

Giving Circle Guidelines

Giving Circles are groups of women with a common interest in women's issues and philanthropy. Each circle will make contributions and award grants based on their values and interests. Best of all, each circle will build a permanently endowed fund within the Women's Fund which will support the circle's charitable interests forever!

Giving Circle Guidelines

- All giving circles must create an endowed fund within the Women's Fund with an initial gift of at least \$1,000.
- Minimum annual gift per member is \$250. Individual circles can choose a higher annual gift amount if they choose.
- Gifts will be allocated as follows: 50% to endow the fund, 40% to grants directed by giving circle members, and 10% to Women's Fund for administration. (Administration includes: staff assistance to create the fund and operating agreements, all accounting of charitable contributions and tax acknowledgements, grantmaking support and award check processing.)
- Once the fund reaches a balance of \$10,000, an annual spending policy will be available for grantmaking. Currently the spending policy is calculated as 5% of the value of the fund assets averaged over up to three calendar years. (A fund with \$10,000 typically has about \$500 annually to grant.)
- Grants recommended by the giving circle must support women and/or girls and must be approved by the Women's Fund board. Grants can legally only be made to 501(c)(3) organizations.
- Giving Circle members will create an operating agreement with help provided by the Women's Fund. The operating agreement will specify:

Date founded	Meeting frequency & location
Initial contribution required	Frequency of grantmaking
Annual contribution & expectations	Decision making process for grantmaking
Fund purpose & grantmaking focus	Dissolution of the giving circle
Number of members	
Addition & removal of members	

The Women's Fund will be your partner in establishing your Giving Circle and charitable fund. We will help you assess and achieve your goals and eliminate the undue burden of operating a separate nonprofit. We can provide guidance at anytime about issues in the community, grantmaking strategies and impactful giving.