

Grant Guidelines 2017 – 2018

WOMEN'S fund

for the fox valley region, inc.

4455 W. Lawrence Street
Appleton, WI 54914

Our Mission and Purpose:

In 1994, a group of committed individuals came together and established a permanent endowment to focus solely on improving the lives of women and girls in the Fox Valley region. Their dream, which is now the heart of the Women's Fund's mission: to invest in women and girls through grants, advocacy and education.

Funding Priorities:

The Women's Fund believes through philanthropy and community collaboration we can address the needs of women and girls in the Fox Valley region. We provide grants for programs that inspire women and girls to flourish personally, economically and professionally. Our priorities include:

- ❖ Women and girls live in safety.
- ❖ Women and girls meet their basic needs for living, including food, shelter, and access to health care.
- ❖ Women and girls have the knowledge, opportunity, and self-determination to be economically secure.
- ❖ Women and girls have opportunities to pursue their dreams and achieve their potential.
- ❖ Women and girls are empowered and inspired to:
 - Learn about and experience the value of philanthropy, including volunteerism.
 - Mentor and encourage others.
 - Recognize, develop and apply their leadership skills personally and professionally.

Social Change Focus:

The Women's Fund encourages applicants to think beyond service delivery to the social climate which fosters a lack of safety, economic security, and access to opportunity for women and girls. When planning your project or program, consider how you might incorporate one of the following Social Change Indicators in your work.

- **Shifts in Definition:** The issue is defined differently in the community or larger society.
- **Shifts in Behavior:** People are behaving differently in the community or larger society.
- **Shifts in Engagement:** People in the community or society are more engaged.
- **Shifts in Policies:** An institutional, organizational or legislative policy or practice has changed.
- **Current Position Maintained:** Past gains have been maintained.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for any grant from the Women's Fund:

- Your project must be consistent with the Women's Fund mission and funding priorities.
- Your project must benefit women and girls in Calumet, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, or Northern Winnebago Counties.
- Your organization must be a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code, section 501(c)(3). However, agencies or informal groups without 501(c)(3) status may use another tax-exempt, not for profit agency as your fiscal agent. Contact the Women's Fund for further information.

The Women's Fund **WILL NOT** fund: individuals, endowments, government agencies (however educational institutions may qualify), projects with a religious focus which endorses a particular faith tradition, and political parties, candidates or partisan activities.

Funding Focus Areas:

All project & program grants for the 2017 – 2018 grant cycle must meet one of the focus areas listed below. Collaborative programs and partnerships among organizations are highly encouraged. Innovative approaches and projects with limited access to other funding are encouraged to apply. **You may submit a preliminary application for more than one focus area. Please use separate forms for each.**

1. Young Adult Economic Security

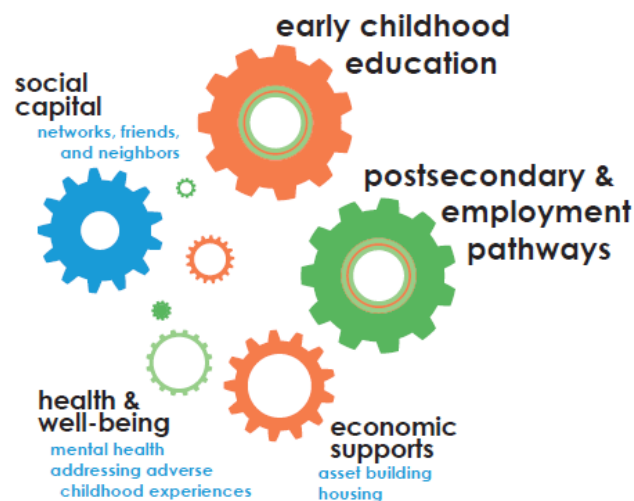
The Women's Fund continues its commitment to our initiative to improve the long-term economic security of young adult women age 18-29. Programs for young adults aging out of youth programs are of particular interest.

