

2020 Blue Plus Fund Contribution Program – Housing Flex Fund Application

At Blue Plus, we focus our fund contributions on programs and initiatives that benefit low income Minnesotans eligible for state public programs, both current eligibles and those who may become eligible in the future. This Application provides the opportunity for eligible organizations to seek a flexible source of funds that can help communities and service providers meet housing-related needs and prevent housing instability and homelessness. Approved funds can be used for a variety of needs to assist youth, families and individuals that are experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

This funding is intended to support community members and Blue Plus members throughout all stages of housing instability, including for individuals and families who are:

- Experiencing homelessness,
- Being diverted from homelessness,
- Returning to the community from an institution, or
- Needing assistance to stay in their current housing.

Through the application process, Blue Plus will provide funding support to counties and non-profits engaged in housing stabilization initiatives to support them in establishing their own housing flex fund. Priority will be given to entities that integrate the Blue Plus Housing Flex Funds with other local resources or use the funds to complement the new Department of Human Services (DHS) Statewide Housing Waiver benefit, maximizing available funds.

After funding support is awarded, Blue Plus and its funding recipients will collaborate throughout program development and implementation to identify possible adjustments and supports, to assess and evaluate the program, and to look for opportunities for future expansion and additional collaboration. By working collaboratively, we hope to help maximize resources and address the needs that contribute to housing stabilization.

Funding Criteria Requests are funded at the sole discretion of Blue Plus. Blue Plus anticipates awarding up to ten (10) contribution requests of between \$25,000 to \$100,000. Applicants must be (i) a nonprofit organization that is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (ii) a state or political subdivision or a tribal governmental entity. Funding will not be provided for any:

- Projects solely of an educational nature that cannot demonstrate achievement of focal area goal(s).
- Alumni associations
- Individual scholarships or scholarship programs
- University or college chairs
- Endowments of any kind
- Any programs outside of Minnesota
- Organizations devoted exclusively to research projects
- Veteran and political organizations or sectarian programs for religious purposes
- Group travel expenses
- Extracurricular school activities such as sports, band, etc.
- Community sports leagues; fund-raising activities related to individual sponsorships such as walk-a-thons, etc.
- Capital campaigns
- Lobbying
- Voter registration drives
- Computing devices or technology hardware

Funding is to be used solely for the project as described in this Application. It is not earmarked for the transmittal, and shall not be transferred, to any other entity or person, even if the Application or other correspondence expresses such intentions. If funding is granted, Applicant accepts and will exercise sole responsibility and control of the funding in accordance with this Application, and in compliance with all applicable laws. Funding is not in any way designated to support or carry on any lobbying activities or voter-registration drives.

How to make a contribution request: Applications will be accepted between May 1, 2020 – July 31, 2020 and will be reviewed approximately every sixty (60) days. Generally, an organization may only receive one such contribution from Blue Plus per year. Payment for contribution requests granted by Blue Plus will be made in a lump sum payment following Blue Plus' final approval of the request.

Contribution requests may only be submitted by a nonprofit organization recognized as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or a state or political subdivision or a tribal governmental entity. By submitting your request, you represent that Applicant is: (a) a tax-exempt organization under Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, Section 501(c)(3) and Section 509(a)(1), (2) or (3) (other than a Type III supporting organization which is not functionally integrated as defined in Code Section 4943(f)(5)(B)), and that the purposes of the funding are within Applicant's 501(c)(3) charitable purposes, or (b) a state or political subdivision or a tribal governmental entity, and that the purposes of the funding are within the Applicant's public purposes.

This Application must be completed in its entirety and will only be accepted via email. Blue Plus will not consider any other requests. Supporting documents must be attached at the time of submission. Applications not meeting these requirements will not be considered. **Please note that Blue Plus is a separate legal entity from the Blue Cross Center for Prevention and the Blue Cross Foundation, and Applications submitted to any entity other than Blue Plus will not be considered. Do not contact the Center for Prevention or the Blue Cross Foundation regarding this Application.**

Applicants will receive at least two notifications from Blue Plus Staff:

1. Confirmation that Blue Plus received the email submission, and 2. Acceptance or denial of the Application or a request for additional information.

Please submitted completed applications via email to: BluePlus.GPBusiness@bluecrossmn.com

For *questions* about this application, please contact: benjamin.waltz@bluecrossmn.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

Organization Legal Business Name

Contact Person

Address

City

State

Zip Phone

E-mail

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Are you a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization ? Yes No Tax ID Number

Are you a state or political subdivision or a tribal governmental entity?
Yes No Tax ID Number

Organization Mission

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Name

Is this a new program? Yes No If no, list number of years in process

Amount Requested (enter amount (not to exceed \$100,000)):

Name check should be payable to:

Focal area applying for (check all that apply):

General Assistance

Qualifying entities can provide assistance based on an individual's or household's needs. Funds can be used to address a wide array of housing needs, including: one-time costs such as housing application fees, deposits, utility or rental arrears, and essential furniture (e.g., bed, dresser, couch). Except in cases where other funding sources are available, funds may also be used for: short-term support such as payment for housing navigation, short-term rental assistance, housing maintenance supports/case management, and, under certain circumstances, housing repair or modification.

