

# Grant Guidelines 2016 – 2017

women's fund

for the fox valley region, inc.

4455 W. Lawrence Street  
Appleton, WI 54914

## Our Mission and Purpose:

In 1994, a group of committed individuals came together and established a permanent endowment to focus solely on improving the lives of women and girls in the Fox Valley region. Their dream, which is now the heart of the Women's Fund's mission: to invest in women and girls through grants, advocacy and education.

## Funding Priorities:

The Women's Fund believes through philanthropy and community collaboration we can address the needs of women and girls in the Fox Valley region. We provide grants for programs that inspire women and girls to flourish personally, economically and professionally. Our priorities include:

- Women and girls live in safety.
- Women and girls meet their basic needs for living, including food, shelter, and access to health care.
- Women and girls have the knowledge, opportunity, and self-determination to be economically secure.
- Women and girls have opportunities to pursue their dreams and achieve their potential.
- Women and girls learn about and experience the value of philanthropy and nonprofit leadership.

## Social Change Focus:

The Women's Fund encourages applicants to think beyond service delivery to the social climate which fosters a lack of safety, economic security, and access to opportunity for women and girls. When planning your project or program, consider how you might incorporate one of the following Social Change Indicators in your work.

- **Shifts in Definition:** The issue is defined differently in the community or larger society.
- **Shifts in Behavior:** People are behaving differently in the community or larger society.
- **Shifts in Engagement:** People in the community or society are more engaged.
- **Shifts in Policies:** An institutional, organizational or legislative policy or practice has changed.
- **Current Position Maintained:** Past gains have been maintained.

## Eligibility:

To be eligible for any grant from the Women's Fund:

- Your project must be consistent with the Women's Fund mission and funding priorities.
- Your project must benefit women and girls in Calumet, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, or Northern Winnebago Counties.
- Your organization must be a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code, section 501(c)(3). However, agencies or informal groups without 501(c)(3) status may use another tax-exempt, not for profit agency as your fiscal agent. Contact the Women's Fund for further information.

The Women's Fund **WILL NOT** fund: individuals, endowments, government agencies (however educational institutions may qualify), projects with a religious focus which endorses a particular faith tradition, and political parties, candidates or partisan activities.

## Current Funding Focus: (New for 2017)

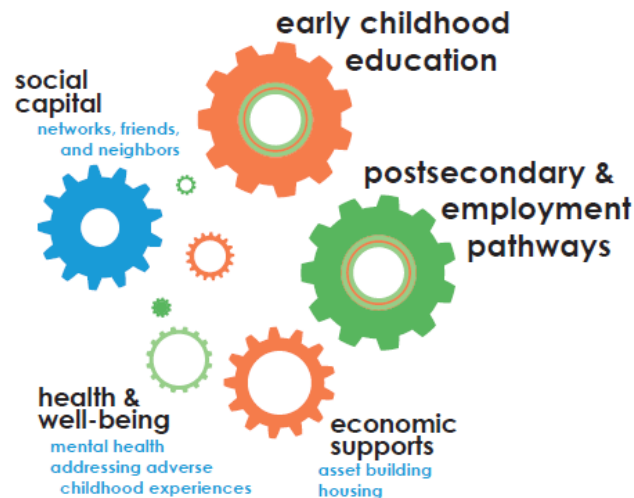
All project & program grants for the 2016 – 2017 grant cycle must meet one of these two focus areas:

### 1. Young Adult Economic Security

The Women's Fund has committed to a new initiative to improve the long-term economic security of young adult women age 18-29. Collaborative programs and partnerships among organizations are highly encouraged. Projects using a two-generation approach will be given priority for funding. A maximum of \$60,000 will be awarded in this category.