2. Two-Generational Family Strengthening

The Women's Fund is interested in programs which serve families holistically. Organizations are encouraged to apply the Aspen Institute Two-Generational approach to their work.

CORE COMPONENTS OF TWO-GENERATIONAL APPROACHES

(Ascend at the Aspen Institute)



3. Programming to Benefit Females of Any Age

The Women's Fund wishes to stay informed of the needs of all women and girls in our community. Projects in this category may serve females of any age, in any of the Women's Fund priority areas, with an emphasis on emerging issues or creative solutions to existing needs.

Criteria:

The following criteria will be used in the decision-making process. Please make sure your written application is complete and makes a compelling case for your request. Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

- **Is the request specifically designed for the unique needs of women and/or girls?**
- Does the request meet at least one of the Women's Fund's three funding focus areas for 2017 - 2018?
- Are the program's goals and outcomes clearly identified?
- Who is your target market and how many people are impacted?
- Are there effective strategies for implementation?
- Are the timeline and budget clear and realistic?
- Are there evaluation and measurement tools?
- What is the potential for long-term social change?

Grant Size:

Grants will be considered only at \$5,000 and \$10,000 levels for all funding focus areas. A maximum of \$60,000 will be awarded. **Highest priority will be given to programs addressing young adult economic security or two-generational family strengthening.**

Deadlines:

Preliminary Application Deadline:

4:00 p.m. Friday, January 5, 2018

Full Application Deadline:

4:00 p.m. Friday, February 16, 2018

The full application form will be distributed to those organizations whose projects have been selected to advance. **DO NOT FORGET TO INCLUDE REQUIRED FINANCIAL ATTACHMENTS.**

Application and any required attachments must be submitted via email to grants@womensfundfvr.org.

Additional Information:

The Women's Fund has been awarding grants annually since 1997. Nonprofits may apply for funding for any project or program which meets our funding priorities and eligibility requirements. The selection process is competitive; historically we have only been able to fund 45% of the requests made to the Women's Fund.

The Women's Fund strongly encourages attendance at our Grant Seeker Workshop scheduled for **Thursday, November 2, 2016 from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.** prior to submitting a preliminary application. Optional networking and collaboration time will be available from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. for any organizations wishing to brainstorm after the workshop or develop collaborative ideas and partnerships. Visit our website at www.womensfundfvr.org to reserve your seat or for more information. The workshop will be held at the Community Foundation, 4455 W. Lawrence Street, Appleton.

The entire Grants Committee will review the preliminary applications and invite organizations with successful preliminary applications to submit a full proposal. This preliminary application process replaces the required phone conversation with the executive director that had been in place prior to the 2015 grant cycle.

However, applicants are encouraged to call the executive director Becky Boulanger at any time to discuss their ideas and ask questions. Becky can be reached at (920) 702-7617.

The Women’s Fund may conduct interviews or agency tours as part of the Project & Program Grants evaluation process, but the written application should fully explain your project without the need for an interview. Applications that are incomplete or have errors will not be considered. Programs previously funded by the Women’s Fund will be considered for renewal funding only if required interim and final reports have been submitted as requested.

The Women’s Fund will not fund the same project or program for more than 3 consecutive years.

Important Dates:

Grant Seeker Workshop	Thursday, November 2, 2017 Presentation and Q & A from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Optional networking and collaboration time from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Preliminary Applications Due	Friday, January 5, 2018 – 4:00 p.m.
Applicants notified if they were selected to submit a full proposal	By Friday, January 19, 2018
Full Proposals Due	Friday, February 16, 2018 – 4:00 p.m.
Grant interviews and agency tours as determined by Grants Committee members	February 26 – March 16, 2018
Grant funding recommendations to Women’s Fund board of directors for approval.	Wednesday, April 11, 2018
Applicants notified of funding decisions	Week of April 16, 2018
Grants Celebration Event	Wednesday, May 2, 2018