

# Women's Fund 2022 Grants Cycle

**Application due Monday, January 31, 2022**

## Contact Information

- / Applicant contact information
- / Organization contact information

## Introduction

Austin Community Foundation believes that ensuring the economic security of women and children is essential to closing the opportunity gap in Central Texas, and we know we cannot do this without addressing the racial wealth and health divide faced by women of color.

This grants cycle, the Women's Fund will be awarding funding to organizations and programs that fit into one of the following strategy areas:

- / **Housing** – provide affordable housing opportunities that include a network of support and/or opportunities for long-term wealth building.
- / **Child Care** – increase access to affordable, convenient, cultural competent, and quality child care for low-income families.
- / **Education** – provide access to an ecosystem of support – academic, emotional, and financial – for women pursuing educational dreams.
- / **Unintended Pregnancy Prevention** – provide access to consumable, unbiased pregnancy prevention resources.
- / **Women's Health** – focus on reducing health disparities faced by women of color.

In each strategy area, 5 grants will be distributed as follows:

- / Winning finalist - \$45,000 total; a multi-year grant over 2 years - \$25,000 in 2022 and \$20,000 in 2023
- / Runner-up finalist - \$25,000 multi-year grant over two years - \$15,000 in 2022 and \$10,000 in 2023
- / 3 semifinalists - \$10,000 in 2022

We highly encourage you to review the [scoring rubric](#) to get a better of understanding of the criteria that will be applied to your proposal and to guide you in submitting a successful application.

Note:

- / You may only select one funding strategy when submitting your application. In order to be considered in multiple strategies you must submit separate proposals for each strategy.
- / While applicants can be considered in multiple pillars, they may only proceed to the semi-finalist stage in one category. If recommended as a semi-finalist in more than 1 category, the category in which the applicant scored/ranked highest will be the category in which they are considered for funding.
- / Organizations who receive a multi-year grant award are not eligible to reapply under the same strategy for which they are still being awarded funds. Once the multi-year grant award has been completely paid out, the organization is welcome to apply under any of the funding strategies.

In total, \$500,000 in unrestricted, general operating support will be awarded to 25 different nonprofit organizations aligning with Women's Fund strategies.

## Who is eligible?

- / Nonprofit organizations working in the 6 county Central Texas region, which includes: Travis, Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, and Williamson counties
- / Organizations must be tax-exempt under Sections 501(c)3 or 170(b)(1)(a)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code and/or be a unit of government
- / Proposals will be considered from organizations that engage in non-lobbying advocacy work. Organizations doing systems change level work such as educating the public about issues, community organizing, policy research and other non-lobbying advocacy activities may apply.
- / Proposals will be considered from religious organization that engage in non-religious programming. Religious organizations will need to demonstrate that their work aligning with the Women's Fund strategies is secular in nature and does not discriminate against any employees or clients based on religion.

## The Women's Fund does not grant funds for:

- / Endowment funds
- / Scholarships
- / Religious organizations for religious purposes
- / Fundraising activities or events
- / Umbrella organizations that intend to distribute funds at their own discretion
- / Individuals
- / Organizations with discriminatory hiring practices based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, etc.

## Timeline

- / Application opens: Monday, January 3, 2022
- / Applications due: Monday, January 31, 2022
- / Learning sessions with semifinalists: March 21 – April 15, 2022
- / Award decisions announced: Thursday, May 19, 2022

## Eligibility

1. Based on the eligibility criteria outlined above, does your organization fit the Women's Fund's eligibility requirements?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Unsure

## Applicant Information

1. Organization name
2. Incorporation date
3. Mission statement
4. Annual budget

## Diversity & Representation Data

*No character or word limits*

1. Is your organization led by an individual who identifies as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and Person of Color)?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- 2. % of Board that identifies as BIPOC
- 3. % of Staff that identifies as BIPOC
- 4. % of Clients/Patrons that identify as BIPOC

**Proposed Work & Impact**

*No character or word limits*

1. Please check the Women’s Fund’s strategy area that aligns with your organization’s mission and activities as it relates to this proposal. (select one)
  - a. Housing
  - b. Child Care
  - c. Education
  - d. Unintended Pregnancy Prevention
  - e. Women’s Health – Tackling Health Disparities
  
