

THE FUND FOR WOMEN & GIRLS – SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Small Grants accommodate the following requests:

- Programs/projects – up to \$5,000
- Capacity Building – up to \$5,000
- Gender Focused Research/Needs Assessments – up to \$2,500
- Events (educational in nature e.g., STEAM Conference) – up to \$1,000

For program/project support, priority is given to organizations with operating budgets less than \$500,000.

If your program/project is enrichment oriented, preference will be given to those that provide continuity (year over year).

Proposals for demonstration pilots will be considered.

For capacity building support, priority will be given to requests that 1) emphasize self-care for direct service providers to protect against compassion fatigue/burnout 2) increase the cultural competence of staff to meet client needs including but not limited to multi-lingual support.

Self-care requests, for staff members supporting women and/or girls, include but are not limited to guided stress reduction activities that improve mental and emotional health.

Eligibility Criteria

Organizations with an **open grant** (have not submitted a final report for a current grant) with the Community Foundation, including The Fund for Women & Girls, **are eligible to apply for event support**. An organization may apply for funding once per fiscal year providing it continues to demonstrate alignment with our strategies and submits a satisfactory report.

In addition to aligning with our result area, organizations seeking a small grant must meet the following **additional** eligibility criteria:

- Have **not received** a small grant award within the current fiscal year
- Have not been **declined** for a small grant award within the last 90 days
- Fundraising events do not qualify for support

Application/Review Process

Unlike our competitive grant making process, there is no Letter of Inquiry (LOI) for a small grant. After successful completion of the eligibility questionnaire, organizations seeking a small grant should complete and submit an online application. After reviewing the application, The Fund for Women & Girls will determine if the request is aligned with the funds focus to ensure all Fairfield County's women, girls, and non-binary people made vulnerable by systemic racial inequities are economically secure, healthy and safe.

There are no submission deadlines for a small grant. The Fund accepts and reviews applications on a rolling basis. The entire process typically takes three months. If applying for funding between the months of January-April, please be advised that the review process may take up to four months, so please plan accordingly.

Our small grants application process is less complex and more streamlined than the application process for our competitive grants. In order to expedite the review process, site visits are not conducted. Instead, we will schedule a comprehensive phone conference with applicants.

Organizations that have been declined may re-apply 90 days post denial.

Below is a sample timeline for a typical request:

- **Application Submission Confirmation** – Week 1
- **Application Reviewed** – Weeks 2-4
- **Email to Schedule Call** – Weeks 5-6
- **Conference Call Scheduled** – Weeks 7-9
- **Decision/Awards** – Weeks 10-12

Please review the application instructions thoroughly before beginning the application process.

STAFF CONTACT

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