

APRIL 2021

# PRAIRIE POSSIBILITIES

*A monthly summary of available grant opportunities for North Dakota's rural communities and the Native Nations that share our geography.*

PREPARED BY



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## Otto Bremer Trust

**WHAT:** Update from the Trust on 2021 Grantmaking

**WHEN:** Summer of 2021

**UPDATE:** Beginning in the summer of 2021, the Otto Bremer Trust will implement a new grant application process. We believe this new process will provide a better platform for OBT's growing philanthropic work in our four-state region. Rest assured, OBT's commitment to serving communities with our responsive approach will remain paramount.

Here's what you need to know:

- A new application. In summer 2021, we will transition to a new application that will help us better understand the communities we serve in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.
- Same funding priorities. While we've recently expanded the geographic scope of our philanthropic work, our funding priorities and interest areas will not change because of this new process.
- A more efficient process. The new application and related internal processes will reduce the amount of time between application and decision. Watch our website for updates on upcoming application deadlines.
- Early access. For those who would like to begin working with the new application before it's available in our application portal, we will release a Microsoft Word version of the application questions in the spring. This early release will allow you to consider how you might want to approach the application process.
- Our current applications. Our current applications are no longer available. And until the new application is released, grant seekers will need to wait to begin or submit a new application.
- A new portal. As you may know, OBT launched a new application portal in July 2020. If you have applied for funding from OBT in the past but have not yet activated your account in the new portal, send an email to [portal@ottobremer.org](mailto:portal@ottobremer.org) to request activation.
- For the latest information. If you haven't already, [sign up for Otto Bremer Trust news](#) and select General Announcements.
- More questions? Please visit [Common Questions About OBT's Upcoming New Application Process](#).



## USDA Rural Development

**WHAT:** Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant

**WHEN:** June 4, 2021

**ELIGIBLE ENTITIES:** Eligible applicants include most entities that provide education or health care through telecommunications, including:

- Most State and local governmental entities
- Federally-recognized Tribes
- Non-profits
- For-profit businesses
- Consortia of eligible entities

**PURPOSE:** The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program helps rural communities use the unique capabilities of telecommunications to connect to each other and to the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density. For example, this program can link teachers and medical service providers in one area to students and patients in another.

Grant funds may be used for:

- Acquisition of eligible capital assets, such as:
  - Broadband facilities
  - Audio, video and interactive video equipment
  - Terminal and data terminal equipment
  - Computer hardware, network components and software
  - Inside wiring and similar infrastructure that further DLT services
- Acquisition of instructional programming that is a capital asset
- Acquisition of technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment

**BUDGET:** Grant-only funds, awarded through a nationally competitive process – 15% match required



## USDA Rural Development

**WHAT:** SEARCH - Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households

**WHEN:** Applications Accepted on an Ongoing Basis

**ELIGIBLE ENTITIES:**

- Most state and local governmental entities
- Nonprofits
- Federally recognized tribes

**ELIGIBLE AREAS:** Areas to be served must be rural and financially distressed:

- Rural areas with a population of 2,500 or less
- Have a median household income below the poverty line or less than 80 percent of the statewide non-metropolitan median household income based on latest Census data

**PURPOSE:** This program helps very small, financially distressed rural communities with predevelopment feasibility studies, design and technical assistance on proposed water and waste disposal projects.

Funds may be used to pay predevelopment planning costs, including:

- Feasibility studies to support applications for funding water or waste disposal projects
- Preliminary design and engineering analysis
- Technical assistance for the development of an application for financial assistance

The predevelopment planning costs must be related to a proposed project that meets the following requirements:

- Construct, enlarge, extend or improve rural water, sanitary sewage, solid waste disposal and storm wastewater disposal facilities
- Construct or relocate public buildings, roads, bridges, fences or utilities, and to make other public improvements necessary for the successful operation or protection of facilities
- Relocate private buildings, roads, bridges, fences, or utilities, and other private improvements necessary for the successful operation or protection of facilities

