



Women's Fund  
AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

# Thank you for joining, we'll begin soon

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Women's Fund 2026 RFP Release Webinar

# Welcome to the Women's Fund RFP Release Webinar

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Women's Fund 2026 RFP Release Webinar



# Today's Agenda

- / Introductions & ACF Overview
- / Women's Fund 2026 Grant Opportunity
  - / Eligibility
  - / Completing the RFP
  - / Review Process & Awards
- / Applicant Resources
- / FAQs & Tips
- / Q&A

# Introductions & ACF Overview

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Women's Fund 2026 RFP Release Webinar



# Austin Community Foundation Staff



**Adiee Gonzales**  
*Sr. Manager,  
Community Impact*



**Rachel Joachimi**  
*Grants Specialist*



**Zoë Morrisey**  
*Community Impact Grants  
Coordinator*

# About ACF

## Our Mission

We mobilize ideas and resources to strengthen Central Texas.

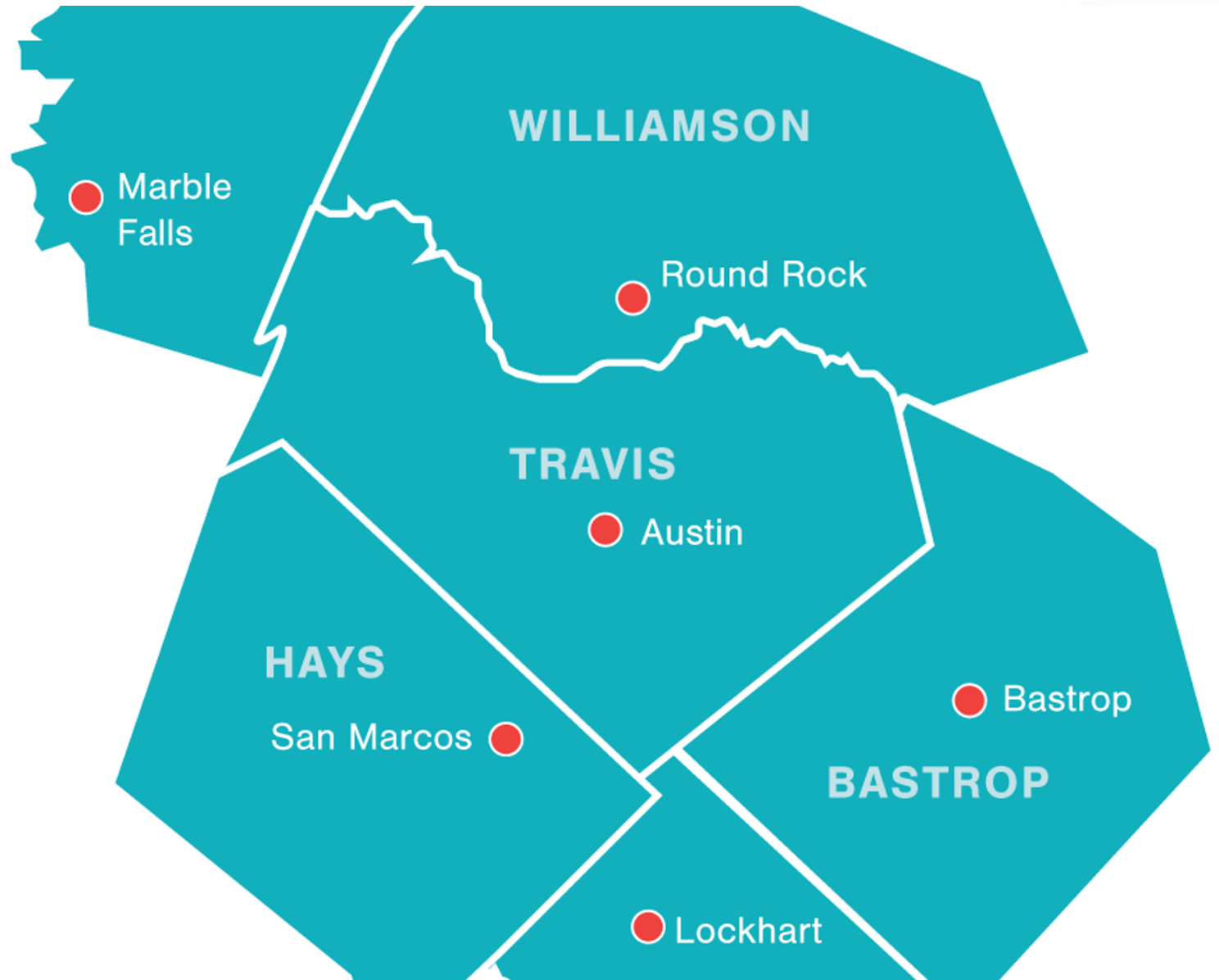
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## Our Vision

