



The Fund for Women And Girls 2013 Grant Guidelines

The mission of **The Fund for Women and Girls** of the Community Foundation is to create a community of philanthropists working together to improve the lives of women and girls in central New Jersey with grants to effective programs focused on the most compelling issues confronting them.

Our work is based on research conducted in 2011-12 by Dr. Sandy Gibson of The College of New Jersey. The findings highlight several key challenges—chiefly that women and girls are at a disproportionate risk for a variety of economic, social, and health-related problems, and that vital services to assist them are often inaccessible, unaffordable, or limited by strained resources and overwhelming need. This research, publicly released to benefit our entire community, identified four critical issue areas: **Economic Security, Education, Health & Well-being, and Leadership & Mentoring**. Within these areas, we will first focus our grantmaking on **sexual education, child care, domestic violence, and leadership & mentoring**.

Why these issues? They present opportunities to **educate and empower girls**; to address **root causes** of seemingly intractable challenges; to enhance or expand current services that are **overextended, underfunded, or inaccessible**; and for the Fund's grantmaking to have a **significant and long-term impact**.

THE FUND'S GRANTS PROGRAM

The Fund for Women and Girls' Grants Program is competitive and designed to support programs that benefit girls and the women who raise them in Mercer County, New Jersey, and the immediately adjoining areas of surrounding counties.

Grant applications are accepted once annually from tax-exempt 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations.

Please do not fax or e-mail applications.

WHAT WE SUPPORT

The Fund for Women and Girls makes **one-year grants of up to \$25,000 each** for projects that help girls and women residing in Greater Mercer attain success in their personal, academic, family and community lives.

Projects will be funded that assist girls and women to improve their lives in one or more of the following areas:

- Sexual Education
- Domestic Violence
- Childcare
- Leadership and Mentoring

Project activities may include counseling, education, health services, leadership development, mentoring, outreach, skill building, support groups, training, and/or other relevant interventions. Priority will be given to projects that are able to demonstrate long-term impact on the lives of participants and their families and communities.

Projects that involve special charges or fees will only be considered to provide assistance for low-income participants.

What We Do Not Fund:

- Building renovations and new facility construction
- Capital and endowment campaigns and projects
- Fundraising appeals, events, and routine expenses of raising money
- Computer hardware and software
- Scholarships and individual sponsorships
- Field trips, unless part of a larger educational effort
- Sports activities, 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, such as core curricular school activities, and essential police and fire services
- Vehicle and other equipment purchases

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Nonprofit organizations that have tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service code are eligible for funding. In addition, 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.)

Nonprofits may apply for a grant from The Fund for Women and Girls regardless of whether they have applied for funding from the Community Foundation's Greater Mercer Grants.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

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

SELECTION CRITERIA

- How well the project fits with **The Fund for Women and Girls** grant guidelines
- The quality of the application (on time, complete, clearly written)
- Evidence that the organization will be able to accomplish the project
- Clear statement of the need for the project
- How well the project is planned
- How well the applicant has researched and understands what others have tried and what works best
- Involvement of the girls who will benefit from the project
- How success will be defined and measured
- Appropriate, realistic budget

Assistance with Preparing Applications

The Community Foundation offers a **Grant Information Session** at its office, located at 15 Princess Road, Lawrenceville, New Jersey. This session walks participants through the grant guidelines and application forms, and provide an opportunity to ask questions.

Attendance is not required to apply for a grant.

Follow-up Questions and Site Visits

Follow-up questions from the Community Foundation and site visits by members of its staff and volunteer Grants Committee are a routine part of the application process. **In addition, a limited number of prospective grantees may be invited to make a short presentation to Community Foundation staff and/or Fund members.**

How Grants Are Announced

The Community Foundation first notifies all applicants of its decisions by mail, then issues a press release to area media that identifies the organizations and projects awarded grants. Grantees are encouraged to publicize their awards themselves through press releases, newsletters, web sites, and annual reports, and to acknowledge Community Foundation support.

Use of Grant Money

Grant money must be used exclusively for the purposes and activities specified in the grant application. Grantees should notify the Community Foundation as soon as possible if their needs or circumstances change.

Reporting Requirements

Grantees are required to submit brief six-month and end-of-grant narrative and budget reports on their projects. Due dates for reports are listed on the agreement signed by grantees, and the Community Foundation provides reporting forms on our website.

Address All Proposals or Inquiries To:

*Princeton Area Community Foundation
15 Princess Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
Phone: 609-219-1800*

Please do not fax or e-mail applications.