



Guidelines for Grant Proposals

Our Priority

A Fund for Women seeks proposals from Dane County nonprofit agencies with programmatic focus on women's economic empowerment. We are especially interested in activities that support efforts to reduce poverty and increase opportunities for education and family-sustaining jobs, as part of our ongoing Earn-Save-Invest Initiative. Last year, A Fund for Women awarded \$105,000 to six local nonprofits, and you may learn more about those programs [here](#).

We are committed to making grants that help position women for greater economic success within the following areas:

Education: Projects or programs facilitating the completion of formal education from high schools, trade schools, and two- or four-year colleges that leads to job preparedness.

Examples include:

- Reducing barriers to education
- Trade apprenticeships/internships
- Reimbursement programs for school/apprenticeship-related costs such as books, transportation, and childcare
- Programs that promote benefits of education/job training
- Work study programs
- Career counseling

Job Placement: Projects or programs that help women find and retain financially sustainable jobs after education.

Examples include:

- Education and skill building regarding resume writing, interviewing strategies, and building self-confidence
- Proactive strategies for networking, finding jobs, and initiating communication with employers
- Guidance on starting a business and entrepreneurship
- Programs that reduce or eliminate barriers to securing financially sustainable jobs

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[Additional Considerations](#)

In considering proposals, AFFW will also evaluate if the grant award will:

- Align with our earn-save-invest initiative for women's economic development
- Maximize community impact
- Build greater visibility in the philanthropic and business community
- Have the potential to leverage other funding sources
- Generate stories for our case for support

AFFW will also consider:

- The grantee's program sustainability post initial grant funding
- The grantee's partnerships with other agencies and/or cross-sector solutions
- Diversification of funding and opportunity for grant matching

[Eligibility for Grants](#)

Nonprofit organizations, exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or governmental bodies, including schools and municipalities that serve the people of Dane County, and that conduct business without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual preference, age, marital status, disability, or national origin.

[Grant Restrictions](#)

A Fund for Women does **not** fund:

- Individuals, including tuition payments or reimbursements
- Building projects or capital campaigns
- Endowment or annual fundraising campaigns
- Debt retirement
- Lobbying
- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- Public dissemination of materials with no ability to follow up with individual recipients
- Short-term events such as conferences, festivals, fundraising functions and celebrations
- Substance abuse treatment or health care services, including mental health
- Capital grants to support ongoing maintenance of facilities, vehicles, and other assets

[Our Guiding Principles](#)

Mission statement: We transform our community so that women and girls thrive.

Vision statement: A community where all women and girls can reach their potential.

Worldview: When we empower women and girls, we improve the world.

[Contact Information](#)

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