

ENRTF Community Grant Program advisory council application preview

Recruitment for two Dakota Tribal member seats - Summer 2026

How to use this preview

This document is provided so prospective applicants can review the application questions and prepare responses before opening the online application. It is not the application itself and cannot be submitted. Applicants must submit responses through the official online application while the recruitment remains open.

About this recruitment

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is accepting applications for two seats on the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Community Grant Program Advisory Council. These seats must be filled by enrolled members of a Dakota Tribal Nation located within Minnesota boundaries.

The Advisory Council provides input and recommendations to the DNR commissioner and the Minnesota Legislature on Community Grant Program policies, application and reporting requirements, proposed budgets, recipient eligibility, program accessibility and other opportunities to improve program management.

The Advisory Council does not score grant applications, select grant recipients, award grants or administer grants.

Applying does not guarantee an interview or appointment. Final appointment decisions are made by the DNR commissioner.

Application period and review process

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the two Dakota Tribal member positions are filled. DNR will review completed applications at regular intervals and may begin interviews before the recruitment closes. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

The application will remain open until both positions are filled or DNR closes the recruitment.

Before beginning the online application

- Review this application preview and the Applicant Guide.
- Review the Advisory Council Member Expectations.

- Draft longer responses in a separate document.
- Keep a copy of your responses before submitting the online form.
- The online application may not save incomplete responses. Applicants are strongly encouraged to prepare longer responses in a separate document and keep a copy of their work before submitting.
- Do not submit Tribal identification with the initial application. Applicants invited to interview will receive separate instructions for verifying Tribal enrollment.

Questions, accommodations and translation

For questions about the application, reasonable accommodations, translation or alternative formats, contact:

Gwendolyn Tweed
ENRTF Community Grants Supervisor
gwendolyn.tweed@state.mn.us
651-259-5225

Applicant data and nondiscrimination notices

Applicant data

As an applicant for appointment to a DNR advisory council, data collected from you are classified as private under Minnesota Statutes, section 13.601, subdivision 3, except for the following public data: name, city of residence, education and training, employment history, volunteer work, awards and honors, prior government service and veteran status.

Application data will be used to evaluate your qualifications and to contact you. You are not required by law to provide this information. However, if you do not provide it, DNR may be unable to determine how well suited you are for the Advisory Council or contact you.

Private applicant data may be available to:

- DNR personnel whose work duties require access.
- People assisting with application review and evaluation.
- People who have obtained your written consent.
- Others as required or allowed by state or federal law or court order.

If you are appointed, DNR staff will contact you to verify additional information that may become public, including your residential address and a designated email address, phone number or both.

Nondiscrimination notice

DNR prohibits discrimination and is committed to ensuring that public services, programs and activities are free from discrimination based on protected characteristics under state and federal law.

For more information, visit the Minnesota DNR Non-Discrimination and Accommodation Notice and Procedures webpage or contact the DNR civil rights coordinator at civilrights.dnr@state.mn.us or 651-259-5016.

Guidance for narrative responses

- You do not need to use government, grant or technical language. You may write in plain language. Reviewers will focus on the substance of your experience, knowledge, perspective and potential contribution.
- Writing style, grammar, spelling and professional polish are not scored by themselves.
- Relevant experience may come from:
 - Tribal community involvement
 - Cultural or traditional knowledge
 - Traditional ecological knowledge
 - Lived experience
 - Community leadership
 - Education or training
 - Employment
 - Volunteer service
 - Advocacy
 - Environmental stewardship
 - Grant or public-sector work
 - Service on community groups, boards, committees or advisory bodies
- Specific examples are helpful, but examples do not have to come from paid employment or a formal leadership position. Leadership may include coordinating, facilitating, organizing, mentoring, helping a group make decisions, resolving problems or taking responsibility for an outcome.
- You are not expected to have experience in every area. Where instructed, you may enter "Not applicable."

Contact information

This information is needed so DNR can communicate with you about your application.

