



Women's Fund
AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Thank you for joining, we'll begin soon

Women's Fund 2025 RFP Release Webinar

Welcome to the Women's Fund RFP Release Webinar

Women's Fund 2025 RFP Release Webinar

Today's Agenda

- / Introductions & ACF Overview
- / Women's Fund 2025 Grant Opportunity
- / Eligibility
- / Completing the RFP
- / Scoring & Awards
- / Applicant Resources
- / FAQs & Tips
- / Q&A

Introductions & ACF Overview

Women's Fund 2025 RFP Release Webinar

Austin Community Foundation Staff



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About ACF

Our Mission

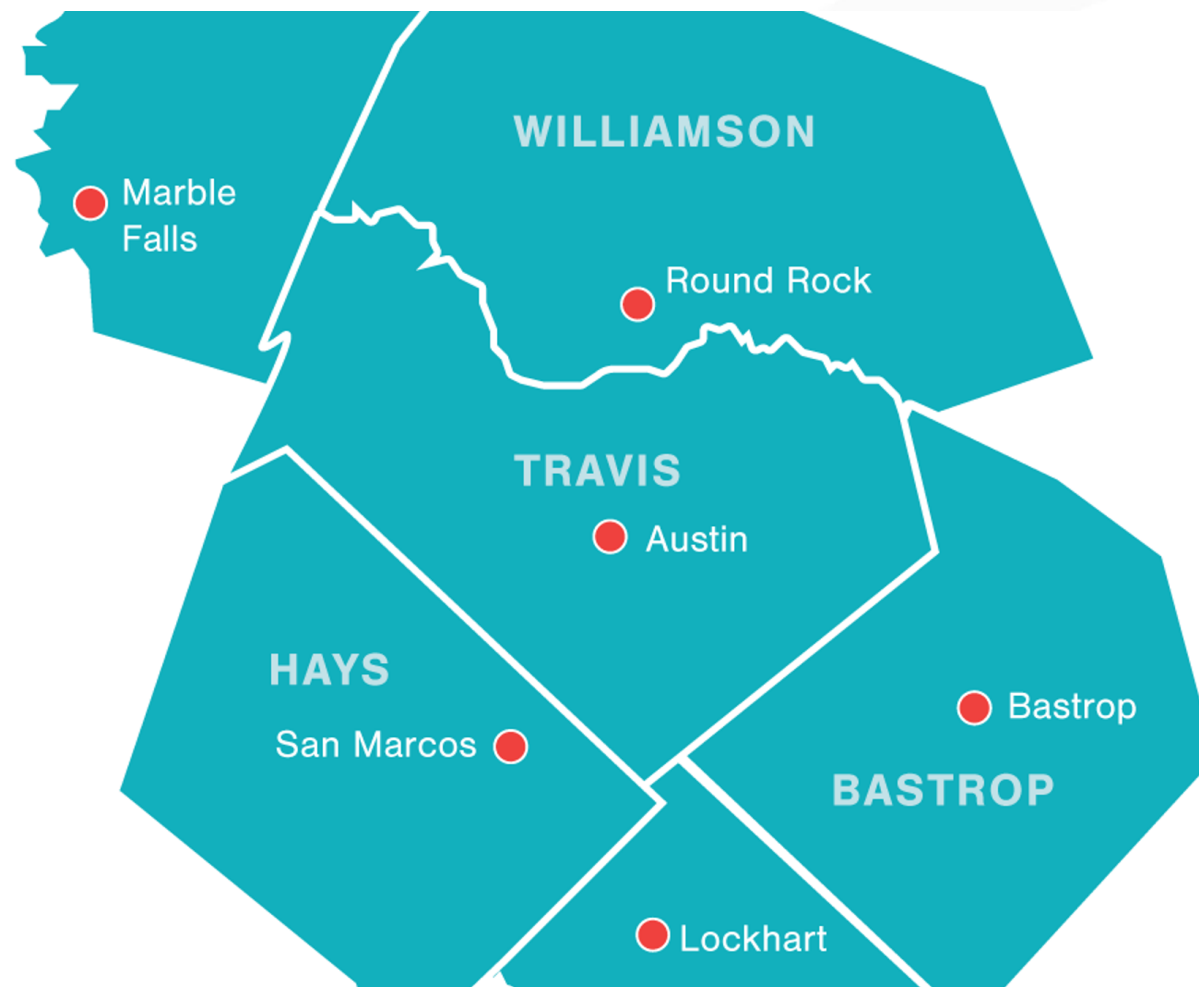
We mobilize ideas and resources to strengthen Central Texas.

