



Mental Health

Funding Trends in Minnesota

Mental health has long been a neglected issue area among funders. The money designated for mental health usually went to hospitals. But, during the last decade, we have seen funders taking this area more seriously, and considering its issues independently of physical health issues.

During the last 18 months, the combination of the pandemic and the George Floyd uprising has created a massive rethinking of mental health as a critical recovery issue for funders, community members, and government agencies, which brought us to question: Can we benchmark this shift?

In this report, Access Philanthropy examines the state of mental health funding in Minnesota between 2015 to 2018*, the years in which the most recent funding data is available. We compared these data to the 2009-2014 mental health grant data we collected for an earlier report. It should help determine changes, when new data become available for 2019-2021.

For the 2015-2018 timeframe, we discovered three major mental health funding shifts in the past decade.

- Family foundation involvement in mental health funding increased in the past decade, albeit more sporadically than the overall funding patterns.
- A growth in funding going to facets of life previously not recognized as mental health subjects, such as, race, gender, physical health care, housing, socioeconomic status, and climate change. Ten years ago, such intersectionality was nowhere to be seen. Primary funding areas were simply substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, and addiction service. Today, top areas include art and culture, employment training, and housing.
- Unfortunately, in rural communities, we found very little new funding. Most mental health recipients are still located in the Metro Area. There is some good news: More Greater Minnesota funders are supporting mental health, but still very few dollars.

Takeaways

- **Many new mid-sized and smaller family foundations**
 - Among the top 10% of funders:
Luther, Alkire, Marbrook, Beverly, and Edwards Memorial
 - Among the top 25%:
Pohlad, KAHR, Marbrook, Open Hands, Raft, and Wuertle
- **Otto Bremer Trust**
More than 20% of the Trust's total giving went for Mental Health, in both amount and # of grants
- Many **Donor-Advised Funds** awarding mental health grants
- Still very few **Greater MN Mental Health** organizations; notably, Mayo, some MATC, Central MN, and Sexual Assault Services of Brainerd
- **Addiction Services** is a top focus area, though not among the very top donors
- **Children-related Services** received the most grants

*Source: Foundation Directory Online, the sector's most up-to-date, complete information on grantmakers. We filtered by the topic areas of Mental and behavioral disorders and Mental health care, Minnesota geographic focus, from 2015 to 2018, and grant amounts from \$1,001 to \$10,000,000,000 to avoid employer matching programs.

Top Grantmakers

by # grants

St. Paul & Minneapolis

1. The Minneapolis Fdn*
2. Marbrook Fdn*
3. Otto Bremer Trust*
4. Greystone Fdn
5. Saint Paul & Minnesota Fdn*
6. Wurtele Fdn
7. Greater Twin Cities UW*
8. Medica Foundation
9. Pohlad Family Foundation
10. Catholic Community Fdn of MN

Greater MN

1. Otto Bremer Trust*
2. Blandin Foundation*
3. Duluth Superior Area Cmty Fdn*
4. Northland Foundation
5. Mayo Clinic*
6. CommunityGiving
7. Crow Wing County UW*
8. Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault
9. Carl and Verna Schmidt Fdn
10. Greystone Fdn

7 Cnty Metro Area Suburbs

1. The Minneapolis Fdn
2. Otto Bremer Trust*
3. Saint Paul & Minnesota Fdn*
4. Hugh J. Andersen Fdn*
5. Greater Twin Cities UW*
6. Richard M. Schulze Family Fdn
7. Marbrook Fdn
8. MN Community Foundation
9. Catholic Community Fdn of MN
10. Hardenbergh Foundation

Top Subjects

1. Mental health Clinics & Counseling
2. Addiction Services (in and out-patient)
3. Crisis Intervention
4. Family, Youth and Children
5. Housing and Residential Care
6. Advocacy
7. Employment Training & Vocational rehabilitation
8. Education
9. Arts & culture
10. Persons with a Disability

Top Recipients

grants | Subject | location

MN Adult & Teen*....	165	Addiction services	Mpls
Washburn CC*	119	Addiction services	Mpls
Tree House	104	Counseling	Edina
Tubman	82	Crisis	Mpls
The Retreat*	70	Addiction services	Wyz
Guild Inc.	58	Addiction services	StP
NAMI	57	Advocacy	StP
Hazelden.....	51	Addiction services	Stp
People Inc.*	49	Support Services	Eagan
Canvas Health*	44	Addiction services	Oakdale

Cities with Most Recipients

1. STP/MPLS	1270
2. Edina	114
3. Wayzata	70
4. Rochester	55
5. Golden Valley	54
6. Eagan	49
7. Bloomington	44
8. Oakdale	44
9. Duluth	40
10. Hopkins	39