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



# Our Service Area



# Your Trusted Partner in Philanthropy



## Corporate & Donor Advised Funds

Supporting your family or  
organizational philanthropic  
goals



## Tax & Estate Planning

Working with advisors  
toward solutions—today  
and far into the future



## ACF Signature Programs

Connecting you with data-  
informed, community-led  
solutions



## Nonprofit Grant Partners

Engaging in trust-based  
philanthropy and  
grantmaking

# 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 2026 Grant Opportunity

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Women's Fund 2026 RFP Release Webinar



**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					
<i>Three awards per strategy</i>					
	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.

## Examples of previously funded programs in Child Care

*Program that provides affordable, inclusive childcare across three Austin preschools offering tuition assistance, trauma-informed bilingual care, and resource navigation for mothers and families.*

*Program that provides free, short-term emergency childcare through trained volunteer hosts, surrounding families with coaches, mentors, and tangible resources to stabilize households, prevent family separation, and support mothers' wellbeing.*

*Program that provides inclusive early childhood education and therapeutic support for medically fragile and developmentally delayed children, with expanded infant/toddler and respite care to help caregivers maintain employment and education.*

# Education



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

## Examples of previously funded programs in Education

*Program that provides academic, emotional, and financial support for low-income, first-generation girls in grades 9-12 through a rigorous STEM curriculum, college advising, and alumni services to support college persistence.*

*Program that equips Black and underrepresented women in Central Texas to pursue high-wage healthcare careers through mentorship, scholarships, clinical shadowing, and culturally responsive coaching.*

*Program that provides dual-generation college readiness and mentorship for Latinas and their mothers in Central Texas, with 97% of participating seniors graduating high school and 74% enrolling in post-secondary education.*

# 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.

## Examples of previously funded programs in Housing

*Program that supports pregnant and parenting women experiencing housing instability through a two-generation, strengths-based approach to secure stable housing.*

*Program that provides rent-free housing for adult women recovering from sex trafficking, offering trauma-informed care including therapy, case management, addiction recovery, life skills, and employment readiness.*

*Program that provides housing and economic advancement opportunities for survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and trafficking who are at risk of homelessness after leaving their abuser.*

# Unintended Pregnancy Prevention



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

## Examples of previously funded programs in Unintended Pregnancy Prevention

*Program that increases access to pregnancy prevention resources for low-income women in Central Texas through the distribution of emergency contraceptive kits and a sexual and reproductive health media campaign.*

*Program that provides financial assistance and emotional support for Texans seeking reproductive healthcare through a bilingual hotline, volunteer voucher distribution, and grassroots reproductive justice organizing.*

*Program that provides bilingual, culturally responsive reproductive health and family planning services, including contraception access, trauma-informed counseling, community health worker training, and systems-level advocacy.*

# Women's Health



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

## Examples of previously funded programs in Women's Health

*Program that provides accessible, affordable, culturally competent medical care for uninsured women and families, including acute care, chronic disease management, and specialty services such as cardiology, diabetes care, and well-woman clinics.*

*Program that provides low-barrier, culturally congruent reproductive care through free pop-up clinics staffed by multilingual midwives and community health workers.*

*Program that provides culturally responsive, trauma-informed mental health support to marginalized women through workshops, healing circles, and peer support groups*

# 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

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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Women's Fund 2026 RFP Release Webinar

# 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.
- / **Organizations must have been actively operating as a nonprofit (or fiscally sponsored project) for at least 2 full years**
- / **Organization's annual budget must be greater than or equal to \$50,000**
- / **ACF does not fund:**
  - / Endowment funds
  - / Privately owned businesses or for-profit entities
  - / Fundraising activities or events
  - / Religious organizations for **religious purposes**
  - / Individuals or scholarships
  - / Political lobbying or legislative activities
  - / Individuals
  - / umbrella funding organizations

# Additional Eligibility Considerations

- / **Compliance:** 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 2025 **may apply in a *different strategy* than the one for which they are still receiving payment**