Our Vision

A vibrant and equitable community where everyone can contribute and find opportunity.



Our Service Area



Signature Programs Grant Cycle

- / The grant cycle for Hispanic Impact Fund and Women's Fund happen at the same time, through a joint application
- / Across Funds, 31 grants will be awarded totaling **\$1,100,000**



Women's Fund 2025 Grant Opportunity

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Investing in a woman has a

proven ripple effect,

benefiting not just her family but

her greater community.

In total, \$550,000 in unrestricted general operating support will be awarded to 15 different organizations.

- / Winning Finalist: \$60,000 total; a multi-year grant over two years
- / Runner-up Finalist: \$30,000 total; a one-year grant
- / Semifinalist: \$20,000 total; a one-year grant

15 Grantee Organizations					
Three awards per strategy					
	Housing	Child Care	Education	Unintended Pregnancy Prevention	Women's Health
FINALIST	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
SEMIFINALIST	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Awarding a total of \$550,000!					

Grantmaking Strategies

/ We invest in direct services and systems-level change in the following:



CHILD CARE



EDUCATION



HOUSING



**UNINTENDED
PREGNANCY
PREVENTION**



**WOMEN'S
HEALTH**

Child Care



/ ACF will invest in strategies that expand access to safe, quality, culturally competent, and affordable childcare for low-income families.

Education



/ ACF will invest in strategies that provide access to an ecosystem of support – academic, emotional, and financial – for women pursuing educational dreams.

Housing



/ ACF will invest in strategies that support access to affordable housing for women that include a network of support and/or opportunities for long-term wealth building.

Unintended Pregnancy Prevention



/ ACF will invest in strategies that increase access to consumable, unbiased pregnancy prevention resources.

Women's Health



/ ACF will invest in strategies that reduce health disparities experienced by women facing the greatest barriers to care.

Selecting the Right Strategy

- / Select the strategy that best aligns with your organization's mission, current work, and where you can demonstrate meaningful impact
- / Refer to our guiding definitions to understand the specific meanings of key terms used in each strategy statement
- / Organizations can apply for funding in up to two strategy areas but are only able to be funded in one category



2025 GRANT CYCLE Strategy Statements & Guiding Definitions



We invest in direct services and systems-level change in the following impact areas:



CHILD CARE

Expand access to safe, quality, culturally competent, and affordable child care that is conveniently located for families with low incomes.



EDUCATION

Provide access to an ecosystem of support—academic, emotional, and financial—for women pursuing educational dreams.



HOUSING

Support access to affordable housing for women that include a network of support and/or opportunities for long-term wealth building.



UNINTENDED PREGNANCY PREVENTION

Increase access to consumable, unbiased pregnancy prevention resources.



WOMEN'S HEALTH

Reduce health disparities experienced by women facing the greatest barriers to care.

Guiding Definitions

- / **Access** – Impact area is approached or addressed through either direct services provided to the end user or by advocating for systems-level change that will have broader, or more long-term, benefits for women and their families.
- / **Affordable Housing** – Housing which consumes no more than 30% of a household's income. Affordable housing typically refers to a long-term or permanent place of home (either owned or rented) and does not typically include emergency or short-term shelters.
- / **Child Care** – Early childhood education for children from birth to age 5 when the primary caregiver(s) is/are unavailable, often to support the family's paid work in or outside of the home. Care can occur during the day or during non-traditional work hours. Childcare can occur in many settings, including private businesses, nonprofit organizations, places of worship, or home.
- / **Consumable, Unbiased** – Information and/or services shared are easily understood, relevant, and not leading in any particular way.
- / **Conveniently Located** – Care is within nearby proximity to the home or workplace of the primary caregiver with a special emphasis on supporting access to care within areas that are designated as 'childcare deserts.'
- / **Culturally Competent** – The ability to understand, appreciate, and interact with people from cultures or belief systems different from one's own.
- / **Health Disparities** – Refers to a higher burden and incidence of illness, injury, disability, or mortality experienced by one group relative to others.
- / **Long-Term Wealth Building** – The process of generating income over many years through multiple sources including job-based income, savings, investments, and any income-generating assets such as homeownership.
- / **Low Income** – Annual household earnings below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. For a family of 4 in 2025, this is an annual income of \$64,300.
- / **Pregnancy Prevention Resources** – Inclusive of the full array of reproductive health services.
- / **Quality Care** – Families have licensed options that meet their needs, with early childhood educators who are well-qualified and well-paid. All areas of a child's development are fostered by responsive, nurturing, and engaging care.
- / **Women Pursuing Educational Dreams** – Educational opportunities (degree-seeking, accreditation, certificate, vocational/trade or informal) that help women (from high school age through the rest of their lives) work toward achieving economic mobility.

