Women's Fund FOX VALLEY REGION

2027 Grant Opportunities

Mission, Vision, and Values:
The mission of the Women's Fund is to empower women and girls across the Fox Valley to dismantle barriers, challenge the status quo, and step into their limitless potential so women can look up and see only sky and opportunities.

The Women's Fund directs its resources and leadership on creating, strengthening, and accelerating economic opportunities that enable women and girls to achieve their full potential.

Grant Information:

Impact Grants: Single-year grants of up to $10,000 to support projects or programs to improve the lives of women and/or girls in at least one of the Women's Fund's priority areas.

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 consider using another tax-exempt, not-for-profit agency as a 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 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.
- Barrier removal funds. However, funding may support participation-related expenses when they are essential to client engagement and program success.
- Requests intended primarily to offset the difference between insurance reimbursement rates and the actual cost of services.

Strategic Focus and Priorities

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

Priorities: To advance this outcome, we will prioritize programs that align with one or more of the following three priority areas. While presented separately, these areas are deeply interconnected and work together to support long-term economic stability, well-being, and success for women and girls.

1. *PRIORITY:* **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 to empower women and girls to pursue and achieve their educational goals.
    - Proposals should address challenges and barriers with strategies to improve access to higher education, support academic achievement, and prepare women and girls to pursue professions that pay a family-sustaining wage, building economic opportunity for women and their families.
    - Programs **may** include services and supports such as:
        - one-on-one advising and goal planning,
        - supporting basic needs such as childcare and transportation to enable women to stay in school,
        - connections to other support services necessary to successfully complete their educational goals.

2. *PRIORITY:* **Mentoring and Skill-Building**
    - We believe every woman and girl deserves the tools and champions she needs to navigate life with confidence. The Women's Fund supports initiatives that give women and girls the skills, mentors, and networks they need to meet life's challenges and move toward their goals.
    - Programs in this area **may** provide:
        - Strong mentoring relationships and role models.
        - Practical life and self-advocacy skills to overcome obstacles.
        - Connections to resources that increase stability and opportunity.
        - Opportunities to build confidence, independence, and community.

3. *PRIORITY:* **Mental and Emotional Wellness**
    - The Women's Fund invests in programs that help women and girls nurture their mental and emotional well-being so they can thrive. We support initiatives that build resilience, foster healthy relationships, and provide positive strategies for navigating life's challenges before more intensive clinical care is needed.
    - Programs in this area **may** include:
        - Wellness workshops and peer/community support networks.
        - Skill-building to manage stress, emotions, and everyday difficulties.
        - Activities that strengthen resilience, self-esteem, and a positive sense of self.
        - Opportunities to build authentic connections and supportive relationships.

Mental and emotional wellness includes:

- **Emotional well-being** – understanding, expressing, and managing feelings in healthy ways.
- **Psychological well-being** – cultivating resilience, self-worth, and purpose.
- **Social well-being** – fostering relationships, belonging, and community connection.

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.

Criteria: It is important that the written application clearly and fully explains your project. The following criteria will be used in the decision-making process for both grant tracks:

- Does the program or project clearly address one or more 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 those invited to complete the full application, the following criteria will also be considered:

- 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

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 17.

Questions regarding the application process can also be submitted via email to grants@womensfundfvr.org.

Important Dates:

	Deadline
Application Open	November 2, 2026
Letter of Intent Due	January 15, 2027

Applicants notified if selected to submit a full proposal	February 12, 2027
Full Proposals Due	March 12, 2027
Applicants notified of funding decisions	Week of April 19, 2027
Grant award celebration	May 12, 2027