



2011 GRANT GUIDELINES Women's Fund of Monterey County

ABOUT THE WOMEN'S FUND

The Women's Fund of Monterey County is a field of interest fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County. The Women's Fund brings resources, people and ideas together to improve the quality of life and to increase opportunities for women and girls in Monterey County. Our vision is that every woman and girl has what she needs to be healthy, confident and able to fulfill her dreams. We believe that investing in women and girls now creates a better future for the entire community.

The Women's Fund's approach is straight-forward. We inspire philanthropic giving and engage our donors in making lasting change for women and girls. We provide grants and partner with community organizations and leaders on issues where we can have the greatest impact on women's lives. By strategically leveraging our donors' investments, the Women's Fund is helping to bring about meaningful change for our community as a whole.

For more information go to <http://www.cfmco.org/index.cfm/id/31/Womens-Fund>.

WOMEN'S FUND GRANTS PROGRAM

Early in 2011, the Women's Fund *Impact Committee* was formed to develop grant priorities and guidelines to direct the Fund's grants program over the next four years (2011-2014). The Committee reviewed the Women's Fund's past investments, analyzed the high-priority needs facing women and girls in Monterey County and considered where philanthropic investment could best make a difference. Based on this assessment, we decided to focus Women's Fund grants on two interconnected goals: *to advance the economic prosperity of women and to invest in the future and power of girls.*

A minimum of \$75,000 from the Women's Fund will be awarded annually to support direct services and advocacy efforts that will bring about real change in the lives of women and girls in these two broad impact areas.

Grants Calendar

Economic Prosperity Grant proposals due **September 30, 2011** (see details below)
Future of Girls Grant proposals due **March 1, 2012** (information available by January 16th)

Beginning in 2013 proposals in both goal areas will be accepted in April.

2011 GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES – WOMEN'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Women's Fund grants in 2011 will focus exclusively on advancing the economic prosperity of women in Monterey County. Our recently released status report, *The Lives of Women & Girls in Monterey County*, reveals that poverty is a persistent problem for many women who are trapped in low-paying jobs without the means to support themselves and their families. To break this cycle of poverty, women need access to education, life skills, and support to become economically self-sufficient. We believe that economic prosperity for women is key to the health and vitality of our entire community.

The Women's Fund welcomes proposals that address one or more of the following grantmaking priorities focused on economic equity and opportunity for low-income women:

- 1. Guidance for women to enter and complete post secondary education.** Funding in this area will focus on providing women access to a continuum of support on their path to pursuing educational and career goals. Of particular interest are programs that help women who have faced significant hurdles in achieving goals (for example, lack of a high-school diploma; children, family or work responsibilities; and transitioning from treatment or incarceration). Programs that include life skills and financial literacy training to strengthen women's self-sufficiency, as well as programs that provide subsidized child care for participants are encouraged.
- 2. Business development assistance for women.** The Women's Fund will support services and programs that help women start or grow a successful micro or small business venture. Emphasis will be given to proposals that fill gaps in existing business assistance and training programs. Inclusion of financial literacy and credit training, use of mentors, and linking female business owners to other resources are favored. Given the critical need for quality child care in Monterey County, the Fund is especially interested in innovative ideas for business development and other supports to family childcare providers.
- 3. Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Small Grant.** In addition to the program funding in the two above areas, the Women's Fund will consider small grants that range from \$1,500 to \$3,000 to enhance the ability of existing organizations to provide financial assistance to women at critical points of transition to self-sufficiency including when leaving temporary shelter, finishing recovery programs, re-entering school, and so forth. These one-time needs might include car repairs, bus passes, occupational training courses, books or materials. Funds will supplement existing resources that an organization is already providing to individual women in Monterey County, rather than support for general operations or programmatic costs.

In addition to the priorities described above, we seek to fund projects that:

- Address key needs of low-income women and girls
- Have a well-developed plan with promise of achieving meaningful impact
- Have a reasonable budget and unmet financial need
- Leverage resources and work collaboratively to widen results
- Include advocacy and/or other social change strategies
- Nurture leadership and empower women and/or girls to act on their own behalf
- Provide opportunities for peer-support and/or mentorship
- Teach self-advocacy skills and how to access other community resources and support

Overall, we seek to be a catalyst for change – seeding and helping to develop new ideas and endeavors that would not occur without our support; leveraging resources and encouraging collective action and partnerships to achieve broader, lasting change.

GUIDELINES FOR PROSPECTIVE GRANTEES

Grant Awards: A total of \$75,000 is available from the Women's Fund for economic prosperity grants in 2011. For education and business development programs (priorities 1 and 2 above), we expect grants to range from \$5,000 to \$35,000. Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency (WESS) Grants (priority 3) will range from \$1,500 to \$3,000. Note that WESS funding may be requested as part of a larger program or as a discrete, independent project. Women's Fund grants typically support activities for a one-year period.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Women's Fund grants are open to 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and public agencies serving Monterey County residents.
- Organizations and collaboratives that are not legally incorporated may partner with a tax-exempt, 501(c)3 organization which will serve as the Fiscal Sponsor for the grant. The Fiscal Sponsor must agree to be accountable for the programmatic and financial outcomes of the grant and have a signed agreement with the sponsored group verifying the terms of the arrangement.
- All organizations applying for a grant should be current on reporting obligations for past Community Foundation General Endowment (i.e. competitive) grants.
- Only one grant application per organization will be considered. However, fiscal sponsors may submit more than one application for different sponsored groups and one for their own organization.

What grant funds will support:

Matching funds are encouraged

- Seed funds and start-up costs for new programs or expansion of existing programs to fill a gap or support a new approach. Consideration will be given to operating costs for existing programs where a small amount of funding can make a difference.
- Personnel expenses that relate to specific program goals.
- Equipment, materials or facilities costs that directly benefit participants or are an identifiable part of project.
- Stipends or child care costs for participating women or girls.
- Trainings or conferences for staff or volunteers.
- For WESS project, grant funding will support direct financial aid to women in transition.

What grant funds WILL NOT support:

- Religious activities or services that are non-secular and/or promote a religious doctrine.
- Academic research
- Funding to schools and public agencies that would supplant tax-supported, mandated services.
- Annual fundraising campaigns or events.
- Creation of, or addition to, endowment funds.
- Payment of debt or legal settlements.
- Expenses incurred prior to the grant award date.

Please visit our website at www.cfmco.org for the Women's Fund Grant Program Application Packet, instructions and all materials needed to submit a proposal.

**Informational meeting for prospective grantees will be held on
Thursday, August 18, 3:00 to 4:30 pm
CFMC's Conference Room, 2354 Garden Road, Monterey**

PROPOSALS ARE DUE BY 5:00 PM ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

FUNDING DECISIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY LETTER IN LATE NOVEMBER
For questions please contact Julie Drezner at 831.375.9712 or julied@cfmco.org.