



Community Resilience Initiative Micro Grants Overview

FamilyWise Services, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), is offering an opportunity for Collaboratives to apply for small grants for seed or startup funding to support initiating and implementing a potential program or pilot project that is part of their Community Resilience Plans (Phase 4 of More Resilient Minnesota).

Collaboratives can test and try pilots toward decreasing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and increasing resilience in their communities. The intention is to launch Community Resilience Initiative programs or projects that align with Collaboratives' Community Resilience Plans based on their Community Resilience Conversations and/or *100 Cups of Coffee* Interviews.

What are Community Resilience Initiatives?

The Community Resilience Plan is an important part of identifying potential Community Resilience Initiatives. Community Resilience Initiatives are innovative programs, services, or strategies outlined in Community Resilience Plans to address ACEs and promote protective factors in Collaboratives' communities. These initiatives are founded in the community capacity development process for creating Self-Healing Communities, which supports community-driven goals and actions that are informed by expanded leadership, results-oriented decision-making, shared learning, and coming together around issues of importance to Collaboratives' communities.

The intended outcomes include increased resilience, protective factors and/or capacity of the Collaboratives' communities. The Community Resilience Initiatives will create new community connections across various populations or sectors and create new approaches to prevent or reduce the impact of ACEs. Including and implementing ideas from diverse voices will promote equity and capacity in Minnesota's communities.

Collaboratives may seek a variety of resources to support Community Resilience Initiatives. One possible option may be to apply for a Community Resilience Initiative Micro Grant.

What are Community Resilience Initiative Micro Grants?

Community Resilience Initiative Micro Grants provide seed or startup funding for Collaboratives to pilot new programs or projects. This opportunity will be available annually to eligible Collaboratives.

How much funding is available for micro grants each year?

FamilyWise Services has a total pool of \$35,000 available each fiscal year. A Collaborative may apply for a micro grant up to \$5,000, to be spent during State Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025). We anticipate awarding 7 micro grants at \$5,000 each. If the 7 micro grant awardees do not each receive or apply for the full \$5,000, there may be enough funding for additional awards. While there is no requirement for matching funds, we encourage Collaboratives when possible to leverage other funds and resources to support this effort.

What can the micro grants cover?

Funding will follow spending policies similar to those for LCTS (Local Collaborative Time Study):

- These funds will be considered part of the Collaborative's Integrated Fund
- Spending for administration should not exceed 10% of the total funding
- The Collaborative cannot spend these funds on capital expenditures

How are micro grants funded?

More Resilient Minnesota is supported and sustained by state funding built into the base funding for Children's Mental Health Grants. DHS contracts with FamilyWise Services to partner alongside Children's Mental Health and Family Services Collaboratives to fulfill the four phases of More Resilient Minnesota, which includes support for the micro grants in [Phase 4](#): Community Resilience Plans and Initiatives.

What is the process to apply for and receive a micro grant?

Letter of Interest to apply for a micro grant

FamilyWise Services will invite Collaborative Coordinators to submit a Letter of Interest to apply for a Community Resilience Initiative Micro Grant. Eligible Collaborative Coordinators can choose to submit a Letter of Interest, and FamilyWise Services will confirm if Collaboratives meet the minimum criteria required to apply for a micro grant. This process will take approximately 3 weeks from issuing the invitation to apply to confirmation of eligibility.

Application for a micro grant

Eligible Collaboratives can submit a micro grant application. The More Resilient Minnesota Planning Team will screen applications and determine funding awards. Collaboratives will be notified if their application will be funded approximately 3 weeks after the application deadline.

Funding period

A Collaborative may not start any work until both parties sign a contract. Once micro grant contracts are negotiated and signed between the Collaborative and FamilyWise Services, then FamilyWise Services will notify the Collaboratives that activities can begin. Collaboratives will be asked to submit mid-year and end-of-year progress reports for activities. Collaboratives will have the opportunity to send invoices after submitting their mid-year and end-of-year reports. Collaborative representatives are asked to share about their Community Resilience Initiatives in May or June at the *Growing Resilient Communities Gathering of Collaboratives and Tribal Nations Addressing ACEs*.

What is the FY2025 micro grant timeline?

Round 1

- Letter of Interest due 5/24/24
- FamilyWise Services will confirm eligibility by 5/29/24
- Application due 6/26/24
- Notification of awards will be sent by 7/17/24
- Contracts signed by 8/15/24

Round 2 (if funds are still available)

- Letter of Interest due 8/30/24
- FamilyWise Services will confirm eligibility by 9/10/24
- Application due 10/8/24
- Notification of awards will be sent by 10/30/24
- Contracts signed by 11/20/24

Rounds 1 and 2

- Mid-year progress report due 3/7/25
- End-of year progress reports and final invoices due 6/6/25
- Gathering presentation - TBD May or June 2025

What criteria do Collaboratives need to meet to submit a Letter of Interest?