Landlord Engagement Assistance

Qualifying entities with innovative solutions addressing the lack of access to affordable housing can apply the funds to incentivize and support landlords in becoming a part of the housing solution by expanding the availability of affordable housing in their community. For example, the funds could be used for: risk mitigation to protect landlords from excessive damages and lost rent; unit upfitting and repairs; housing stability bonuses upon lease signing or renewal; administrative fees which could support extra administrative time and/or unit vacancy needed to complete paperwork and to obtain an inspection.

Creative Collaboration Assistance

Blue Plus wants to encourage innovation and support the ability to utilize funding to create programs that meet local needs. We encourage proposals focused on local solutions that promote new collaborative relationships or identify potential new resources that show promise of being effective and sustainable.

What is the target population being served?

What is the geographic region?

Provide or attach a detailed (line-item) budget for this project:

Please carefully read the following instructions and provide the requested information in the space below:

In the following space, provide a **detailed** description of the project and a **detailed** explanation of how funding will be used - you must specifically include the following: **(1)** specific activities that will be conducted; **(2)** funding attributable to each of those activities; **(3)** how the activities support achieving the goals of the category(ies) of funding you are applying for (as you indicated above); **(4)** duration of project; **(5)** specific project milestones, as applicable (i.e., schedule of events, indicating when certain activities will occur); and **(6)** project management (project lead, roles and responsibilities of others involved, etc.).

In addition, if you will integrate the Housing Flex Funds with other local resources or use the funds to complement the new DHS Statewide Housing Waiver benefit, provide a detailed description of how the various funds will be integrated.

Promptly upon completion of the project, you must **also** provide a project report to Blue Plus that clearly reflects the extent to which the outcomes identified in this Application were achieved (include specific measurements, where available). Identify the estimated date by which you will provide the report to Blue Plus in the space below.

What is the desired outcome of the program, and how will achievement of the desired outcome be measured and evaluated? Identify specific outputs and/or tangible outcomes.

List any previous support from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota and/or Blue Plus, the Center for Prevention, the Blue Cross Foundation or other Blue Plus contribution requests made by your organization:

* Please attach relevant documents, *as required by this Application and otherwise as helpful*, with your request. Attachments must include: a line item budget for the program/use of funds. Other attachments may include: newsletter, website information, etc.

*Funding is not in any way designated to support or carry on any lobbying activities or voter registration drive. The individual submitting this Application represents and warrants that the Application, as submitted to Blue Plus, accurately reflects the Applicant's intent to expend any contribution solely on activities unrelated to lobbying or voter registration. Blue Plus reserves the right to retroactively revoke approval of the Applicant's request and to require Applicant to immediately refund any and all payments received from Blue Plus if funding is used in any manner other than as expressly described in this Application. Approval of partial funding of a project may be made contingent on proof that full funding has been obtained.

*Approval of any and all funding contribution requests may be made in whole or in part, and is at the sole and absolute discretion of Blue Plus. All decisions are final and not subject to any appeal, review or objection. Blue Plus reserves the right to discontinue the Blue Plus Fund Contribution Program at any time and without notice. Funding is not subject to renewal and granting of a request does not obligate Blue Plus to make any similar award in the future. Blue Plus may, at its option and for any request in any amount, require reporting by the Applicant to demonstrate project activities and outcomes. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, Blue Plus is under no requirement to make decisions on funding requests within any certain

timeframe. Approval of a funding request does not guarantee payment within a certain timeframe. Applicant is prohibited from any use of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota and/or Blue Plus, Center for Prevention or Blue Cross Foundation trademarks or service marks (including, e.g., name or logo) without Blue Plus' express prior written consent. By submitting this Application, Applicant attests that all information submitted in connection with this Application is true, accurate, complete, and without material omission. Payment by Blue Plus to Applicant will signify Applicant's acceptance of and agreement to all terms, conditions, and obligations associated with this Application. Acceptance will be effective upon any such payment being made by Blue Plus. Funding provided pursuant to this Application, and information concerning the Housing Flex Fund initiative and recipients of funds, may be publicized by Blue Plus through various communication vehicles including, without limitation, media releases, websites, and the historical and annual reports. By signing below, Applicant hereby consents to such publicity by Blue Plus.

Applicant's name:

Electronic Signature (enter initials):