# Completing the RFP

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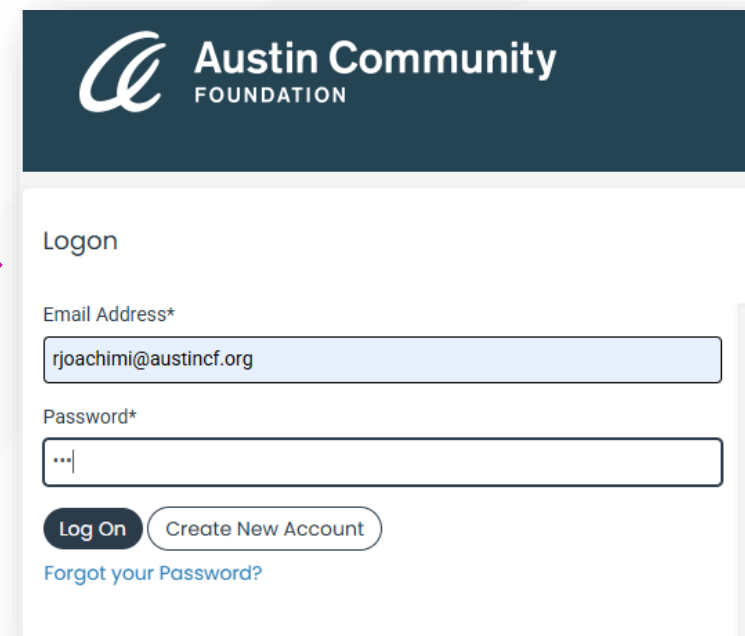
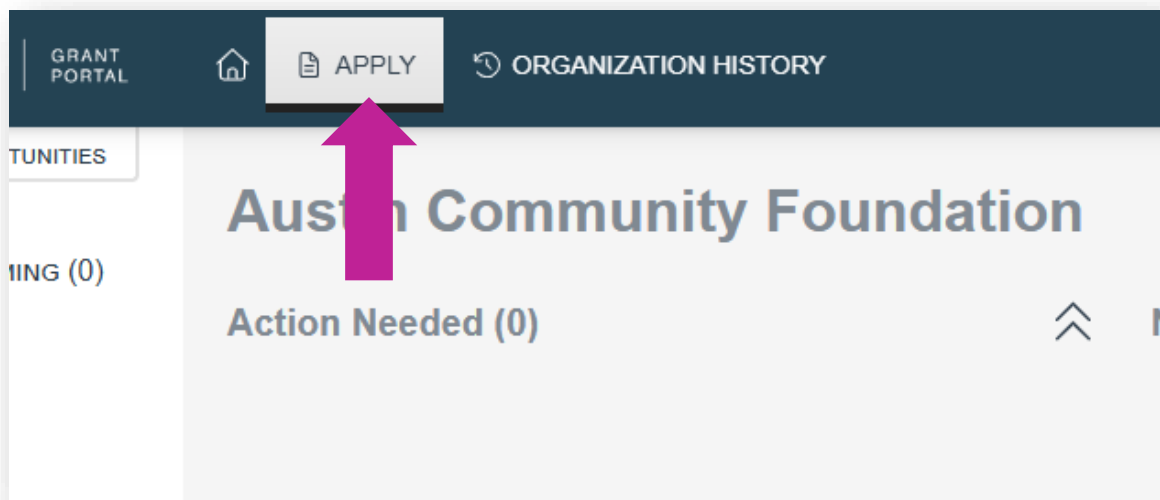
Women's Fund 2026 RFP Release Webinar



# How to Access the Application

/ Login to our Online Grant Portal. If you aren't sure if your organization has an account, or you need to be added as a user, email [rjoachimi@austincf.org](mailto:rjoachimi@austincf.org)

/ Once logged in, navigate to the Apply page at the top of your screen.



A screenshot of the Austin Community Foundation Logon form. The form is white with a dark blue header containing the Austin Community Foundation logo and name. The form fields include: 'Email Address\*' with the value 'rjoachimi@austincf.org', and 'Password\*' with a masked input field. Below the fields are two buttons: 'Log On' and 'Create New Account'. A link for 'Forgot your Password?' is also present.

# Step 1: Eligibility Quiz

Eligibility  
Quiz

Ensures eligibility  
to apply for funding

## Eligibility Quiz

Eligibility - 2026 ACF Program Funds Grant Cycle



## Eligibility Check - 2026 ACF Program Funds

The 2026 ACF Program Funds application begins with a brief eligibility check to

confirm alignment with the Foundation's basic funding criteria.

