



2024 GRANTS PROGRAM

The Women's Giving Circle of Frederick County is proud to announce its 2024 Grants Program supporting programs that empower women ages 18 and over in challenging situations to improve the quality of their lives. Together, we support women's efforts to become self-sufficient, understanding that encouragement and financial assistance are compelling factors in restoring stability and hope. **Organizations that offer programs and/or services that promote self-sufficiency for women in Frederick County, Maryland, are eligible to apply.**

Organizations may submit up to four applications for funding. Each request may not exceed \$40,000. Organizations may seek up to \$40,000 total.

The application period opens January 25, 2024 at 12:00 AM and closes on February 22, 2024 at 11:59 PM. The Women's Giving Circle will announce its funding decisions no later than June 1, 2024. Funded organizations are expected to attend the Women's Giving Circle event June 12, 2024.

Funding Priorities: Furthering women's ability to care for herself and, subsequently, her dependents

Furthering workforce and educational opportunity, such as

- Direct provision of workforce development programs
 - Job training & placement services
 - Trade and technical certifications
 - Apprenticeship programs
- Direct support, such as scholarships, for post-secondary, apprenticeship, or workforce development programs
- Indirect support of workforce or educational program participation or betterment
 - Mentoring and life skills programs
 - Support of transportation and/or childcare to facilitate participation in workforce development or education programs

Furthering economic capacity, such as

- Emergency financial assistance due to changed circumstances
 - Homeless prevention support
 - Emergency and transitional housing support
 - Transportation support
- Access to income supports
 - Systems navigation -- creating access to benefits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), medical insurance, housing vouchers, etc.
- Training in financial literacy
 - Household budgeting, credit scores
 - First time homebuyers' programs

- Financial assistance for next steps
 - Recovery housing costs
 - Low-income homebuyer supports

Important Components of the Grant Application

- The project description must clearly explain
 - The program or project for which you are seeking funding
 - The issue or need your organization is addressing (please include supporting research/statistics that demonstrate this issue/need specific to women and the people for whom they are responsible in Frederick County)
 - The activities of the project and how they will fill the need or solve the issue that you have identified
 - How this grant will help your organization address this issue or need
- The application must include a timeline of activities.
- The application includes fiscal questions related to both the proposed program and the organization as a whole. Organizations are asked to clearly identify:
 - the funding sources that are in-kind, pledged, pending or received; and,
 - the expenses for which Women’s Giving Circle funding will be used, if awarded.

Partial Funding

- Organizations that receive partial funding will be asked to submit revised budgets and will be asked to revise the quantity of services in their grant agreements.

Eligible Organizations and Due Diligence

- A nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization.
- A government agency and/or quasi governmental agency applying for an extraordinary project that is not funded by tax revenue.
- A religious organization requesting funding for non-sectarian activities.
- A civic group that is not a 501(c)(3) organization requesting funding for a community cause.

Nonprofit 501c3 organizations must also meet the Community Foundation’s three-part due diligence review, which includes:

- Guidestar.org
- Maryland Secretary of State Charitable Database
https://onestop.md.gov/list_views/62f3e1797f7e3200016a3dab?8a4c8053-7ea7-4f7a-b215-52c9ab0779ae=f_1
- Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
<https://egov.maryland.gov/BusinessExpress/EntitySearch>

Nondiscrimination Policy

The Community Foundation of Frederick County does not discriminate in awarding grants and mandates that its grantees do not discriminate based upon the following policy statement: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity (as defined in paragraph 249(c)(4) of title 18, United States Code), sexual orientation, marital or parental status, political affiliation, military service, physical or mental ability, or any other improper criterion be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or

be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available by the Community Foundation, and any other program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, and other assistance administered by the Community Foundation.

Grant Period and Terms

The grant period is July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. All activities under this grant must be completed within the grant period. Grantees are required to submit an interim report due on January 31, 2025 and a final report due on August 15, 2025.

Grants will be disbursed in one payment during the first month of the grant period. Funding is restricted to supporting activities and expenses outlined in the grant application. The Community Foundation, on behalf of the Women's Giving Circle, administers the grant process and can pay vendors directly or disburse funds to the applicant organization.

The Community Foundation reserves the right to request financial documentation of expenditures throughout the grant period and up to six months following the close of the grant period. Applicants awarded grants must return any unused monies at the end of the grant period or the Community Foundation requires the return of the grant if the conditions of the grant are not met.

How to Apply

Apply online at <https://www.frederickwgc.org/grants>.

The online application is administered by the Community Foundation. Organizations that have applied for funding through the Community Foundation or the Women's Giving Circle in the past will use their existing online account. For technical help on accessing the online application, please refer to the Community Foundation's "Grant Seeker Guidebook."