



Princeton Area Community Foundation  
**FUND** for **WOMEN** and **GIRLS**

## **The Fund For Women And Girls of the Princeton Area Community Foundation (FWG) 2018 Grant Guidelines**

### **OUR VISION**

A community where women and girls reach their full potential.

### **OUR MISSION**

To improve the lives of economically vulnerable women and girls in greater Mercer County through community investment, education, and collaboration.

### **OVERVIEW**

The Fund for Women and Girls' membership is a diverse group of women and men who have come together and pooled their financial resources to invest in organizations and programs aimed at improving the lives of women and children in our community. In addition to providing funding, the members of the Fund for Women and Girls lead the annual grantmaking process; members review applications, conduct site visits, and select the organizations and programs in which FWG will invest.

### **THE NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Globally, women face greater social and economic barriers than men and are more likely to live in poverty. Nonprofit organizations and government agencies that provide women and their families with vital services are stretched thin by increased demand and strained resources. The same is true here in greater Mercer County where, despite pockets of great wealth, the county ranks below the New Jersey state average on many critical health, education, and well-being metrics.

Consistent and inarguable research proves the significance of the first five years of life in determining the cognitive, linguistic, and behavioral characteristics necessary for success in school and life. Further, research has proven the societal economic benefit to investing in children in these first five years. Thus, in order for women to provide a healthy and economically secure future for themselves and their children, they must have access to the following resources: prenatal care and maternal health services, positive role models, education, viable pathways to careers, and affordable, high quality childcare for their children. Only through a network of investment in and support for both women and their children can these resources be assured and the cycle of poverty broken.

## **OUR GRANTMAKING**

As a thriving constituency within the Princeton Area Community Foundation, the Fund for Women and Girls focuses on providing support to programs and projects that benefit women and children in greater Mercer County. The annual grants process is competitive; FWG awards one-year grants of up to \$25,000 each, and at the discretion of the Grants Committee, organizations may be invited to apply for a multi-year grant of up to three years. We encourage tax-exempt 501(c) 3 nonprofit organizations to submit applications each year in April and May. Our online application can be found at <https://www.grantinterface.com/princetongrants/common/logon.aspx>

## **WHAT WE INVEST IN**

The majority of our grantmaking dollars will be dedicated to proposals that focus on children ages 0-5 and their caregivers, in the following areas:

- Education and/or childcare
- Parent support services
- Prenatal care and/or maternal health

Up to 25% of our grantmaking dollars may be allocated to leadership and mentoring proposals in support of women and girls (of any age).

We will consider projects/programs that support developmental building blocks such as physical and mental health, cognitive and social learning programs, and healthy parenting; projects/programs that support families' basic needs, such as transportation, childcare, and nutrition. FWG will consider investing in **capital** projects that support these endeavors.

We place a priority on projects/programs that demonstrate measurable impact, are evidence-based and grounded in best practices. We encourage proposals that foster collaboration among organizations and welcome those that demonstrate innovative ways of thinking about old problems.

## **WHAT WE DO NOT INVEST IN**

We do not invest in:

- Endowment-building campaigns
- Fundraising appeals, events, and routine expenses of raising money
- Field trips, unless part of a larger educational effort
- Sports teams, unless part of a larger educational effort
- Sponsorship of conventions
- Lobbying and other political activities
- Fraternal and religious activities
- Tax-supported and government-operated basic programs and services (e.g., core curricular school activities or essential police and fire services)

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Nonprofit organizations with tax-exempt status under Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code are eligible for funding. Eligible nonprofit organizations must be registered with the State of New Jersey as a charity, unless they are religious organizations or schools that file their curricula with the Department of Education and are exempted from the provisions of the New Jersey Charitable Registration and Investigation Act. (For further information on New Jersey charitable registration go to the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs web site at <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/ocp/charities.htm>.)

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The Fund for Women and Girls will only support organizations that promote inclusiveness and that do not discriminate on the basis of race, gender identity, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, or any other characteristics protected by law.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

**The application will be evaluated on and should contain clear evidence of the following criteria:**

- The project fits within the Fund for Women and Girls' Grant Guidelines.
- The project's rationale and implementation plan is grounded in relevant research and best practices.
- The project has a meaningful impact on its intended beneficiaries as demonstrated by measurable outcomes.
- The project is grounded in the expressed needs of its intended participants.
- The organization seeks out collaborative partnerships and leverages them for efficiencies and greater reach.
- The organization shares its knowledge and experience with the broader community and aspires to be a leader in its field.
- The organization is building capacity to sustain the project/program beyond the grant.
- The project contributes to the growth and future success of the organization.
- The organization's Board demonstrates its commitment via financial support **and** time, talent, or in-kind support.

## **OUR GRANTMAKING PROCESS**

The Princeton Area Community Foundation offers **Grant Information Sessions** for all interested applicants at its office, located at 15 Princess Road, Suite A, Lawrenceville, New Jersey, on designated dates in April. These sessions acquaint participants with our grant guidelines and application process, and provide opportunities to ask specific questions. Attendance at an information session is not a prerequisite to apply for a grant. You may register for the sessions online at [www.pacf.org/events](http://www.pacf.org/events).

Nonprofit organizations may apply for a grant from the Fund for Women and Girls regardless of whether they have applied for funding from the Princeton Area Community Foundation's other grantmaking programs, such as *All Kids Thrive* and PACF's Community Impact Grants. FWG and the Community Foundation welcome follow-up questions.

The Fund for Women and Girls accepts completed applications in April and May. Grants Committee members evaluate proposals from June through September, making occasional site visits. The Grants Committee selects four to six finalists in September; organizations that are not finalists receive notification at this time.

The finalists may be asked to make a brief presentation at FWG's Annual Grantmaking Dinner in late fall, followed by voting (based on voting criteria outlined in FWG's Charter) to select the organizations that will receive one-year and multi-year grants.

Following the Grantmaking Dinner, FWG disseminates information about the grant recipients (i.e., grantee partners), using print and social media, newsletters, web sites, and annual reports. FWG also encourages grantee partners to publicize their awards themselves through press releases, and the Community Foundation communications staff is available to assist with those efforts. We request that grantee partners acknowledge the support of the Fund for Women and Girls as a component of the Princeton Area Community Foundation in releases as "The Fund for Women and Girls of the Princeton Area Community Foundation."

### **2018 TIMETABLE SUMMARY**

<b>Mon. April 9 – Fri. May 18</b>	Online application submission process
<b>Tues. April 10 at 9AM &amp; Wed. April 25 at 2:30PM</b>	Grant Information Sessions
<b>Fri. May 18 at 5PM</b>	2018 Application Deadline
<b>June - September</b>	Application review and site visits
<b>Thurs. November 1</b>	Annual Grantmaking Dinner and voting to select grant recipients

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF GRANTEE-PARTNERS**

Grant dollars must be used exclusively for the purposes and activities specified in the grant application. The Fund for Women and Girls requires grantee-partners to notify the Community Foundation as soon as possible if their needs or circumstances change. Grantee-partners are required to submit brief six-month and end-of-grant narratives and budget reports on their projects. The Community Foundation provides reporting forms in advance of the due dates.

**For additional information, contact [FWG@pacf.org](mailto:FWG@pacf.org)**