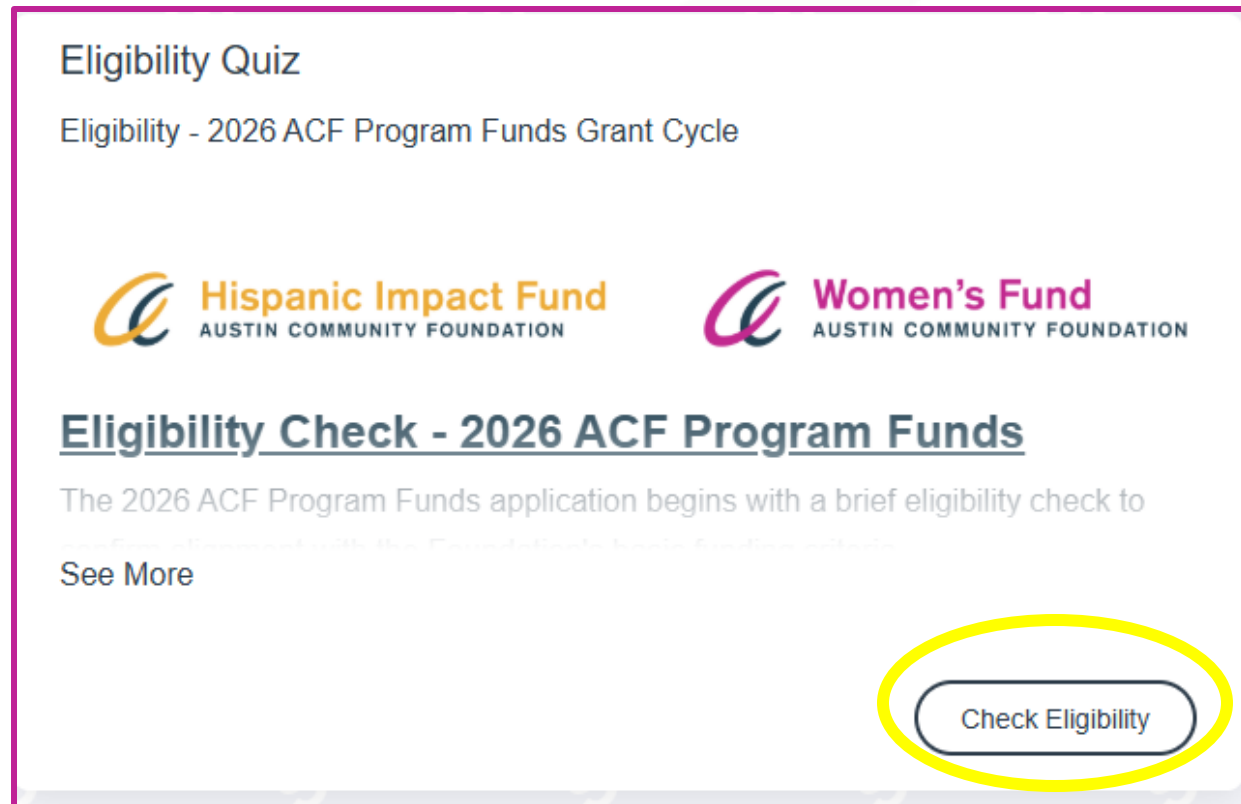
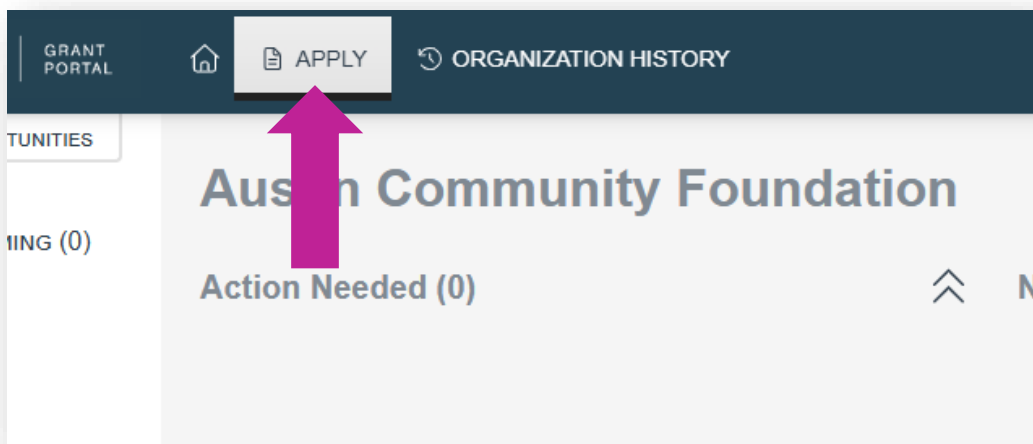
[See More](#)

[Check Eligibility](#)

# Eligibility Quiz – How to Access

/ You will see the Eligibility Quiz at the top of your Apply page.

