Wayne County COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Women's Fund Grants

Founded in 2013, The Women's Fund (TWF) is an Affiliate Fund of the Wayne County Community Foundation. TWF awards grants to Wayne County, Ohio nonprofit agencies that encourage the full participation of women and girls in our community, as well as those that create opportunities for the educational, physical, emotional, social, and personal growth of women and girls.

Application Guidelines for Grant Proposals

Submission Deadline: September 1

The Women's Fund (TWF) of the Wayne County Community Foundation is accepting grant proposals from nonprofit organizations for programs that address the following three focus areas:

- **Women's Education** – TWF seeks proposals that educate women about effective parenting; and about preparation for careers, and lifestyle choices. Collaborative proposals that provide opportunities for groups of women are particularly encouraged.
- **Women's Economic Empowerment** – TWF seeks proposals that focus on enabling women to financially support themselves and their children. Consideration will be given to financial literacy programs; programs that create better jobs and better access to jobs for women; programs that prepare women for better jobs; and programs that enable women with children to work more productively.
- **Women's Health and Wellness** – TWF seeks proposals that support women's physical and mental health, and their right to live in a world free of violence. Consideration will be given to programs that raise awareness about healthy lifestyles; and programs that help women and girls address depression and other mental health issues.

These three social issues all significantly impact the quality of life in our community. The Women's Fund seeks applications from organizations that have identified projects that will facilitate real progress in these areas.

Characteristics of The Women's Fund Grants

Eligible Organizations

The Foundation makes grants only to organizations that are recognized by the Internal Revenue Code as nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable organizations (501(c)(3) organizations); or to qualified governmental agencies. **The Women's Fund strongly encourages collaborations between and among organizations working to achieve a common goal.** In such collaborations, one organization must be identified as the grantee applicant. The Foundation does not make grants to individuals except through scholarship funds.

Size of Grants

The amount to award each year varies based on the Foundation's spending policy for permanently endowed funds. Previous awards have ranged from $1,000 to $25,000. Proposals that demonstrate the most effective use of funds in the context of their programs have the greatest chance for success.

Duration of Grants
TWF grants are for a period of up to one year, with the expectation that the full amount of the grant will be used within that time.

Geographic Range of Grants
TWF grants must benefit women and girls living in Wayne County, Ohio.

Leadership and Fiscal Accountability
TWF grantee organizations must have the leadership capacity, financial stability, and appropriate procedures in place for fiscal and organizational accountability.

The Women's Fund invites proposals for:

- Project grants: For existing project costs or those in addition to an organization's regular programming.
- Start-up grants: For new and emerging organizations that may or may not have a track record but show significant promise for success and sustainability. These funds are specifically targeted to new organizations that need initial financing in order to leverage funding from other sources.
- Capacity-building grants: For organizations to increase their range of services or to efficiently serve more women on an ongoing basis.

The Women's Fund will NOT fund:

- Scholarships to a university, college or technical program (However, WCCF has a number of scholarships specifically for women. Please see WCCF Scholarships for more information.)
- Capital campaigns
- Religious activities
- Political activities
- Retroactive funding requests
- Fundraising events
- Organizations that may be deemed as discriminatory on the basis of race, age, gender, ability level or sexual orientation
- Requests to reduce an operating deficit or to liquidate existing debt
- Agencies of the state or federal government, unless they are part of a community collaborative that includes eligible organizations
- Organizations outside Wayne County, Ohio
- Individuals

Grants are limited to activities and organizations benefiting the greater Wayne County area. Grants may not be used to carry on propaganda or otherwise attempt to influence legislation, participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office, or to conduct, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive (within the meaning of Section 4945(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code).

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agencies. The Foundation does not make grants to individuals except through scholarship funds, which are paid to the student's educational institution.

Organizations receiving grants are required to submit a report to the Foundation **within one year** of receipt of the grant.

Online Grant Proposal Application

All grant applications are completed online through our **Online Grant Portal**.

Answer the questions as completely, yet briefly, as possible. Clearly state the goal of the project for which you are requesting funds and describe how the funds would benefit women and girls in Wayne County, Ohio in The Women's Fund focus area(s), listed above, that you intend to address.

If you are working with other organizations, foundations or businesses please identify them and describe the intended working relationship with each in the appropriate section of the application. You may also attach letters of support.

Grant Proposal Application Deadline

The grant application deadline is September 1st for a decision before December 1st.

Proposal Review and Grant Approval Process

1. Proposals are reviewed by The Women's Fund Advisory Committee. You may also be asked to conduct an off-site interview with members of the Advisory Committee. Review criteria will include the following:
    - Does your proposal include all required attachments?
    - Are the objectives of your proposal clear?
    - Does your proposal promote collaboration between organizations?
    - Does your proposal target one of TWF's stated funding priorities?
    - Is your budget projection realistic?
    - Is your organization financially stable enough to implement the project?
    - Does your organization's structure provide appropriate levels of leadership and accountability?
2. The Women's Fund's grant award recommendations must be approved by Wayne County Community Foundation's Trustees.
3. Award decisions will be determined in part by the capacity of the applicant organization to implement the proposed project and meet TWF objectives.
4. Award recipients must submit one interim report within the first six months, as well as a final written report and final fiscal report within one year of the award. They may be called to provide an in-person debriefing at the conclusion of the project period.
5. Grant awards will be announced not later than June 1st each year.

6. Note that we ask about the possibility of volunteer activities associated with your project. This is not a required component of the project, but this information will inform our committee and donors of other ways that The Women's Fund may assist your organization in delivering the program.

I still have questions!

We aim to keep our website up to date with the most recent information. If you still have questions, please contact us at grants@wccfoh.org and we will be happy to assist!