



An initiative of The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Membership

#### 1. What are the benefits of membership?

- Learn about regional issues impacting women and girls
- Make meaningful friendships and build professional connections through meetings and social events
- Join a Committee that fits your interest: Advocacy & Education, Grants, or Membership & Communications
- Vote to decide which organizations receive grant funding
- Receive updates on grantees and learn how your gift was put to good use

#### 2. Can I sponsor a friend or family member's membership?

Yes. As long as the \$1,100 membership is paid in full, you can pay for as many memberships as you'd like.

#### 3. How much of my membership fee goes toward grants?

Of your \$1,100 gift, \$1,000 goes to the pool of grant funds; \$100 supports our operations.

#### 4. Are members required to volunteer for a Committee?

There are no requirements for participation. Your involvement beyond your generous contribution is totally flexible and determined by your interest level and availability.

#### 5. Can my partner and I share a membership?

Because each member has a vote, memberships can't be shared.

#### 6. Is *Women for Women* a nonprofit?

*Women for Women* is an initiative of The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina (CFWNC), which is a 501(c)(3). Because CFWNC is a nonprofit, membership gifts are 100% tax-deductible.

#### 7. How does *Women for Women* structure its work?

The **Steering Committee** develops the giving circle's strategic plan, manages the giving circle's administrative budget, and provides oversight to the three standing committees: Advocacy & Education, Grants, and Membership & Communications.

- **Advocacy & Education Committee:** Leverages public policy change and public funding to champion solutions to the issues reflected in our membership-approved grants
- **Grants Committee:** Evaluates grants proposals and makes site visits to make informed funding recommendations to the membership
- **Membership & Communications Committee:** Ensures members stay informed and connected, and manages efforts to recruit members to the giving circle

Learn more about how [WFW Committees](#) further the work of the giving circle.

#### **8. Does WFW have less expensive, junior memberships available?**

All members contribute equally - \$1,100 per year. This allows us to effectively manage our operations and grant budgets.

#### **9. I can't join now, but I'd like to support your work. Can I make a donation?**

Yes. There are two options:

- The [Women for Women Endowment Fund](#) will provide a revenue stream for the giving circle's operations and ensure our future financial sustainability. The Fund helps protect our finances from fluctuations in membership and supports our long-term growth.
- The [Women's Fund](#) is a CFWNC endowment that addresses the unmet needs of women and girls. Spendable income is granted through the WFW grant program.

Tax-deductible gifts of any size are appreciated and make a difference.

## **Grants**

#### **1. How do you decide which organizations receive grant funding from Women for Women?**

The WFW Grants Committee uses the following process and timeline to select grant recipients:

- *October*: Organizations throughout the region submit a Letter of Intent (LOI).
- *December*: After reviewing and ranking each LOI, the Committee votes to select organizations invited to complete a full application.
- *January*: The Committee reviews and ranks each application. They then vote to decide which organizations will receive a site visit.
- *February – March*: Grants Committee members work in small groups to conduct site visits to selected organizations and report on their visits to the full Committee. The Grants Committee then votes to determine which organizations will move forward to the ballot, which is presented to the full WFW membership.
- *April*: WFW members receive a summary of each proposal on the ballot and vote online or at the Spring Gathering.
- *May*: After reviewing the membership votes, the Grants Committee determines final award amounts and notifies each grant recipient.

#### **2. How do you determine your funding focus area?**

A subcommittee of the Grants Committee researches issues impacting women and girls in our region. They review information from nationwide and state women's funding organizations (Ex: NC Status of Women Report) and interview local community leaders. They present a list of the highest priority topics, along with a summary of each topic, to the membership for their vote.

Beginning with the 2020-21 grant cycle, and continuing through 2022-23, Women for Women will invest in programs that...

- Help economically disadvantaged women become more self-sufficient
- Promote access to quality health care and advance healthy lifestyles
- Ensure women and girls live free from intimidation and abuse
- Ensure educational opportunities that help women and girls reach their full potential
- Eliminate discrimination against women and disparate treatment based on gender
- Promote access for women to legal services and equity within the justice system

### **3. How do I know my membership gift gets put to good use?**

All WFW grantees submit 6-month and final grant reports detailing the success of their project. Summaries of these interim reports are shared with members in the quarterly WFW E-News. Additionally, WFW members are encouraged to like and follow the [WFW Facebook page](#) for grantee updates. Lastly, past grantees often speak about their projects at our Brown Bag Lunch & Learn programs and our Fall membership meeting.