



Women's Fund of Central New York 2018 Grant Making FAQs

What is the purpose of the Women's Fund's grants?

The mission of the Women's Fund is to support, empower and recognize the advancement and full participation of women and girls in Central New York through an endowment fund, grants and initiatives. As such, the Women's Fund invests in projects and organizations aligned with its mission and requests proposals that support the advancement and full participation of women and girls in Central New York. Since its inception in 1998, the Women's Fund has awarded more than \$325,000 in grants.

Why is the Women's Fund supporting planning, operating, and capacity building grants in 2018?

The Women's Fund spent time throughout the last year planning and starting to implement strategic changes in the organization to be more effective in meeting our mission. We found this process helpful as we gathered and reviewed information from our stakeholders, evaluated new operational processes, and considered opportunities to engage and collaborate with other organizations. The Fund recognizes there are a limited number of funding programs available for organizations to step back and evaluate what and how they intend to serve women and girls in the future. Our 2018 grants are intended to support this introspective opportunity and to fulfill multiple purposes, including to:

- Improve the general awareness and understanding of the status of women and girls in our community including the identification and prioritization of the challenges and barriers they face to empowerment and full participation;
- Focus on, and develop opportunities for, collaborative solutions to the challenges and barriers identified above;
- Engage not only organizations but intended recipients of services in planning and developing solutions;
- Explore emerging best practices in terms of collaboration, service identification and delivery, operational enhancements, and continuous improvement; and
- Examine possible sustainable solutions that the community will support and that are also likely to generate a range of investors.

Can my organization apply for a grant to fund a specific project or program in this Women's Fund grant cycle?

Yes, we will accept programmatic grant proposals in this round, but preference will be given to those proposals that request funds for planning, operating expenses, or capacity building for the organization rather than individual projects or programs.

What is meant by "community"?

Community can be defined by either geography or population. It must be clearly defined in your application along with the reasons for selecting the specific community you seek to assist.

Who can apply for grants from the Women's Fund?

Grant applications will be accepted 1) from a single not-for-profit organization or 2) from a not for-profit organization on behalf of a coalition of not-for-profit organizations. Grant applications are accepted from any not-for-profit organization determined as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)3 of the US Internal Revenue Code (IRS) that provides services in Cayuga, Madison, Onondaga and/or Oswego counties. If the IRS does not recognize your organization as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, you must submit written approval from a 501(c)3 sponsor that has agreed to act as your fiscal agent for the grant. Coalition and collaboration are mentioned throughout the request for proposals.

What kinds of activities will planning, operating and capacity building grants support?

These grants can be used to support such activities as but not limited to the following:

- stakeholder engagement and coalition development
- community outreach and engagement,
- research and analysis
- needs, operations, and asset analyses
- general operating support, such as salaries, utilities, and rent
- staff and volunteer (including board) trainings, and
- technology purchases