Eligibility

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Eligibility Considerations

- / All applicants must be tax-exempt organizations or units of government serving the six county Central Texas region - **Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, or Williamson counties**. This includes organizations that are fiscally sponsored by a nonprofit.
- / **ACF does not fund:**
 - / Endowment funds
 - / Religious organizations for **religious purposes**
 - / Fundraising activities or events
 - / Political lobbying or legislative activities
 - / Individuals

Eligibility Considerations Continued

- / If you have a current grant through any ACF program, you must be in compliance with that grant to apply
 - / If you applied for a Forever Austin Fund grant this year, you are eligible
- / Organizations can apply to both the Women's Fund and the Hispanic Impact Fund
- / Organizations awarded Women's Fund or Hispanic Impact Fund multi-year grants in 2024, may apply in a *different strategy* than the one they are still receiving payment for

Completing the RFP

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2025 Applicant Key Dates

RFP Opens

June 2

ACF Office Hours

June 11 – July 28, Mondays & Wednesdays

Technical Writing Assistance

June 16 – July 30

RFP Closes

July 31

Initial Declines

Mid October

Virtual Learning Sessions

October 17 – 31

Award Notifications

December 1

Accessing the ACF Grants Portal

- / You will need to log-in (or create a log-in) and submit your application via the ACF grants portal
- / Visit the ACF online grant portal to access the application
- / [Click Here to Access Application](#)
- / **All applications are due Thursday, July 31st**

Application Sections

- / Introductory Questions - Eligibility
- / Demographic Profile
- / Organization Information & Budget
- / Assurances and Attachments
- / Fund Selection
- / Narrative Questions
- / Additional Unsourced Questions

Eligibility


Eligibility - Restrictions*

Austin Community Foundation does not grant funds for:

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

Do you confirm your organization does not meet any of these restrictions and would not use ACF funding for these purposes?

☒ I agree



Demographic Profile

- / People served income & location
- / Demographics: Race & Ethnicity for the following
 - / People served
 - / Board and executive staff
 - / Nonexecutive staff

Representation Information*

Austin Community Foundation aims to fund organizations whose staff, boards and leadership reflect the people served.

Provide additional background information that will help contextualize the representation information you provided. What successes or challenges has your organization experienced related to diversity and representation?

10,000 characters left of 10,000

Organization Information & Budget

Organization Name*

Incorporation Date*

C. Mission Statement

10,000 characters left of 10,000

Annual Budget*

\$

Budget Narrative

Provide any additional details about your budget attachment (**upload at bottom of application**) that you want reviewers to be aware of.

Assurances and Attachments

/ Assurances Checklist

/ You will answer some quick yes/no questions about your organization

/ Attachments

- ☐ Copy of your IRS letter (or the letter for your fiscal sponsor)
- ☐ Operating budget (You can upload a budget your organization already uses or use our provided template to create one)
- ☐ Organization Logo

Fund Selection



Please select the Program Fund(s) for which you are applying:*



☐ Hispanic Impact Fund

☒ Women's Fund


✓ Women's Fund 2024 Grant Cycle Narrative



Gender Identity

People Served - Gender Identity

Please use categories based on how individuals self-identify. The total here should be equal to the total number of people served you provided in the in the Demographic Profile section of this proposal.

Demographic	# of People Served in this Demographic
Men	#* <input type="text"/>
Women	#* <input type="text"/>
Non-binary and/or genderqueer	#* <input type="text"/>
Unknown	#* <input type="text"/>
Prefer not to identify	#* <input type="text"/>
Total	 <input type="text"/>

Narrative Questions

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)**
2. **Strategy Statement Alignment** – Please share how your organization's mission and work is addressing or meeting the need outlined in the Women's Fund strategy you selected in question 1.
3. **Approach**– Please describe your organization's approach and how it uniquely meets the needs you've identified. How is your work data-informed or based on best practice?
4. **Goals, Outcome & Evaluation** – What does success look like for your organization in your chosen strategy area, both now and in the future? In addition, please share how you track your progress toward your goals.
5. **Cultural Competency & History with Priority Population** - Please share how your work is informed by the voices, needs and lived experiences of the people you serve. Include your history working with this population, existing partnerships and how your organization is accessible, responsive, and convenient for people served.
6. **Systems-Level Change - (Note: this question is not scored)** – Please share any ways in which your organization is making an impact on any systems-level causes of the needs your work addresses, or how you help to broadly advance the economic security of women. (example: advocacy)