1. **What is your first name? (Required)**
2. **What is your last name? (Required)**
3. **What email address can we use to contact you? (Required)**
4. **What phone number can we use to contact you? (Required)**
5. **What is your street address? (Required)**
6. **In what city do you live? (Required)**
7. **What is your ZIP code? (Required)**

Eligibility for this recruitment

This recruitment is specifically for the two Advisory Council seats that must be filled by enrolled members of a Dakota Tribal Nation located within Minnesota boundaries.

Applicants must also be Minnesota residents and may not be registered lobbyists. Tribal enrollment documentation is not required with the initial application. Applicants invited to interview will receive separate verification instructions.

8. Are you currently a resident of the State of Minnesota? (Required)

Yes

No

9. Are you an enrolled member of a Dakota Tribal Nation located within Minnesota boundaries? (Required)

Yes

No

10. Are you currently registered as a lobbyist? (Required)

Yes

No

11. If you are invited to interview, are you willing to provide documentation verifying enrollment in a Dakota Tribal Nation located within Minnesota boundaries? (Required)

Yes

No

How you learned about the opportunity

12. How did you learn about this opportunity? Select all that apply. (Required)

This information will help DNR assess and improve future Advisory Council recruitment and outreach.

Email message

Social media

Newspaper, television or radio

Friend or other personal contact

DNR website

DNR employee

Dakota Tribal Nation or Tribal organization

Community organization

School, college or university

I do not remember

Other

Interest in serving

Guidance

The Advisory Council provides input and recommendations on Community Grant Program policies, application and reporting requirements, proposed budgets, recipient eligibility, accessibility and program improvements. You may discuss why the program matters to you, how your knowledge or perspective would contribute, how you could improve transparency and accessibility, and how the program can protect natural resources while expanding access for communities that have experienced environmental harm or barriers to funding.

- 13. In one or two paragraphs, explain why you would like to serve on the ENRTF Community Grant Program Advisory Council and what you would contribute to its advisory work. (Required)**

Working collaboratively

Guidance

For Question 14, include a specific example if possible. Describe your role, how you worked across different perspectives, how you handled disagreement or uncertainty, whether you helped guide decisions or group progress, and the outcome. For Question 15, you may discuss lessons related to listening, humility, trust-building, communication, power differences, conflict, shared decision-making, making space for different perspectives or changing your approach based on what you learned.

- 14. Describe your experience working in collaborative groups whose participants had different backgrounds, perspectives, roles or life experiences. (Required)**
- 15. What did you learn from working in diverse collaborative groups, and how would those lessons help you contribute to this Advisory Council? (Required)**

Natural resource knowledge and experience

The next questions ask about experience in science and knowledge, policy or advocacy, and natural resource practices. Applicants are not expected to have experience in all three areas.

Relevant experience may come from cultural or traditional knowledge, traditional ecological knowledge, lived experience, education or research, employment, Tribal programs, community projects, volunteer service, advocacy, stewardship or land-based practices.

Enter "Not applicable" if you do not have experience in one of the categories.

Guidance

Science-related experience may include academic study or research; collecting, analyzing or using natural resource data; understanding, applying or interpreting research; teaching or sharing natural resource knowledge; traditional ecological knowledge; or community-based observation or monitoring.

- 16. Describe your experience and areas of knowledge in science related to protecting, conserving, preserving or enhancing Minnesota's natural resources. Explain your role and how the experience may help you contribute to the Advisory Council. (Required)**
- 17. How many years of experience do you have in science as described above? (Required)**

Guidance

Policy or advocacy experience may include building community support; communicating with decision-makers; developing, analyzing, implementing or interpreting policies; participating in public processes; advocating for community or natural resource priorities; or helping communities understand government requirements.

- 18. Describe your experience and areas of knowledge in policy or advocacy related to protecting, conserving, preserving or enhancing Minnesota's natural resources. Explain your role and how the experience may help you contribute to the Advisory Council. (Required)**
- 19. How many years of experience do you have in policy or advocacy as described above? (Required)**

Guidance

Practice-related experience may include stewardship or land-based activities; collecting information or supporting research; participating in environmental or natural resource projects; applying traditional knowledge or practices; combining traditional knowledge and western science; or community education, restoration or monitoring.

