

WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE GRANT WRITING GUIDELINES

The mission of the Women's Giving Circle, a fund of the Eau Claire Community Foundation, is to improve the quality of life for women and children in the greater Eau Claire area through collective philanthropy.

Program Grant Eligibility and Restrictions:

- Applicants will need to submit evidence of 501(c)(3) IRS status, or another qualified 501(c)(3) organization must agree to serve as fiscal agent. Applications from tax-exempt entities like government, educational and religious organizations are also accepted.
- The applicant's proposal must address the needs of women and/or children 18 years of age and younger.
- The Women's Giving Circle makes grants to nonprofit agencies located in the Eau Claire area, or to those able to demonstrate significant impact within this area. Preference will be given to agencies located within the Eau Claire area.
- The Women's Giving Circle does not make grants to organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, ancestry, color, age, familial status, disability, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, lawful sources of income, national origin, or any other discriminatory practice prohibited by state or federal law and must demonstrate cultural sensitivity in the implementation of the project.
- If an organization is funded by the Women's Giving Circle in two consecutive years, its application will not be considered in the third year. However, it can apply again in the fourth year.
- The Women's Giving Circle supports projects that have been planned in light of overall community needs and *do not duplicate existing services*.
- Funding for the following will be considered on a case-by-case basis:
 - Travel grants not directly supporting the implementation of the proposed program.
 - Requests from endowments and foundations.
- Because of limited funds the following will not be supported:
 - Annual fundraising drives
 - Asset purchases not related to the proposed program
 - Capital campaigns
 - Debt reduction

- Ongoing operating expenses or building funds
- Political parties, candidates, or partisan activities
- Programs with a religious focus
- Scholarly research

Allocated funds must be used during the specified grant cycle:

January 1 –December 31 of the year following the grant award

Evaluation Criteria:

The Women's Giving Circle Fund favors *programs* that:

- Give a clear and concise explanation of the new or ongoing program in the grant application.
- Fulfill the applicant's mission statement
- Positively impact the lives of women and/or children in the greater Eau Claire.
- Establish a clear purpose for the program and explain how it will be determined whether or not the purpose has been accomplished.
- Explain how the program will positively impact the target population and how this impact will be sustained.

Application Process:

Program Grant Applications will become available in early April of each year. For further information or application materials, visit the Women's Giving Circle page of the ECCF website at <http://www.eccommunityfoundation.org/lasting-impact/leadership-initiatives/wgc/>. You can also contact the ECCF at 715-552-3801 or grants@eccfwi.org.

You must use the online Women's Giving Circle application form to submit your application. All required supporting documents can be uploaded directly onto this form. They are:

1. Letter or certificate indicating 501(c)(3) and/or 170(b)(1)(A) tax status from the Internal Revenue Service for your organization or your fiscal agent.
2. Most recent CPA Audit Report or Financial Report.
3. Current year operating budget, including expenses and revenue.
4. List of current Board of Directors or equivalent governing body members.
5. Letters of support (required if another organization or individual is integral to the completion of the project and/or is a fiscal sponsor).

The application form must be submitted by July 1.

Awards are announced in November for grant funds to be used between January 1 and December 31 of the following year.

Follow-Up Requirements:

The final Grant Report is due within 30 days of program completion or by Jan. 31 of the year following program implementation, whichever comes first.

Grant Report forms will be sent to WGC grant recipients.

Grantees should acknowledge the following fund in all publicity materials related to their grant-funded program:

“The Women’s Giving Circle Fund of the Eau Claire Community Foundation.”

Our logo is available upon request and should be used where appropriate. Recipients are also asked to document their program with photographs, which should be submitted using the Grant Report Form along with copies of any press releases, media coverage, or newsletter articles.