*Among top grantmakers by \$

Analysis

Top Funders | # grants | # organizations | top subjects

Minneapolis Foundation & Donor Advised Funds	195 grants to 43 organizations. 65 Addiction Counseling; 82 Mental Health Care: Counseling (49) and Clinics (33); 37 Housing & Employment
Otto Bremer Trust	141 grants to 93 organizations, one quarter Mental Health Care, evenly split by Clinics and Counseling; Others included Crisis Intervention (8); Housing & Employment (5); Addiction Treatment; Advocacy, and Education
Marbrook Foundation	90 grants to 59 organizations, mostly Arts & Culture. Environment and Education shared the remaining grants
Greystone Foundation	48 grants to 27 organizations, mostly Arts & Culture. Education dominated the remaining grants
Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation	47 grants to 24 organizations, about half Mental Health Care, evenly split by Clinics and Counseling. Also, Housing & Employment (8), and Addiction services (8), evenly split by Treatment and Counseling
Medica Foundation	28 grants to 24 organizations, half Mental Health Care, evenly split by Clinics and Counseling. Advocacy and Housing & Employment dominated the remaining grants
Pohlad Family Foundation	27 grants to 15 organizations, half Clinics. Advocacy and Housing & Employment dominated the remaining grants
Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation	24 grants to 22 organizations, two-thirds Mental Health Care, evenly split by Clinics and Counseling. Housing & Employment dominated the remaining grants
Wurtele Foundation	24 grants to 24 organizations, more than half Arts & Culture. Education and Housing & Employment shared the remaining grants
Hugh J. Andersen Foundation	18 grants to 6 organizations, half for Advocacy, the rest evenly split by Crisis Intervention and Housing & Employment
Hardenbergh Foundation	17 grants to 7 organizations, evenly split by Clinics and Housing & Employment
Charlson Foundation	16 grants to 8 organizations, all Housing & Employment
F. R. Bigelow Foundation	15 grants to 11 organizations, mostly Crisis Intervention and Addiction Treatment, others include Mental Health Care Clinics & Counseling, and Advocacy

Addiction Services: Counseling: Out-patient services; Treatment: In-patient facilities
Advocacy: Associations

Arts & Culture: Predominantly theaters and media for mental health

Crisis Intervention: Mental distress brought on by a traumatic experience, i.e. sexual abuse, death of a child, torture, domestic violence (includes temp. shelters) Education: School programs

Housing & Employment: Homelessness, Supportive Housing (not temp. shelter) and skills training

Mental Health Care: Clinics & Hospitals: Medical Facilities; Counseling: Therapy and social programs
Persons with a disability: i.e. Autism, Dyslexia

Small Family Foundations

Since 2015, the majority of small family foundation's have focused their Mental Health funding general mental health care and counseling initiatives that provide a range of services, such as Guild Incorporated and Washburn Center for Children. The others focused on addiction and substance abuse treatment.

General Mental Health Care

1. Sauer Family Foundation
2. Charlson Foundation
3. Mortenson Family Foundation
4. The Beverly Foundation
5. Haggerty Family Foundation
6. George Family Foundation
7. Head Family Foundation

Addiction Services

1. Wurtele Foundation
2. Patrick & Aimee Butler Family Foundation
3. The Luther Family Foundation

Addiction services viewed with an intersectional lens.

The Wurtele Foundation funded several arts and culture organizations' addiction services initiatives. Patrick & Aimee Butler Family Foundation funded addiction services provided by groups serving marginalized and at-risk communities including immigrants, youth, women, and persons with a disability. Geographically, these small foundations focused entirely on organizations in the seven-county metro area, with no recorded funding for those in Greater Minnesota.

About Access Philanthropy



Access Philanthropy is a national philanthropy research and communications consulting firm with 20+ researchers, writers, and senior advisors who have experience both as funders and nonprofit leaders. Our team partners with nonprofits to develop proposals, build a fundraising infrastructure, and deepen their understanding of the systems, processes, and resources needed for sustainability.

In addition, Access Philanthropy maintains an online database of 3,000+ detailed profiles of local and national funders, in curated lists, such as MN Small Family Funders, Empowerment Funders, Mental Health funders in MN, and Rural Arts & Culture Funders.

Recent clients include Ordway Center, Arlington House, Kansas City Nonprofit Connect, Black Data Processors, Blandin Foundation, Loppet Foundation, UMN Institute on the Environment, Headway Emotional Services, MnEEP, St Olaf College, Wilder Foundation, and MicroGrants.

Report Writers and Researchers

Mary Anne Welch
Laura Wilson

Jana Simmons
Steve Paprocki

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Research Experience

Access Philanthropy began 20 years ago as a national philanthropy research organization, specifically providing prospects and inside funder information for both local and national clients. Since then, Access Philanthropy has conducted workshops in 40 states, producing 24 regional and national funder directories, researched funding discrepancies in racial/ethnic funding, Greater Minnesota mental health, Minnesota foundation giving to LGBTQ organizations.