



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

## The Fund for Women and Girls of the Princeton Area Community Foundation (FWG) 2021 Grant Guidelines

### **OUR VISION**

A community where women and children reach their full potential.

### **OUR MISSION**

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

### **OVERVIEW**

The Fund for Women and Girls is a field-of-interest fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation. FWG's Grants Committee, which is comprised of voting members, oversees the entire grantmaking process and is supported administratively by the Community Foundation staff. Grants Committee members review applications, conduct all site visits, and select the finalist organizations and programs, from which the voting members choose where FWG will invest each year. FWG's grantmaking is financed by our members/donors, who pool their individual financial contributions, engaging in collective philanthropy to make a meaningful impact on the lives of economically vulnerable women and children in our community.

### **DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

The Fund for Women and Girls supports the Community Foundation's commitment to improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable in our regional footprint and collaborate with community organizations that embrace diversity as a value and practice. Achieving diversity requires an enduring commitment to inclusion, fully expressed in the organizational culture, values, norms and behaviors. We will support a commitment to diversity in all its forms, encompassing but not limited to age, race, gender identity, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, disability. We will look for applicants with this same commitment to make diversity a core and abiding strength of their organizational practice(s).

## **OUR GRANTMAKING**

The Fund for Women and Girls provides funding 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 considered 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. Organizations are limited to one grant from the Fund for Women and Girls outstanding at any time. Our online application can be found at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=princetongrants>

## **WHAT WE INVEST IN**

We will consider projects/programs and operating expenses that support women and children in the following categories:

- Cognitive and social learning programs
- Domestic violence
- Education and/or childcare
- Families' basic needs such as transportation and nutrition
- Leadership and mentoring
- Parenting/family support services
- Physical and mental health and safety
- Prenatal care and child/maternal healthcare
- Workforce development for mothers

FWG will consider investing in **capital** projects that support these endeavors (e.g., new construction, expansion or renovation of a facility, equipment).

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

We do not fund:

- 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 State 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 <https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/charities>)

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

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

- The application fits within the Fund for Women and Girls' grant guidelines.
- The grant's rationale and implementation plan/methods are grounded in relevant research and best practices.
- The grant has a meaningful impact on its intended beneficiaries as demonstrated by measurable outcomes.
- The grant 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 grant 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 Fund for Women and Girls offers a **Grant Information Session** for all interested applicants via Zoom on the date listed below in April. This session acquaints participants with our grant guidelines and application process, and provides opportunities to ask specific questions. Attendance at an information session is not a prerequisite to apply for a grant. You may register for the session 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 Community Foundation's other grantmaking programs.

The Fund for Women and Girls accepts completed applications in April and May. The Fund for Women and Girls' Grants Committee evaluates proposals from June through September, making occasional site visits (which will occur by Zoom this year). The Grants Committee selects four to six finalists in September; organizations that are not finalists receive notification at this time.

The finalists' proposals will be presented to FWG's voting members at FWG's Annual Grantmaking Event in late fall (either in person or by video), followed by voting (based on voting criteria outlined in the FWG's Governance Guidelines) 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 both print and social media, newsletters, web sites, and annual reports. FWG also encourages grantee partners to publicize their awards themselves through press releases, giving the FWG the opportunity to be quoted in any press release. Our 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 "The Fund for Women and Girls of the Princeton Area Community Foundation".

**2021 TIMETABLE SUMMARY**

<b>Tues. April 13 – Thurs. May 27</b>	Online application submission process
<b>Thurs. April 15 at 9:00AM</b>	Grant Information Session(via Zoom)
<b>Thurs. May 27 at 5:00PM</b>	2021 Application Deadline
<b>June - September</b>	Application review and site visits
<b>Thurs. November 4</b>	Annual Grantmaking Dinner and voting to select grant recipients

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF GRANTEE PARTNERS**

Grant money 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 FWG as soon as possible if their needs or circumstances change. Grantee partners are required to provide progress updates to FWG senior leadership at the six month mark and at the end of the grant period. FWG will coordinate these progress reports with the grantees.

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