- 20. Describe your experience and areas of knowledge in practices related to protecting, conserving, preserving or enhancing Minnesota's natural resources. Explain your role and how the experience may help you contribute to the Advisory Council. (Required)**
- 21. How many years of experience do you have in natural resource practices as described above? (Required)**

Community experience

One purpose of the ENRTF Community Grant Program is to expand access to funding, especially for communities that have been adversely affected by pollution and environmental degradation.

Guidance

Relevant experience may include lived experience, cultural or community knowledge, volunteer service, education, employment or sustained relationships with affected communities. You may describe your role or relationship to the community, the barriers or environmental concerns involved, how community members participated, how community knowledge influenced the work and what you learned.

- 22. Describe your experience working with or as part of communities that have been adversely affected by pollution, environmental degradation or barriers to participating in environmental decisions or accessing public funding. (Required)**

Other relevant experience

- 23. Do you have experience working with Tribal communities on natural resource issues or projects? (Required)**

Yes

No

- 24. Do you have experience with grant writing, grant management, grant monitoring, awarding grants or other philanthropy? (Required)**

Yes

No

- 25. Do you have experience working with local, Tribal, state or federal officials on natural resource issues or projects? (Required)**

Yes

No

Guidance

You may include experience with Tribal communities, grants or philanthropy, advisory bodies, boards or committees, government agencies, public officials or public funding systems.

- 26. Optional: Briefly describe any experience identified in the previous three questions that would help you contribute to the Advisory Council.**

Demographic information

DNR collects demographic information to understand who is being reached through public participation opportunities and to support statutory membership and reporting requirements.

Demographic information and accommodation information will not be provided to application reviewers during initial scoring. Selecting 'Prefer not to answer' will not affect the scoring of your application.

27. What is your age range? (Required)

18 to 24

25 to 34

35 to 44

45 to 54

55 to 64

65 and over

Prefer not to answer

28. What is your gender identity? (Required)

Male

Female

Non-binary

Prefer not to answer

Prefer to self-identify

If you selected 'Prefer to self-identify,' you may provide your response here:

29. What is your race or ethnicity? Select all that apply. (Required)

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian or Asian American

Black or African American

Hispanic or Latino

Middle Eastern or North African

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

White

Prefer not to answer

Prefer to self-identify

If you selected 'Prefer to self-identify,' you may provide your response here:

30. Are you a person with a disability? (Required)

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer

This question is for demographic reporting. You do not need to disclose a disability to request an accommodation. Contact Gwendolyn Tweed for a reasonable accommodation, translation or alternative application format.

Review and certification

Before submitting the online application:

- Confirm that your contact information is correct.
- Review your narrative responses.
- Save a copy of your responses, if possible.
- Do not attach or email Tribal identification at this stage.

31. I certify that the information provided in this application is true and accurate. I understand that a material misrepresentation, omission or falsification may result in removal from consideration or removal from the Advisory Council if appointed. (Required)

Yes

No

32. I understand that submitting an application does not guarantee an interview or appointment and that final appointment authority rests with the DNR commissioner. (Required)

Yes

No

Eligibility notice

Preview note

This eligibility notice appears at the end of this preview for reference. In the online application, it is shown only to applicants whose answers indicate that they cannot continue because they do not meet the statutory eligibility requirements for these Dakota Tribal member seats. Applicants who meet the requirements continue to the remaining application questions.

Thank you for your interest in the ENRTF Community Grant Program Advisory Council.

This recruitment is specifically for the two Advisory Council seats that must be filled by enrolled members of a Dakota Tribal Nation located within Minnesota boundaries.

Based on your response, you are not eligible to continue with this application because you do not meet the statutory eligibility requirements for these seats.

Please visit the DNR advisory groups webpage or subscribe for DNR updates to learn about future Advisory Council recruitment opportunities.

Submission reminder

This preview document cannot be submitted. Complete and submit the official online application while the recruitment remains open. Applications are reviewed at regular intervals and interested applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.