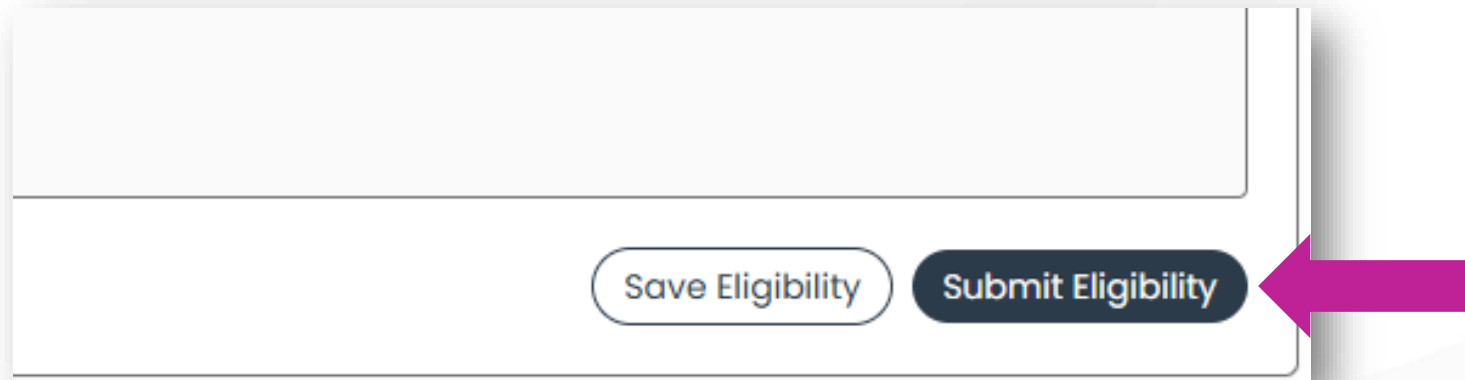
/ Click **"Check Eligibility."**



A screenshot of the Eligibility Quiz page. The page has a white background with a purple border. At the top, it says "Eligibility Quiz" and "Eligibility - 2026 ACF Program Funds Grant Cycle". Below this, there are two logos: "Hispanic Impact Fund AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION" and "Women's Fund AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION". The main heading is "Eligibility Check - 2026 ACF Program Funds". Below the heading, it says "The 2026 ACF Program Funds application begins with a brief eligibility check to" and "See More". At the bottom right, there is a button labeled "Check Eligibility" which is circled in yellow.

# Eligibility Quiz – Complete & Submit

- / Answer all questions in the Eligibility Quiz.
- / You can save your quiz responses and return to the Apply page later to complete.
- / When ready, hit **"Submit Eligibility"** at the bottom of your page:



# Eligibility Quiz – Meet the Criteria



- / If you **do** meet the eligibility requirements, you will receive a simple submission verification message upon submitting your eligibility:
- / Click "Continue".

## Confirmation

✔ Your Eligibility has been submitted.

ℹ Click 'Continue' to view the Apply page.

Continue


# Eligibility Quiz – Meet the Criteria




- / After clicking "Continue", you'll be redirected to the Apply page. Immediately, you'll see that the application form has been generated.
- / Click "**Apply**" to begin a draft. From there, you can complete, save, and submit your application!

Eligibility Quiz

Eligibility - 2026 ACF Program Funds Grant Cycle

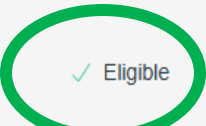
 **Hispanic Impact Fund**  
AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION


 **Women's Fund**  
AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION


**Eligibility Check - 2026 ACF Program Funds**

The 2026 ACF Program Funds application begins with a brief eligibility check to

See More

 ✓ Eligible

 **Hispanic Impact Fund**  
AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION


 **Women's Fund**  
AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

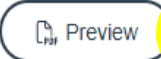
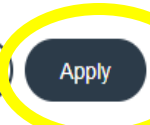
2026 ACF Program Funds Grant Cycle

Thank you for your interest in Austin Community Foundation's 2026 Program Funds Grant Cycle. Grant cycles for the [Hispanic Impact Fund](#) and the [Women's Fund](#) are happening concurrently. Applicants will submit **one** application, regardless of which Program Fund(s) they are applying for.

Cycle Timeline:

See More

 Closes  
07/31/2026

 Preview 

# Eligibility Quiz – Do Not Meet the Criteria

/ If you **do not** meet the eligibility requirements, you will immediately receive a decline message upon submitting your quiz, and the application form **will not** become available on your Apply page.

Eligibility Quiz ×

Based on your responses, your organization does not meet the eligibility requirements for the 2026 ACF Program Funds grant cycle.

You can review the eligibility criteria for this opportunity on our website [here](#).  
Thank you for your interest.

