the group.
- Organizations that have received a Bush Prize in the last 10 years are not eligible to apply.

Bush Prize: Native Nations

Native-led organizations (with at least 60% of board members and senior leadership/ED identifying as Native) located in and serving Minnesota may ALSO be eligible and are encouraged to apply for [Bush Prize: Native Nations](#), managed by the Good Relatives Collaborative. Bush Prize: Native Nations is a separate opportunity, but eligible applicants would be considered for and could be selected as honorees through BOTH opportunities. Through the Foundation's partnership with the Good Relatives Collaborative, applications and selection criteria have been aligned to make dual applications as simple as possible.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Foundation and the Bush Prize: Minnesota Community Selection Committees will consider the following criteria for grant review and honoree selection:

- **History of Creative Solutions** – Bush Prize: Minnesota honors organizations which have at least three years of history using innovative approaches that offer real solutions for the challenges and issues affecting their community. Bush Prize finalists will be able to identify specific examples of processes, programs or projects that use creative approaches, technologies, collaborations, and methods to drive sustainable change and solve problems more effectively.
- **Community-led Solutions** - Bush Prize: Minnesota honors organizations which understand that communities are best positioned to articulate and effectively respond to today's challenges. Bush Prize finalists will show a consistent commitment to listen, engage and involve the community to ensure the people they serve *inform, form* and *benefit* from the organization's impact.
 - **Benefits** – The community served realizes significant impact and change for the issues and challenges they identify as most critical to them.
 - **Informs** - Work should be shaped by input from the community itself. This means the organization listens to the experiences, needs, and feedback from the community it

serves to align its goals and initiatives with the actual needs and priorities of the community.

- **Forms** - Beyond being informed by the community, the community has an active role in shaping the work. The community is directly involved in designing and implementing programs and solutions, and the organization's work reflects the values, culture, and strengths of the community.
- **Culture of Creative Problem Solving** - Bush Prize: Minnesota honors organizations that exemplify a culture of innovation and creative community problem solving. Bush Prize finalists will articulate how their organization's values, policies, practices, people and partnerships allow them to innovate and utilize community assets and resources in creative ways to develop sustainable solutions to community issues.
- **Transformational Impact** – Bush Prize: Minnesota honors organizations which have created meaningful, long-lasting change to address the challenges and issues affecting their community. Transformational impact can happen through ideas of all sizes, within communities of all sizes, and through organizations of all sizes. Bush Prize finalists will have approaches and outcomes that:
 - Challenge the status quo and address the root causes of significant community issues and systemic challenges.
 - Create sustainable and equitable solutions for community, particularly for communities which have been historically underserved.
 - Inspire others in the region and serve as a model for future success.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Bush Prize: Minnesota application period begins on Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

The deadline for submitting Bush Prize: Minnesota applications is 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2026.

All applications will be submitted using the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation's online grant portal, [GranteeView](#). All applicants must [register for GranteeView](#) to apply for the Bush Prize: Minnesota. Registration is open now and [registration instructions](#) are available. We encourage all prospective applicants to complete registration early.

Once you have begun an application in GranteeView, you can save it and return later to continue working. To return to an in-progress application, login to GranteeView using the username and password you created when registering your account.

To help you prepare for the Bush Prize: Minnesota application, a copy of the full application can be downloaded here:

- [Download Bush Prize: Minnesota Application Information \(PDF\)](#)

SELECTION PROCESS

To ensure broad and equitable distribution of the Bush Prize: Minnesota award across the state of Minnesota, one honoree will be selected among organizations primarily located in each of the following communities:

- **Twin Cities Metro Area** - Organizations located within the seven counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington
- **Greater Minnesota** – Organizations located outside of the 7-County Metro Area

The Foundation will convene a Community Selection Committee to determine the Bush Prize: Minnesota honorees. Selection Committee members will include a diverse group of community members from across the state of Minnesota. The Community Selection Committee will review applications and identify eight finalists—four from the Twin Cities Metro Area community and four from the Greater Minnesota community.

The Selection Committee will receive staff support throughout the process, but the Committee will make final decisions on the two organizations selected as Bush Prize: Minnesota honorees. Each of the remaining six organizations will receive a grant of \$10,000 to honor them as finalists of the program.

All selections are based on program eligibility requirements and selection criteria.

TIMELINE

The Bush Prize: Minnesota application period begins on Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

The deadline for submitting Bush Prize: Minnesota applications is Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 1 p.m.

Applications will be reviewed from May-July, and finalists will be selected in early August 2026. The Bush Prize: Minnesota team and Community Selection Committee will meet with and learn more about the finalists in August. Bush Prize: Minnesota honorees will be selected from this group of finalists in September 2026.

Recipients and all finalists of the 2026 Bush Prize: Minnesota will be announced in October 2026.

Next Opportunity to Apply

The Bush Prize: Minnesota is an annual program and will accept applications again in spring 2027.