Housing Affordability LOI Information Session FAQ

The Pohlad Foundation hosted four informal sessions, including a webinar, for potential grantees to learn more about the new Housing Affordability program opportunity. Below are questions and themes we heard in multiple sessions.

As we said at each of the sessions, please reach out to us if you have questions or feedback.

**Eligibility related**

**Who is eligible to apply?**

Non-profits with 501(c)(3) status, local government and Tribal entities, coalitions and collaborative efforts within the Twin Cities 7-County Metropolitan Region.

**Can we submit more than one LOI?**

Yes, organizations can submit or be part of more than one LOI. We welcome and encourage collaborative efforts. For your reference, we have provided a list of the organizations that registered for the hosted information sessions.

**Your grant range says $25,000 - $500,000. Can we apply for less? If part of a larger collaborative, can we apply for more?**

Yes – we will consider requests below $25,000. We are also open to larger requests from collaborative efforts that include multiple agencies.

**If we currently receive a grant or are awarded a grant through this process, can we apply for other Pohlad Foundation grants?**

Yes – as a Foundation we are open to more than one grant per organization (ie – we don’t have a one grant policy).

**Definitions**

**How do you define homeless?**

Living in emergency shelter or a space unfit for human habitation (outdoors, in a car, abandoned building).
How do you define youth?

16-24 years of age.

How do you define family?

Adult(s) living with dependent children or youth as defined above. Pregnant mothers are also included in our definition of family. Single adults or cohabitating adults age 25+ w/out children or youth are not a focus of this opportunity.

Do you consider couch-hoppers / folks who are doubled up to be “homeless?”

We included couch-hopping and doubled up in our Homelessness Prevention Program. While we recognize the challenges that youth and families who are “not homeless enough” face, the Housing Affordability Program is focused on people who are in shelter or living in a space unfit for human habitation. We intend to continue to include couch hopping and doubled-up folks in our Homelessness Prevention Program that will launch for its second round in 2020 and exploring our own program structure to ensure we’re not perpetuating the “not homeless enough” challenge.

Would you consider a youth aging out of foster care without a place to go “homeless” / eligible for funding?

While we recognize the direct link between being in foster care and homelessness, strategies to address youth currently in foster care would fall under our Homelessness Prevention Program.

Use of Funding

Are there restrictions on how Pohlad Foundation funding can be used?

Our goal is to maximize flexibility in how funds are used for the purposes of housing affordability. We will look to applicants on how funding is best used for this purpose. We are open to funds being used as general operating if the mission of the organization is fully aligned with goals of housing affordability for youth and families.
Will you fund support services?

Yes, if they are *embedded* as a part of a housing program and are NOT stand-alone supportive services. For example, we will not fund a stand-alone job training program that may serve families or youth experiencing homelessness, but do not specifically help in accessing and maintaining stable housing.

Will you provide capital grants for housing units?

Yes, we will fund a limited number of capital projects that can demonstrate reaching families and youth who are currently homeless and that would start construction within the 2-year grant period. Capital requests for emergency shelter or broader affordable housing (ie – not reaching 30% AMI or less) will not be considered in this process.

Priorities and Criteria

Do we need to address all three areas of desired impact (listed on page 2 of the [Overview](#)), or can we hone in on 1-2?

Applicants do not need to demonstrate impact on all 3 community indicators in the Overview. Those who demonstrate an impact on multiple indicators in a meaningful way will be most competitive.

Will you prioritize applicants serving unsheltered vs sheltered families and youth?

Unsheltered homelessness is a specific interest area and growing community need. It will be a strong consideration in the competitive process amongst other criteria provided in our Housing Affordability Overview.

Will we be competitive if we mostly serve individuals with some families/youth?

Our funding is focused on families and youth. While organizations who serve a broader population can apply, we believe those groups who primarily serve families and/or youth will be most competitive.

Will you prioritize geographic distribution in the competitive process?

Organizations will be awarded grants based on qualities outlined in the [Housing Affordability Overview](#). Geographic distribution will be a consideration in the review
process, but funding decisions will primarily be made based on alignment with criteria and impact.

**Are the questions and criteria for the application the same as the Letter of Interest?**

Both the LOI and full application are based on the qualities and criteria outlined in the Housing Affordability Program Overview. There will be additional questions in the full application for those invited to apply. There are similarities and where possible, we encourage you cut-and-paste from your LOI, other grant requests, etc.

**Do you require that we work within “Coordinated Entry?”**

We do not require that these grants go through coordinated entry. While we understand and support the “spirit” of HUD’s requirement of Coordinated Entry, we have also learned of its limitations and gaps created in implementation. We will consider how programs are coordinating with the larger homelessness response system and aware of existing resources available, but do not want to perpetuate gaps apparent in current Coordinated Entry implementation.

**Contacts at the Foundation**

**Who should we contact if we have additional questions?**

We encourage you to reach out if you have questions but request that you thoroughly read the Housing Affordability Program Overview and LOI Guidelines first.

- Brian Paulson – 612-661-3801 or b paulson@pohladfoundation.org
- Courtney Kiernat – 612-661-3803 or c kiernat@pohladfoundation.org

*Definitions and “a word about words.” We have provided definitions in the interest of providing clarity into our focus, but also recognize that definitions and the words we use are through a cultural context. We recognize that rigid, dominant culture definitions are exclusive and can perpetuate disparities. As such, we have offered working definitions, but are always interested in feedback and how our language might be limiting our understanding.*