Collaboratives will be eligible to submit a Letter of Interest before they apply for a micro grant, once they have met the following minimum criteria:

- Collaborative Coordinator submits the Letter of Interest
- Collaborative has hosted **at least 1** *Understanding ACEs: Building Self-Healing Communities* Presentation, in partnership with FamilyWise Services (Phase 1)
- Collaborative has sent **at least 3** Collaborative representatives to a Regional ACE Interface Presenter Training (Phase 2)
- Collaborative consulted local quantitative data and gathered input from **at least 50** distinct community members and providers from a diversity of sectors and/or community groups, during Community Resilience Conversations and/or *100 Cups of Coffee Interviews* (Phase 3)
- The Collaborative Community Resiliency Planning Team of **at least 3** members developed a Community Resilience Plan that is informed by community wisdom and local data that the Collaborative collected and considered in Phase 3, which outlines the Collaborative's next steps for decreasing risk factors and increasing protective factors in their communities (Phase 4)

What criteria do Collaboratives need to meet to apply for a micro grant?

Only those Collaboratives that have submitted a Letter of Interest and received approval to move forward with the application process will be considered during the review process.

Application screening criteria

Listed below are the screening criteria that will be consulted when reviewing all applications:

- Collaborative Coordinator has submitted the application and attached their Community Resilience Plan with their application and highlighted the sections of the plan that they propose will be funded by the micro grant
- Proposed workplan and budget clearly describe the Community Resilience Initiative(s) and seem realistic to complete within the funding period
- Proposed workplan is shaped by the qualitative and quantitative data considered and collected as part of Phase 3, and additional community input and data collected more recently (if applicable). Proposed workplan makes a clear connection between the themes from the community input and data, and the statement of need in the application.
- Proposed workplan outlines measurable short-term outcomes for the Community Resilience Initiative(s)
- If the short-term outcomes support continuation after the funding period, the Collaborative is able to share strategies for supporting and sustaining the Community Resilience Initiative(s) after the funding period ends

Priority criteria

If there are more applications received than funding available, then Collaboratives that have met some or all of the priority criteria will be considered most competitive for awards, which includes Collaboratives that have:

- Fully participated in Phases 1 - 3 of More Resilient Minnesota, which includes having:
 - Hosted **at least 3** *Understanding ACEs: Building Self-Healing Communities* Presentations, in partnership with FamilyWise Services, that have reached a diversity of sectors and/or community groups in the Collaborative's community (Phase 1)
 - **At least 3** Collaborative presenters that are actively presenting, as measured by the number of presenters who have facilitated an *Understanding ACEs* presentation in the past year in their Collaborative's community (Phase 2)
 - Gathered input from **at least 50** unique community members (Phase 3) through **one** of the following ways:
 - Hosted 2 or more Community Resilience Conversations and gathered input from at least 50 Collaborative partners who represent a diverse cross-section of the community
 - Conducted at least 50 – 100 Cups of Coffee Interviews with Collaborative partners who represent a diverse cross-section of the community

- Gathered input from at least 25 Collaborative partners through Interviews and at least 25 Collaborative partners through Conversations, if taking a hybrid approach
- Not received a previous More Resilient Minnesota micro grant in the past two Fiscal Years
- Propose new Community Resilience Initiatives, rather than a continuation of initiatives previously funded by a micro grant
- Represent a region that has received a lower average of micro grants
- Fewer resources available, such as LCTS funding and unspent LCTS carryover funds from the previous year

Who will screen applications?

The More Resilient Minnesota Planning Team (representatives from FamilyWise Services, DHS, and evaluation consultants who support More Resilient Minnesota) will screen applications and award funds, based on the application screening and priority criteria. We will contact you with any questions about your application.

What are the expectations if my Collaborative is awarded a micro grant?

If awarded, you may not start any work until both parties sign the contract.

FamilyWise Services will be collecting midway and end-of-year progress reports and invoices on specified deadlines in the micro grant contracts.

The progress reports will include questions, such as:

- What worked well and what were some key learnings or findings?
- What were barriers, challenges, or unexpected developments?
- Were there any new community connections?
- How will this Community Resilience Initiative increase resilience, protective factors, and/or community capacity?
- What are the possibilities for sustainability and scalability across the community?

We will also ask funded Collaboratives to briefly share their stories at the Annual Growing Resilient Communities Gathering in May or June (dates TBD).

If my Collaborative has previously received a Community Resilience Initiative Micro Grant, can we apply again?

Yes! Collaboratives are encouraged to apply for a new Community Resilience Initiative Micro Grant each year, even if they have received funding previously. Although funding may be prioritized for Collaboratives that have not ever received this funding, other priority criteria will also be considered during the screening process, which may help ensure a Collaborative's application can still be competitive.

If my Collaborative applies but doesn't receive funding, can we reapply during the next funding cycle?

Yes! You are encouraged to reapply during the second round of the yearly funding cycle if your application is not funded the first round. Please connect with your regional FamilyWise Services staff person if you would like to learn more about activities that might help strengthen your application for future funding periods.

For more information, please see the [More Resilient Minnesota webpage](#).