#### CORE COMPONENTS OF TWO-GENERATIONAL APPROACHES

(Ascend at the Aspen Institute)



### 2. Mental Health and Wellness

We have received \$15,000 from the J. J. Keller Foundation to be used for mental health grants as a follow-up to the September 2016 Women's Fund Luncheon. Projects in this category must improve mental health and/or mental health services for females of any age. Priority will be given to those programs which assist women and/or girls from low-income families or living in poverty. A minimum of \$15,000 will be awarded in this category.

Innovative approaches and projects with limited access to other funding are encouraged to apply. **You may submit a preliminary application for either or both focus areas. Please use separate forms.**

## Criteria:

The following criteria will be used in the decision-making process. Please make sure your written application is complete and makes a compelling case for your request. Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

- **Is the request specifically designed for the unique needs of women and/or girls?**
- Does the request improve economic security of 18-29 year-old women and/or improve the mental health of females of any age?
- Are the program's goals and outcomes clearly identified?
- Who is your target market and how many people are directly, and indirectly, impacted?
- Are there effective strategies for implementation?
- Are the timeline and budget clear and realistic?
- Are there evaluation and measurement tools?
- What is the potential for long-term social change?

## Additional Information:

The Women's Fund has been awarding grants annually since 1997. Nonprofits may apply for funding for any project or program which meets our funding priorities and eligibility requirements. The selection process is competitive; historically we have only been able to fund 45% of the requests made to the Women's Fund.

The Women's Fund strongly encourages attendance at our Grant Seeker Workshop scheduled for **Thursday, November 3, 2016 from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.** prior to submitting a preliminary application. Optional networking and collaboration time will be available from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. for any organizations wishing to brainstorm after the workshop or develop collaborative ideas and partnerships. Visit our website at [www.womensfundfvr.org](http://www.womensfundfvr.org) to reserve your seat or for more information. The workshop will be held at the Community Foundation, 4455 W. Lawrence Street, Appleton.

The entire Grants Committee will review the preliminary applications and invite organizations with successful preliminary applications to submit a full proposal. This preliminary application process replaces the required phone conversation with the executive director that had been in place prior to the 2015 grant cycle. **However, applicants are encouraged to call the executive director Becky Boulanger at any time to discuss their ideas and ask questions.** Becky can be reached at (920) 702-7617.

The Women's Fund may conduct interviews or agency tours as part of the Project & Program Grants evaluation process, but the written application should fully explain your project without the need for an interview. Applications that are incomplete or have errors will not be considered. Programs previously funded by the Women's Fund will be considered for renewal funding only if required interim and final reports have been submitted as requested.

**The Women's Fund will not fund the same project or program for more than 3 consecutive years.**

## Grant Size:

**Projects to improve the long-term security of young adult women age 18-29.**

**Grants will be considered only at \$5,000 and \$10,000 levels for 2017. A maximum of \$60,000 will be awarded.**

**Projects to improve mental health and/or mental health services for females of any age.**

**Grant requests will be considered between \$1,000 and \$5,000. A minimum of \$15,000 will be awarded.**

**Preliminary Application Deadline:** 4:00 p.m. Friday, January 6, 2017

**Full Application Deadline:** 4:00 p.m. Monday, February 13, 2017  
The full application form will be distributed to those organizations whose projects have been selected to advance. **DO NOT FORGET TO INCLUDE REQUIRED FINANCIAL ATTACHMENTS.**

Application and any required attachments must be submitted via email to [grants@womensfundfvr.org](mailto:grants@womensfundfvr.org)

**Important Dates:**

Grant Seeker Workshop	Thursday, November 3, 2016 Presentation and Q & A from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Optional networking and collaboration time from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Preliminary Applications Due	Friday, January 6, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.
Applicants notified if they were selected to submit a full proposal	By Friday, January 20, 2017
Full Proposals Due	Monday, February 13, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.
Grant interviews and agency tours as determined by Grants Committee members	February 16 – March 16, 2017
Grant funding recommendations to Women’s Fund board of directors for approval.	Wednesday, April 12, 2017
Applicants notified of funding decisions	Week of April 17, 2017
Grants Announcement Event	Wednesday, May 3, 2017