**Mission, Vision, and Purpose:**
The mission of the Women’s Fund, to promote the advancement of women and girls in the Fox Valley Region, reflects our vision of a community of equality where power and opportunity are not limited by gender.

The Women’s Fund mission is accomplished through grantmaking, strategic initiatives, education, and advocacy.

**Grant Information:**

**NEW THIS YEAR: *Two* tracks in granting**

**Single-Year Impact Grants**: Single year grants of up to $10,000 to support projects or programs to improve the lives of women and/or girls in at least one of the Women’s Fund’s priority areas.

**Multi-Year Innovative Pathways Grant**: *One* grant will be awarded up to $20,000/year for up to 3 years with annual evaluation to support current or developing efforts that are working to address systematic challenges facing women and/or girls in one of the Women Fund’s priority areas.

**Eligibility:**To be eligible for an Impact Grant or an Innovative Pathways Grant from the Women’s Fund:

* The project/program must be consistent with the Women’s Fund mission, focus, and priority areas.
* The project/program 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 consider using another tax-exempt, not-for-profit agency as a fiscal agent. Contact the Women’s Fund for further information.
* Government agencies may qualify. Please contact the Women’s Fund prior to completing the grant application.

Women’s Fund grants will not fund:

* Individuals, endowments, or capital campaigns.
* Projects or programs that promote religious activities and/or beliefs.
* Political parties, candidates, or partisan activities.
* Event sponsorships.
* Scholarships that fund individual students.
* Co-educational programs that do not clearly communicate a specific and unique focus on women and girls.

**Strategic Focus and Priorities:**

The mission of the Women’s Fund, to promote the advancement of women and girls in the Fox Valley Region, reflects our vision of a community of equality where power and opportunity are not limited by gender.

**Focus**: To realize this mission and vision, the Women’s Fund will focus its grantmaking resources on creating, strengthening, and accelerating economic opportunities that enable women and girls to achieve their full potential.

**Priorities**: To best achieve this outcome, we will prioritize projects, programs, and strategic initiatives that center on the following three priority areas:

1. ***PRIORITY: Continuing education and training as a pathway to financial stability.***
* Knowing that education is a pathway to economic security, the Women’s Fund is seeking proposals for programs and initiatives to empower women to pursue and achieve their post-secondary educational goals.
* Proposals should address challenges and barriers with strategies to improve access to higher education, support academic achievement, and prepare women and girls to pursue professions that pay a family-sustaining wage, building economic opportunity for women and their families.
* Programs **may** include services and supports ***such as***:
	+ - one-on-one advising and goal planning,
		- supporting basic needs such as childcare and transportation to enable women to stay in school,
		- connections to other support services necessary to successfully complete their educational goals.
1. ***PRIORITY: Life-skills, mentoring and supports to increase the ability of women and girls to effectively manage challenges and successfully navigate everyday life circumstances.***
* The Women’s Fund recognizes the importance of mentors, role models and champions, equipping women and girls with essential life skills and offering comprehensive support systems to overcome the challenges of everyday life.
* Programs and initiatives that include the power of one-on-one mentoring, goal planning, connection to community resources, and supportive services to help women identify and work toward their goals, to break down barriers, and to foster increased confidence and realize a vision of what is possible.
* Services and supports ***could*** include:
	+ one-on-one mentoring or accountability partner,
	+ building life and self-advocacy skills needed to overcome roadblocks and pursue goals,
	+ goal-planning,
	+ connections to and navigating community resources,
	+ personal development to cultivate relationships that foster increased confidence, self-sufficiency, and connection to the community.
1. ***PRIORITY: Mental and emotional wellness*** ***to ensure women and girls have access to a spectrum of supports to nurture mental and emotional wellness to thrive.***
* Addressing mental and emotional well-being by offering support and resources that promote resilience, self-esteem, and overall mental wellness. This can include counseling services, wellness workshops, and community support networks.
* The Women’s Fund envisions programs and initiatives to proactively support women and/or girls to be mentally and emotionally healthy. Programs ***could*** address such things as:
	+ - maintaining wellness
		- strengthening resilience
		- exploring positive strategies to get through difficulties
		- positive approaches to managing stressors
		- bolstering genuine and authentic connections
		- dealing effectively with emotions

You are the experts! Tell us your best ideas and boldest dreams of how to support and make lasting change for women and girls in these three priority areas. Your idea may cross over to multiple priority areas, that’s great, choose the one where there is the most impact.

If you would like to discuss your idea, you may connect with Julie Keller at (920) 702-7617 or jkeller@womensfundfvr.org.

**Criteria:** It is important that the written application clearly and fully explains your project. The following core criteria will be used in the decision-making process for both grant tracks:

* Does the program or project clearly address one of the funding priority areas?
* Does the program or project create, strengthen, or accelerate economic opportunities that enable women and girls to achieve their full potential?
* Is this request designed to meet the ***unique*** needs of women and/or girls?

For those invited to complete the full application, the following criteria will also be considered:

* Are the program’s goals and outcomes clearly identified?
* Are there effective strategies for implementation?
* Are there tools to gauge impact?
* Is the budget clear and realistic?

Please note that the Women’s Fund won’t consider “fund the gap” requests or requests that are only for barrier removal.

**Application Process:**The grant application will use the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region’s online grant application system: [www.cffoxvalley.org/grant-portal](http://www.cffoxvalley.org/grant-portal)

If you have not used the portal to apply for other grants from the Community Foundation you will need to create an account.

Complete and submit the Letter of Intent by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 17.

Questions regarding the application process can also be submitted via email to grants@womensfundfvr.org.

**Important Dates:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Impact Grants** | **Innovative Pathways Grants** |
| Application Open | November 11, 2024 | November 11, 2024 |
| Letter of Intent Due | January 17, 2025 | January 17, 2025 |
| Committee reviews and clarifying questions answered | February 7, 2025 | February 7, 2025 |
| Applicants notified if selected to submit a full proposal  | February 14, 2025 | February 14, 2025 |
| Full Proposals Due | March 14, 2025 | March 14, 2025 |
| Committee reviews and decide who moves to interview stage | N/A | April 15, 2025 |
| Site visits/interviews scheduled and completed | N/A | Early May |
| Applicants notified of funding decisions | Mid-April | Mid-May |