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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Announcing the 2026 Otto Bremer Community Responsive Fund Process for UW Valleys**

Hudson, WI - UW Valleys is pleased to announce the launch of the 2026 OBT Community Responsive Fund process. In partnership with the [Otto Bremer Trust](#), United Way St. Croix and Red Cedar Valleys will continue to help direct critical funding to local nonprofits serving the six-county region.

Nonprofits are invited to complete the eligibility assessment from May 1 until May 18, to be considered for an invitation to apply for funding through the OBT Community Responsive Fund at UW Valleys.

#### **Eligible applicants should align their work with one or more of the following focus areas:**

- **Food.** Organizations and programs that directly operate meal sites and food pantries to meet basic daily needs. (Large, region- and state-wide food bank activities are not included.)
- **Shelter.** Organizations and programs that provide short-term and emergency shelter beds for people who are housing insecure or facing homelessness.
- **Low-income healthcare clinics.** Organizations and programs that primarily provide affordable medical, dental, and mental health services to people with limited financial resources or who are uninsured/underinsured.
- **Disability services.** Organizations and programs that support people with physical/cognitive disabilities.
- **School-based mental health.** Organizations and programs that have established school-based mental health services.

#### **Eligibility criteria for OBT Community Responsive grants through UW Valleys are:**

- The work must align with the OBT Community Responsive Fund focus areas for 2026
- Located and doing work in 6-county region, Burnett, Dunn, Pierce, Pepin, Polk and/or St. Croix Counties; a majority of people served by the organization must live in the six-county region.
- Beneficiaries of the grants must reside in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and/or Wisconsin.
- The organization must have a 501(c)(3) determination from the IRS. (Government entities, including public schools, are not eligible. Non-public schools are eligible.)
- The organization must have at least five years of successful operations during which they have continuously held 501(c)(3) status.
- The organization must complete annual audited financial statements prepared by an independent CPA.
- The organization's last fiscal year's actual expenses must have been \$2 million or more, excluding in-kind expenses.
- Grant funds are not to be used for work to influence public policy, annual events, event sponsorships, or fiscal sponsorships.
- The organization may not have an open OBT strategic grant.

For more information and to access the eligibility assessment and to preview the application questions, visit <https://www.uwvalleys.org/otto-bremer-trust>.

For more information about Otto Bremer Trust, visit <https://ottobremer.org/>.

For questions related to the Otto Bremer Community Responsive Fund Grant Process, please contact: Megan Hausch, Director of Development, [megan.hausch@uwvalleys.org](mailto:megan.hausch@uwvalleys.org).