# Eligibility Quiz Tips & Reminders



If you **do** meet the eligibility requirements, the option to begin an application will remain on your Apply page—even if you don't immediately begin a draft.



If you do **not** meet the eligibility requirements, you won't be able to retake the quiz—please reach out to us if you believe there was an error.



Quizzes should take no more than 5 minutes to complete.



Be honest about your organization and your funding needs!



Review our Eligibility Considerations on the [Women's Fund webpage](#).

# Completing the Application

/ You've met the eligibility criteria and are ready to start your application!



**Hispanic Impact Fund**  
AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



**Women's Fund**  
AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## 2026 ACF Program Funds Grant Cycle

Thank you for your interest in Austin Community Foundation's 2026 Program Funds Grant Cycle. Grant cycles for the [Hispanic Impact Fund](#) and the [Women's Fund](#) are happening concurrently. Applicants will submit **one** application, regardless of which Program Fund(s) they are applying for.

[Cycle Timeline:](#)

See More

 Closes  
07/31/2026

 Preview

 Apply

# Application Sections

- / Introduction & Organizational Information
- / Assurances Checklist
- / Demographic Profile
- / Fund Selection – Women’s Fund or Hispanic Impact Fund
- / Narrative Questions

*Please note that fiscally sponsored projects that are applying will have a short additional section to complete.*

# Introduction & Organizational Information

/ Organization Name

/ Mission

/ Year Founded

/ Central Texas Counties Served

/ Annual Operating Budget (*last complete fiscal year*)

/ Budget Narrative (optional)

/ **File Uploads:** *Annual Operating Budget, IRS Tax-Exempt Determination Letter, Organization Logo*

# Assurances

## / Assurances Checklist

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

# Demographic Profile

## Three Groups to Report On

**/ People Served**

Clients, participants, beneficiaries

**/ Board Members & Executive Staff**

Leadership

**/ Non-Executive Staff**

All remaining paid staff

Please fill out this section to the best of your ability; **estimates are OK!**

## For Each Group, You'll Enter

**/ A total headcount (actual number, not a percentage)**

**/ Race breakdown as percentages (must total 100)**

**/ Ethnicity breakdown as percentages (must total 100)**

### People Served also requires:

**/ % at or below 200% of federal poverty level**

**/ % served by Central Texas county**

### Demographic Narrative (optional)

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

Please provide any additional information you wish to share that helps contextualize your demographic data. If you were unable to provide certain information, briefly explain why.

3,000 characters left of 3,000

# Demographic Profile Continued

/ **My organization doesn't collect demographic information...**

/ Use the not tracked box

/ Be sure to explain why in the narrative section

/ **How do I account for multiracial individuals?**

/ If a person identifies with more than one race, please count them only in the "Multiracial/Identity Not Listed" percentage

Race	Percent of People Served with Identity
Asian	#* 0
Black/African American	#* 0
Indigenous/Native American	#* 0
Middle Eastern/North African	#* 0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	#* 0
White/Caucasian	#* 0
Multiracial/Identity Not Listed	#* 0
Unknown	#* 0
Not Tracked	#* 100
Total	100

# Fund Selection

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

- Hispanic Impact Fund
- Women's Fund



✓ Women's Fund Narrative



# Gender Demographics

## Gender Demographics

### People Served Demographics - Gender Identity

Please use categories based on how individuals self-identify. Complete with data reflecting the population served by your organization in the latest full year in which you have the data available.

Please note:

/ Estimates are acceptable.

/ Answers should be input as **percentages**, *not* numbers of individuals. Answers must be between 0 - 100.

/ The "Total" row should equal 100 when the table is completed.

Gender Identity	Percent 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

- / **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.
- / **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?
- / **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.
- / **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.

*(6500 Character Limit each)*

- / **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)

*(500 Character Limit)*

# Brief Description

## Tip!

- Use plain language
- Be specific

/ 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

/ Your description should answer these questions, in order:

- 1. Who do you serve?**
- 2. What problem or gap does your work address?**
- 3. What do you do, and what makes your approach distinctive?**
- 4. What impact do you seek to make? End with what changes for the people you serve.**

## Example

*(1) We serve low-income pet owners in Travis County who are facing financial hardship. (2) Veterinary costs are one of the leading reasons families surrender animals to shelters, not because they don't want their pet, but because they cannot afford care. (3) We provide free and low-cost veterinary services, including vaccines, spaying/neutering, and emergency treatment through a walk-in clinic open six days a week. No appointment or proof of income is required. (4) When families can access affordable care, they keep their pets, reducing shelter overcrowding and preserving a bond that supports the stability and well-being of the whole family.*

# 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



# Review Process & Awards

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Women's Fund 2026 RFP Release Webinar



# 2026 Grant Cycle Timeline



# Who Reviews and Scores?

**Tip:** Write your application in plain language. Reviewers come from a wide range of professional backgrounds and lived experiences.

