



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

## **2026 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 (FWG) 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 virtual 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 its members/donors, who pool their individual financial contributions, engaging in collecting philanthropy to make a meaningful impact on the lives of economically vulnerable women and children in our community.

### **OUR COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE IMPACT**

The Community Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life of the most vulnerable in our regional footprint. We believe that thriving communities are built when resources are channeled equitably and when we collaborate with organizations that embrace inclusion as a core value.

Achieving meaningful difference requires an enduring commitment that is fully expressed in an organization's culture, values, norms, and behaviors. We seek to partner with organizations that:

- **Reflect our Region:** Demonstrate a commitment to the diversity in our region.
- **Expand Access:** Work to lift up populations most impacted by poverty, including low-income families, seniors, children, and recent immigrants.

- **Provide Culturally Competent Care:** Increase access to behavioral health and community services through culturally competent and multi-lingual providers.
- **Foster Potential:** Embrace work that gives every resident the opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential.

## WHAT WE FUND

### One-year grants: Up to \$25,000

Projects/programs and operating expenses that support women and children in the following categories:

- Early childhood education
- Childcare
- Women and children’s physical and mental health, including prenatal care
- Leadership and mentoring
- Educational/enrichment programs for middle and high school girls (children)
- Workforce development for women
- Domestic violence and prevention
- Parenting and family support services

FWG will consider investing in capital projects that support these endeavors (e.g., purchase of equipment or new construction, expansion or renovation of a facility). At the discretion of the Grants Committee, an organization may be considered for a multi-year grant for up to three years.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Your electronic application must include the following:

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| 1. Requested Amount   | 9. Measures of success                       |
| 2. Municipalities where the project will take place                   | 10. Project Budget                           |
| 3. Focus Area of the project  | 11. Organizations Operating Budget           |
| 4. Project’s Operating Budget   | 12. Most recent IRS Form 990                 |
| 5. Project Description  | 13. Audited Financial Statements             |
| 6. Target Population  | 14. Strategic Plan                           |
| 7. Dates for the project  | 15. Annual Report (optional)                 |
| 8. Rationale about the need/impact in the community and collaborators | 16. Board List                               |
|   | 17. Fiscal Sponsor Agreement (if applicable) |

You must file your application online by 12:00pm on the deadline date, May 14, 2026. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed. You will receive an automated email confirmation that your proposal has been received and an approximate timeline for the review process. All required documents can be uploaded into your online application. **Your application is considered incomplete and will not be reviewed if any of the required information is not received by the 12:00pm deadline.** It is very important for you to check your application thoroughly.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- Applicants must be tax-exempt and recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a public charity as described in sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1), (2), or (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Applicants also should be registered with the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs as a charity in good standing. For more info, please visit their Frequently Asked Questions webpage [here](#). To check your status, you may [click here](#).

Applications will be accepted from organizations that operate and provide services within the geographic region covered by the Princeton Area Community Foundation, defined as follows:

- Mercer County
- Eastern Bucks County, PA, including New Hope, Morrisville, Washington Crossing and Yardley
- Northern Burlington County, including Bordentown and Bordentown Township
- Southern Hunterdon County, including Lambertville, West Amwell, adjacent parts of East Amwell
- Southern Middlesex County, including Monroe, Cranbury, and Plainsboro
- Southern Somerset County, including Montgomery, Rocky Hill, and adjacent sections of Franklin Twp.

View a map of our region by [clicking here](#).

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.

## **WHAT WE DO NOT FUND**

- Services outside the above stated geographic region
- Statewide organizations unless:
  - The organization maintains a physical office presence within the Community Foundation geography; and
  - All FWG funds will only be used within the Community Foundation geography; and
  - It is abundantly clear the proposed initiative can be restricted to the Community Foundation geography.
- Endowment-building campaigns
- Fundraising appeals, events, and routine expenses associated with fundraising
- Field trips, unless part of a larger educational effort
- Scholarships for higher education
- Pre-college private or independent schools
- Organized sports teams or sports leagues
- 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)
- An organization that currently has an active multi-year grant.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

- The project fits within the Fund for Women and Girls' grant guidelines.
- The grant's rationale and implementation plan/methods are grounded in research and best practices.
- The grant has a meaningful impact on intended beneficiaries as demonstrated by measurable outcomes.
- The grant is grounded in the expressed needs of its intended participants.
- The organization leverages partnerships 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 mission, growth, and future success of the organization.
- The organization's Board demonstrates its commitment via financial support and time, talent, or in-kind support.

**Grant Information Session(s):** There will be a virtual Grant Information Session on **Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am**. Applicants are encouraged to attend and ask questions. This session highlights key aspects of the grant guidelines and application process. Attendance is not a prerequisite to apply for a grant; however, to attend the information session, registration is required and only granted to organizations eligible to apply. To register, please visit the [Fund For Women and Girls at PACF](#).

**Virtual Conversation:** Follow-up questions and virtual conversations from the Grants Committee and Community Foundation staff are a routine part of the application process. Questions will be provided in advance, in writing. They are conducted via Zoom and should include leadership staff and board.

**Award Decisions:** Grant awards are funded by the Fund for Women and Girls at the Princeton Area Community Foundation. They are distinct from discretionary grants awarded by the Community Foundation. FWG grant awards are recommended by the Fund's Grants Committee for approval to the Board of the Community Foundation. Grantees are notified of the Fund's decisions via email by Community Foundation staff. Grantees are encouraged to publicize their awards through press releases, newsletters, websites, and annual reports, and to acknowledge support of the ***Fund for Women and Girls at the Princeton Area Community Foundation***.

**Use of Grant Money:** Grant money must be used exclusively for the purposes and activities specified in the grant application. Grantees may be required to return grant funds not used in the manner described in their grant proposal. Grantees should notify the Community Foundation as soon as possible if their needs or circumstances change.

**Follow Up Narrative:** Grantees will be asked to review their original proposal and submit a brief update describing results of the objective stated in the application, the lessons learned, and a testimonial. This may include financial reports and project evaluation data if applicable. Failure to complete and submit reports will result in your ineligibility to apply for future funding. Grantees may be asked to participate in a presentation at the annual grantmaking event.

**Multi-Year Grants:** Multi-year grant awards will include periodic discussions with the Grants Committee for updates about ongoing work and challenges and to advance the accomplishment and success of the project. These discussions may be via Zoom. Grantees are required to submit a brief written update in advance of continued funding that include summarized highlights of the work to date. Subsequent funding will depend on appropriate progress.

**Non-Discrimination:** The Community Foundation supports projects that promote inclusiveness and that do not discriminate based on race, gender, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, disability, or any other characteristics protected by law.