2. Strategy Alignment – Please share how your organization’s mission and activities align with your selected Women’s Fund strategy and any other strategy relevant to your organization. Additional points will be credited to organizations holistically serving women’s economic security through more than one of the Women’s Fund five strategies.
  - a. **Housing** – Women’s Fund will invest in programs and organizations that provide affordable housing opportunities for women that include a network of support and/or opportunities for long-term wealth building
  - b. **Child Care** – The Women’s Fund will invest in the expansion of programs and organization to increase access to quality, culturally competent and affordable child care that is conveniently located for families with low incomes.
  - c. **Education** – The Women’s Fund will invest in programs and organizations that provide access to an ecosystem of support – academic, emotional, and financial – for women pursuing educational dreams.
  - d. **Unintended Pregnancy Prevention** – The Women’s Fund will invest in programs and organizations that provide access to consumable, affordable, unbiased pregnancy prevention resources.
  - e. **Women’s Health - Tackling Health Disparities** – The Women’s Fund will invest in programs and organizations focused on reducing health disparities faced by women of color.
  
3. Program Description, and Need – Please describe the work that will be done using Women’s Fund funds. What is the need and how will services be provided?
  
4. Program Design - Please articulate the catalyst for programming and how the solution was designed. Specifically highlight any inclusion of community/client voice or issue experts who helped inform program development and design.
  
5. Goals, Outcome & Evaluation – Please share your vision and plan for measuring success, as well as those who were involved in creating your evaluation plan.

6. Cultural Competency & History with Priority Population – Please share your work’s target population, your history working with this population, and an outreach plan and/or partnerships to connect with the community you serve. Please also share how your organization is accessible, responsive, and convenient for clients.
7. Client Demographics - Percent of those you will serve using Women’s Fund grant funds who are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
8. Brief description – In 150 words or less, please describe your organization and proposed activities. This exact text will be used if your organization is presented to Women’s Fund Investors and Community Reviewers for voting. Please do not include your organization’s name or any identifying information in this description. Voting will be conducted without finalists being identified to reviewers.
9. Budget Narrative – Please use this section to speak to the specifics of how the funds will be used and how your budget attachment relates to this proposal. Please also share any other details you want the committee to know about how this funding will/won’t impact your organization’s ability to do this work.

### **Zoom Learning Session Availability**

1. Should your organization be recommended for a grant and proceed to the second stage of the applicant review process, we will invite your organization to participate in a 1-hour Zoom learning session.

Below please share (and rank in order of preference) up to 5 one-hour windows occurring Monday - Friday, 9am – 5pm **during March 21 – April 15, 2022**. If weekday availability is not possible, please make a note of that here. Please only suggest dates/times that you’ve confirmed are available for all individuals you would like to participate on the Zoom session. We recommend holding these times to ensure availability.

There are no requirements for who must participate on the Zoom learning sessions, however we recommend a mix of executive leadership, program staff, and/or clients (if appropriate).

### **Assurances Checklist**

I certify that the organization submitting this proposal meets the following criteria or have provided a reasonable alternative methods to meet standards.

1. The size of the board is sufficient to carry out current and long-range plans.
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
2. The board meets regularly, has an active committee structure, terms, and recruits new members periodically.
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
3. The board participates in fundraising or revenue generating activities on behalf of the board.
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
4. The board has a strategic plan; monitors performance and programs; and updates the plan as necessary.

- a. Yes
- b. No
- 5. The board is representative of the community served.
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
- 6. Staff and general volunteers are representative of the communities served.
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
- 7. The organization has written personnel, operating, and financial management policies.
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
- 8. Organization has sufficient capital to maintain operations over the course of the grant term.
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
- 9. Organization has internal controls in place to manage expenditure of these grant funds and maintain appropriate financial records.
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
- 10. Organization has a system for measuring outputs, outcomes, and client demographics of those served with Women's Fund funding.
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
- 11. If you selected no for any of the statements above, please provide comments and alternative methods to meeting the criteria in the space below.

**Attachments**

- 1. IRS determination letter
- 2. Organization's operating budget (no template, can be organization's own working document)