- / Applications are reviewed by two groups of scorers.
- / Both must complete unconscious bias training and disclose conflicts of interest.

## Grants Committee

- / Women's Fund investors who volunteer their time
- / Review applications, lead discussions, and make funding decisions

## Community Reviewers

- / Community members who bring lived experience relevant to the Women's Fund's strategies
- / Review and score applications
- / Provided a stipend for their time

# Rubric

Narrative Question	Total Possible Points	Weight Towards Total Score
Strategy Statement Alignment	5	25%
Approach	5	25%
Goals, Outcome, & Evaluation	5	25%
Cultural Competency & History with Priority Population	5	25%
<b>Total Narrative Points</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 2026 GRANT CYCLE Women's Fund Scoring Rubric

The Women's Fund invites proposals from organizations of every size and background. We invest in organizations advancing economic mobility and creating pathways to prosperity for communities that have long faced obstacles. The rubric below outlines how each narrative question will be scored. It is intended to provide transparency into what reviewers are looking for in strong responses and to guide applicants in structuring their answers.

Rubric		
Narrative Question	Reviewer Score	Weight Toward Total Score
Strategy Statement Alignment	<b>5 pts</b> Proposal makes a compelling case that the organization's mission and activities address the need outlined in the strategy and clearly demonstrates how the organization's work and initiatives directly contribute to advancing the goals of the strategy.	25%
	<b>2 pts</b> Proposal offers a partial explanation of how the organization's mission and activities address the need outlined in the strategy but does not fully demonstrate alignment of the organization's work and initiatives to these goals.	
	<b>0 pts</b> Proposal provides no clear explanation of how the organization's mission and activities address the need outlined in the strategy.	
Approach	<b>5 pts</b> Proposal describes the organization's approach and how their solution effectively addresses the need of the community served. The approach is based in relevant data, research, community voice and/or best practices, and the proposal describes how these elements inform the organization's design and implementation of its work.	25%
	<b>2 pts</b> The proposal describes the organization's approach, but the explanation lacks clarity, specificity, or a clear connection to the identified needs. There is some reference to data, research, or best practices, but the response does not clearly show how these sources shape the organization's work.	
	<b>0 pts</b> The proposal does not clearly describe the organization's approach or its connection to the identified need(s). There is no mention of data, research, or best practices informing the organization's work.	
Goals, Outcome, & Evaluation	<b>5 pts</b> Proposal clearly articulates the organization's vision and criteria for success now and in the future as it relates to the selected strategy. Response includes a description of how the organization is tracking progress toward its goals.	25%
	<b>2 pts</b> Proposal articulates a limited or partial vision of success related to the selected strategy, with some reference to methods for evaluating progress, but lacks clarity, detail, or an approach to tracking goals.	

Be sure to review the descriptions for each question and score in the rubric before writing your responses.

# Semifinalist Stage

*Expect notification in 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
- / Schedule your **Virtual Learning Session** based on the availability you provided in your application

15 Grantee Organizations				
<i>Three awards per strategy</i>				
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

- / If your organization is recommended for funding, you'll be asked to attend a **50-minute Virtual Learning Session** with the committee reviewing your application
- / Questions from the Grants Committee will be shared ahead of time

Sessions will take place  
**Oct 10–31**

## Availability

You will submit your availability via an online form in the final question on your application



## Reminder!

Please hold potential dates internally with key staff

# 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



# Award Announcement

- / You can expect to hear final funding amounts the **week of November 16**
- / You'll be sent a grant agreement to sign and return
- / We'll request feedback about your participation in the process



# Applicant Resources

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Women's Fund 2026 RFP Release Webinar



# Applicant Resources

- / RFP Webinar Recording & Slide Deck
- / Scoring Rubric
- / Strategy Statements & Guiding Definitions
- / ACF Office Hours (*by appointment*)
- / Technical Writing Assistance (*by approval & appointment*)

***/ 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 8<sup>th</sup> to July 29<sup>th</sup>**
- / Sign up using the Calendly link on our website, available after the webinar
- / Prior to scheduling an appointment, organizations **must have watched the Webinar**

## Office Hours can assist with questions about:

- / Organizational Fit
- / Funding Category
- / Eligibility

*Sign up using Calendly!*

# Technical Writing Assistance

- / Two consultants + **English & Spanish** grant writing support!
- / Organizations must attend ACF office hours before utilizing this resource. 