Narrative Questions

1. Please check the Women's Fund's strategy area that aligns with your organization's mission and address the following question.
2. Story: How is your organization addressing or responding to the needs of women?
3. Application: How are you applying what you've learned from the Women's Fund's strategy to your goals?
4. Goals: What are your organization's goals for the next year?
5. Current: What are the current challenges faced by the organization?
6. **Systems-Level Change - (Note: this question is not scored)** – Please share any ways in which your organization is making an impact on any systems-level causes of the needs your work addresses, or how you help to broadly advance the economic security of women. (example: advocacy)

Note: There is a 10,000-character limit per response. We do NOT expect you to reach or get close to this limit. We encourage you to be clear, specific, and grounded in your work.

Additional Unscored Questions

- / **Brief Organization Description:** This is a description of your organization and activities in 150 words or less that excludes your name. If your application advances to the Finalist round, this will be used for the voting process
- / **Virtual Learning Session:** Should your organization be recommended for a grant and proceed to the next stage of the review process, you will be invited to participate in a 1-hour Virtual Learning Session between October 17 – October 31. Before submitting your application, you will use our form to submit your availability for this potential meeting. Please hold dates internally with all participants

We Appreciate Your Feedback!

- / After you submit your application, you will receive an email with a link to our applicant survey
- / We make improvements to our grant cycle every year based on feedback we get from applicants
- / Look out for the survey email within 24 hours of submission

Scoring & Awards

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Rubric

Narrative Question	Total Possible Points	Weight Towards Total Score
Strategy Statement Alignment	5	30%
Approach	5	30%
Goals, Outcome, & Evaluation	5	20%
Cultural Competency & History with Priority Population	5	20%
Total Narrative Points	20	100%

How Applications are Scored

- / Your application will be read and scored by a combination of the following categories of reviewers, in partnership with ACF staff. All scorers must participate in unconscious bias training and disclose conflict of interests.
 - / **Grants Committee Members:** Includes Women's Fund investors who volunteer their time
 - / **Community Reviewers:** Includes members of the community who bring lived experience relevant to the Women's Fund's strategies and individuals who are representative of the communities served by a Women's Fund. Community reviewers are provided a stipend for scoring applications

Semifinalist Stage

Expect notification in mid October

Three organizations from **each strategy area** will move forward as semifinalists.

If you are not selected as Semifinalist:

- / You will receive a declination letter via email

If you are selected as a Semifinalist:

- / We'll reach out to let you know you're moving forward
- / Request some additional information – ACH for sending grant funds & some marketing materials (photos, official logo, social media handles, etc.)
- / Schedule your **Virtual Learning Session** based on the availability you provided in your application

15 Grantee Organizations				
Three awards per strategy				
Housing	Child Care	Education	Unintended Pregnancy Prevention	Women's Health
Semifinalist	Semifinalist	Semifinalist	Semifinalist	Semifinalist
Semifinalist	Semifinalist	Semifinalist	Semifinalist	Semifinalist
Semifinalist	Semifinalist	Semifinalist	Semifinalist	Semifinalist
Guaranteed \$20,000 in funding				

Virtual Learning Sessions

- / Virtual Learning Sessions are an opportunity for you to expand on your work and fit for the opportunity
- / All semifinalists are required to attend a 45-minute Virtual Learning Session
- / Questions from the Grants Committee will be shared ahead of time



Finalist Stage

Expect notification in mid November

Once Learning Sessions are completed, Grants Committee meets to discuss and choose **two finalists** in each **strategy area**.

If you are not selected as a Finalist:

- / You will receive a Semifinalist award letter

If you are selected as a Finalist:

- / We'll reach out to let you know you're moving forward and the 'Brief Description' you provided in your application will be used for blind voting to determine top award recipients

15 Grantee Organizations					
Three awards per strategy					
	Housing	Child Care	Education	Unintended Pregnancy Prevention	Women's Health
FINALIST	Finalist Finalist	Finalist Finalist	Finalist Finalist	Finalist Finalist	Finalist Finalist
SEMIFINALIST	Semifinalist \$20,000	Semifinalist \$20,000	Semifinalist \$20,000	Semifinalist \$20,000	Semifinalist \$20,000
Awarding a total of \$550,000!					

