

### **Mission, Vision, 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. That initial vision is now the Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region.

The mission of the Women's Fund, to promote the advancement of women and girls in the Fox Valley Region, reflects our vision of a community of equality where power and opportunity are not limited by gender.

The Women's Fund mission is accomplished through grantmaking, strategic initiatives, education, and advocacy.

### **Grant Information:**

The Women's Fund has been awarding grants annually since 1997. Nonprofits may apply for an Impact Grant for a project or program which meets our eligibility requirements and funding priorities. The selection process is competitive; historically we have only been able to fund less than 50% of the requests made to the Women's Fund.

Grant requests up to \$15,000 will be considered. A minimum of \$60,000 will be awarded in this Impact Grant cycle. The Women's Fund reserves the right to award amounts more or less than requested. Funding may be considered for up to three years.

### **Eligibility:**

To be eligible for an Impact Grant from the Women's Fund:

- The project/program must be consistent with the Women's Fund mission, focus, and priority areas.
- The project/program 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.
- Government agencies may qualify. Please contact the Women's Fund prior to completing the grant application.

Women's Fund project grants will not fund:

- Individuals, endowments, or capital campaigns.
- Projects or programs that promote religious activities and/or beliefs.
- Political parties, candidates, or partisan activities.
- Event sponsorships.
- Scholarships that fund individual students.
- Co-educational programs that do not clearly communicate a specific and unique focus on women and girls.

## **Strategic Focus and Priorities:**

The mission of the Women's Fund, to promote the advancement of women and girls in the Fox Valley Region, reflects our vision of a community of equality where power and opportunity are not limited by gender.

To realize this mission and vision, the Women's Fund will direct its grantmaking resources on creating, strengthening, and accelerating economic opportunities that enable women and girls to achieve their full potential.

To best achieve this outcome, we will prioritize projects, programs, and strategic initiatives that center on the following three priority areas:

### **1) PRIORITY: *Continuing education and training as a pathway to financial stability.***

- Knowing that education is a pathway to economic security, the Women's Fund is seeking proposals for programs and initiatives to empower women to pursue and achieve their post-secondary educational goals, enabling them to better their lives and those of their families through careers that pay a family-sustaining wage building economic opportunity for women and their families.
- We envision programs that provide women, especially low-income, women of color, first-generation students, and non-traditional students, the tools and resources they need to navigate, pursue and complete higher education through services and supports such as:
  - one-on-one advising
  - building life and self-advocacy skills needed to overcome roadblocks and pursue goals
  - goal-planning
  - addressing basic needs such as childcare and transportation
  - connections to other support services necessary to successfully complete their educational goals

**2) PRIORITY: *Life-skills, mentoring and supports* to increase the ability of women and girls to effectively manage challenges and successfully navigate everyday life circumstances.**

- The Women's Fund recognizes the importance of mentors, role models and champions, to overcome the challenges of everyday life.
- The Women's Fund envisions programs and initiatives that combine the power of one-on-one mentoring, goal planning, connection to community resources, and supportive services to help women identify and work toward their goals, to break down barriers, and to foster increased confidence and realize a vision of what is possible.
- Services and supports could include:
  - one-on-one mentoring and accountability partner
  - building life and self-advocacy skills needed to overcome roadblocks and pursue goals
  - goal-planning
  - connections to and navigating community resources
  - personal development to cultivate relationships that foster increased confidence, self-sufficiency, and connection to the community

**3) PRIORITY: *Mental and emotional wellness* to ensure women and girls have access to a spectrum of supports to nurture mental and emotional wellness to thrive.**

- The Women's Fund envisions programs and initiatives to proactively support women and/or girls to be mentally and emotionally healthy. Programs could address such things as:
  - maintaining wellness
  - strengthening resilience
  - exploring positive strategies to get through difficulties
  - positive approaches to managing stressors
  - bolstering genuine and authentic connections
  - dealing effectively with emotions

You are the experts! Tell us your best ideas and boldest dreams of how to support and make lasting change for women and girls in these three priority areas. Your idea may cross over to multiple priority areas, that's great, choose the one where there is the most impact.

If you would like to discuss your idea, you may connect with Julie Keller at (920) 702-7617 or [jkeller@womensfundfvr.org](mailto:jkeller@womensfundfvr.org).

## Criteria:

The Grants Committee will review the preliminary applications (LOIs) and invite organizations to submit a full proposal. We do not conduct interviews, therefore, it is important that the written application should clearly and fully explain your project.

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.

- Does the program or project clearly address one of the funding priority areas?
- Does the program or project create, strengthen, or accelerate economic opportunities that enable women and girls to achieve their full potential?
- Is this request designed to meet the **unique** needs of women and/or girls?

For the full application:

- Are the program's goals and outcomes clearly identified?
- Are there effective strategies for implementation?
- Are there tools to gauge impact?
- Is the budget clear and realistic?

## Application Process:

The grant application will use the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region's online grant application system: [www.cffoxvalley.org/grant-portal](http://www.cffoxvalley.org/grant-portal)

If you have not used the portal to apply for other grants from the Community Foundation you will need to create an account.

Complete and submit the Letter of Intent by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 19.

Questions regarding the application process can also be submitted via email to [grants@womensfundfvr.org](mailto:grants@womensfundfvr.org).

## Important Dates:

Preliminary Applications Due	Friday, January 19, 2024
Applicants notified if selected to submit a full proposal	Week of February 12, 2024
Full Proposals Due	Friday, March 15, 2024
Applicants notified of funding decisions	Week of April 15, 2024