## This resource is intended for:

- First-time applicants
- Organizations without a professional grant writer on staff
- Those with limited grant writing experience
- Smaller organizations with limited paid staff or budgets
- Volunteer-led organizations



**Cristina Garza**

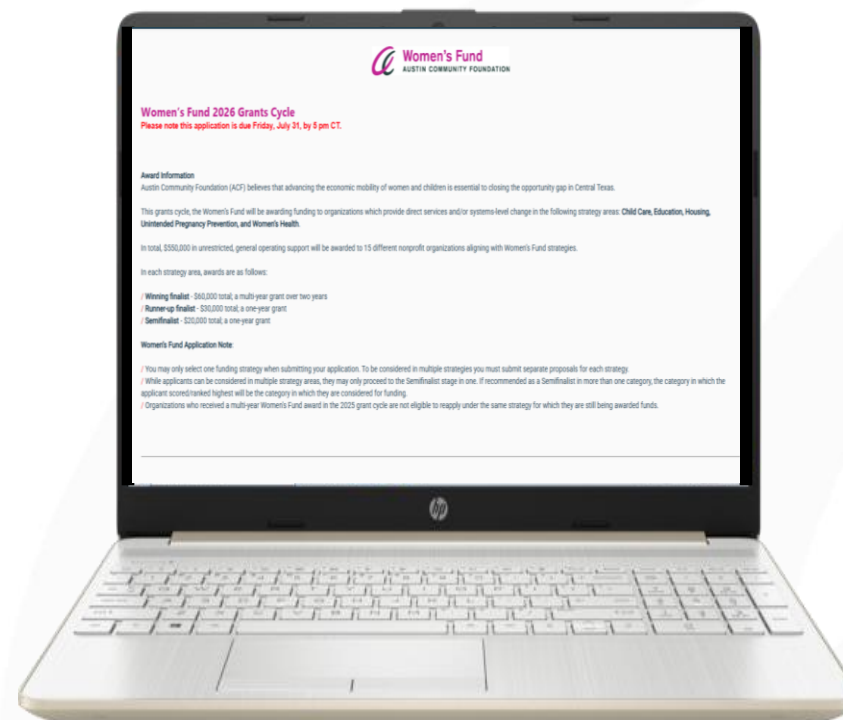


**Priscilla Hale**

# Accessing Technical Writing Support

Once you've attended an office hours appointment with an ACF staff member...

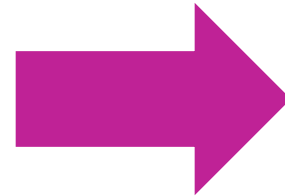
1. Sign up using **Calendly** to meet virtually with one of our grant consultants
2. Send the consultant your draft in a Word document **ahead** of your 1:1 appointment!
3. Attend your scheduled meeting to receive feedback and suggestions



# Office Hours vs Technical Assistance

## ACF Office Hours

- / Am I eligible to apply?
- / What funding category is best?
- / Available Mondays and Wednesdays, **June 8 – July 29**



## 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 15 – July 31**

# Tips

## from Themes in 2025 Funded Applications

- / **Clear metrics and outcomes** tied to the needs of women in Central Texas
  - / **Alignment** with the Women's Fund strategy
  - / **Culturally responsive** and community-informed services
    - / Evidence-based or **client-informed approaches**
      - / **Wraparound** supports
      - / **Accessible** services
    - / **Community partnerships** that expand reach
      - / Systems change

# Additional Support Tips



Recommend adding [administrator@grantinterface.com](mailto: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](mailto: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?



- / 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

*/ Across 2025 grant partners...*

*/ The average percent of Women served was 73%.*

*/ The average percent of BIPOC clients served was 87%*

/ 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

# Can we use AI to help with our application?



/ We don't prohibit organizations from using AI tools to help draft or refine proposal responses. Applicants remain fully responsible for the content they submit.

A few things to keep in mind if you do:

- / **Edit heavily.** AI tends to write in generalities. Our reviewers want to hear about your specific programs, your community, and your real outcomes - not a polished but generic description that could apply to any organization.
- / **Check for accuracy.** AI can misstate facts or describe your work in ways that aren't quite right. Read everything carefully.
- / **Write clearly and succinctly.** Our reviewers come from a wide range of backgrounds. Direct, conversational language lands better than formal or jargon-heavy writing.



**Women's Fund**  
AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**Questions?**

# Still have questions?

- / Sign up for Office Hours!
- / Email [impact@austincf.org](mailto:impact@austincf.org)





**Austin Community**  
FOUNDATION