Voting

- / Voting will determine the Winning Finalist and Runner-up Finalist in each strategy area
- / Voting will be conducted without identifying information to curb implicit bias
- / Voting will be open to all Women's Fund supporters and Community Reviewers and take place from November 14 – November 21



Award Announcement

- / You can expect to hear final funding amounts on **December 1**
- / You'll be sent a grant agreement to sign and return
- / We'll request feedback about your participation in the process
- / **2025 grant partners are invited to join us at our Grants Celebration in mid-December**



Applicant Resources

Women's Fund 2025 RFP Release Webinar

Applicant Resources

- / RFP Webinar Recording & Slide Deck
- / Scoring Rubric
- / Strategy Statements & Guiding Definitions
- / ACF Office Hours
- / Technical Writing Assistance

/ These resources can be accessed on the [Women's Fund grant application page](#).

ACF Office Hours

- / ACF Staff will be available for office hours Mondays and Wednesdays from **June 11th to July 28th**
- / Sign up using the Calendly link on our website, available after the webinar
- / Prior to scheduling an appointment, organizations must have watched the RFP Release Webinar

Office Hours can assist with questions about:

- / Organizational Fit
- / Funding Category
- / Eligibility

Sign up using Calendly!

Technical Writing Assistance

- / **New this cycle:** Two consultants + Spanish grant writing support!
- / **This resource is optional, open to all applicants; however, it is intended to provide support to organizations who:**
 - / Are applying for the first time
 - / Don't have a professional grant writer on staff
 - / Limited experience writing grants
 - / Have limited paid staff, or smaller organizational budgets
 - / Are volunteer-led

Accessing Technical Writing Support

1. Sign-up using **Calendly** to meet virtually with one of our grant consultants
2. Send the consultant your draft in a word document **ahead** of your 1:1 appointment!
3. Attend your scheduled meeting to receive feedback and suggestions



Meet the Grant Consultants



Priscilla A. Hale

Grant Writing Consultant

pahale@gmail.com



Cristina Garza

Grant Writing Consultant

garza.cristina.j@gmail.com

Where to turn?

ACF Office Hours

- / Am I eligible to apply?
- / What funding category is best?
- / Available Mondays and Wednesdays, June 11 – July 28



Technical Writing Assistance

- / How can we effectively demonstrate our impact in the proposal?
- / How do we strengthen our writing for clarity and conciseness?
- / What strategies can we use to make our narrative more persuasive?
- / Available June 16 – July 30

Additional Support Tips

- / Recommend adding administrator@grantinterface.com to your safe-contacts list to ensure you receive auto-generated emails from the system
- / Reach out to Rachel at rjoachimi@austincf.org at any time with questions or concerns regarding the grant portal or application

FAQs

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Can my organization apply to the Hispanic Impact Fund as well as the Women's Fund?

- / Yes! Eligible organizations are welcome to apply to both funds
- / Being awarded funds from one fund will not disqualify you from receiving a grant from the another
- / We recommend reviewing the strategies, requirements, and timelines for each fund to ensure there is alignment with your work and that your organization has capacity to participate in multiple grants cycles simultaneously

How will I know if my application is declined? Can I receive feedback?

- / Declination emails will go out in early October
- / If your application is declined, we provide an opportunity to share feedback about the Grants Cycle process

We don't exclusively serve women or serve people of color... Can we apply?

- / If your organization doesn't serve at, or close to 50% of the populations prioritized by the Hispanic Impact Fund and Women's Fund, this might not be the funding opportunity for you**
- / If you are unsure about fit, sign up for Office Hours**

Do you have any tips for first-time applicants?

- / We encourage you to review the grant guidelines, scoring rubric, guiding definitions, and requirements early
- / Take care to avoid industry-specific jargon and acronyms when you draft your application
- / Have someone not familiar with your program read your application before submitting. Our Grant Writing Consultants are available to assist you by appointment via Calendly for application review and best tips on completing the application
- / Plan on submitting your application earlier than the deadline so staff can address any last-minute questions you may have



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Questions?

Still have questions?

- / Sign up for Office Hours!
- / Available starting June 11th
- / 20-minute session with ACF staff
- / Only 1 reservation per organization
- / Sign up using the link shared after the webinar



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