



Project W Grant Applications

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Project W?

Founded in 2019, Project W is a women's giving circle committed to enhancing and improving the quality of life for women in Delaware County. As a membership-based organization, the annual membership contributions are pooled together to provide grants to nonprofit organizations whose mission and programs align with that of Project W. Please visit www.projw.org for more information.

What is Project W's grant making model?

- Members join and fund the grant pools with \$500 from each membership.
- Additional donations to the grant pools are added to the total amount of grant funding.
- Applications are considered in one of the four Focus Areas: Education, Family, Health, and Small Grants.
- Grant committee members review applications, score each application using a rubric, conduct site visits and determine one grant awardee in each focus area.
- Finalist organizations are required to attend the Annual Meeting (whether in-person or virtual to be determined) and make a short presentation.

What is the breakdown of the grant award?

Four grants will be awarded. For 2026, a minimum of \$50,000 will be awarded, split among four organizations. The amounts awarded for Education, Family, and Health categories will be equal. The Small Grants award will be substantial, but less than the other focus areas.

How do we get started?

Read these guidelines. If your organization qualifies, you will have until November 21, 2025 to submit your LOI. The Project W Due Diligence Committee and Grants Advisory Board will review the LOIs. Sixteen organizations will be chosen to submit full applications. Notifications about which organizations are moving forward will be made by January 9, 2026.

How do I know which grant program to apply for?

If your organization's annual budget is greater than \$500,000, you may only apply for Family, Education or Health grants, referred to below as the Large Grants program.

If your organization's previous fiscal year's revenue is between \$25,000 - \$500,000, you may apply for the Small Grants program.

An organization may only submit one application.

If my organization is selected to move forward after the LOI, how do I know which focus area to apply for in the Large Grants program?

You have the option to be considered as a first choice and a second choice in two of three focus areas: Education, Family, or Health. We do this to ensure that each grant committee reviews the same number of applications.

Why is there a separate Small Grants application?

We recognize that some organizations may not have professional grant writers at their disposal. Some organizations with smaller budgets may also not have a need for the larger grant to be used in a 12-month period.

What are the funding preferences?

Preferences will be given to applicants that:

- Work with under-served women
- Have the greatest impact on women in Delaware County
- Demonstrate a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access
 - Diversity is achieved by welcoming all people and embracing all the ways that they are different and the same at the individual and group level.
 - Equity is achieved by ensuring the fair and just treatment of all members of a community.
 - Inclusion is achieved by ensuring that all individuals feel that they are treated fairly and respectfully, have equal access to opportunities and resources, and that they are an important part of the whole.
 - Access is achieved by eliminating barriers and thereby allowing any person or group to use resources regardless of their ability status.
- Though not required that organizations be based or exclusively work in Delaware County, preference will be given to Delaware County-based organizations.

We fund organizations that provide access to programs and services in the following focus areas:

- **Education:** The Education Committee seeks to fund organizations that work to develop skills and improve educational outcomes for women, both in and outside of the classroom. Education areas may include (but are not limited to):
 - GED and Post-Secondary Transition Support
 - Literacy and Language Programs
 - Career Education and Training

- Financial Literacy
 - Continuing Education and Personal Enrichment
 - Mentorship Programs
 - Entrepreneurship
- **Health:** The Health Committee seeks to fund organizations that work to improve health, wellbeing, and safety outcomes for women. Health areas may include (but are not limited to):
 - Healthcare access, services and treatment
 - Health Care Advocacy and Education
 - Personal Care Supplies and Support
 - Mental Health
 - Drug and Alcohol Addiction Support (prevention and treatment)
 - Healthy Aging
 - LGBTQ+ Health Care
 - Nutrition and Healthy Food Access
 - Sexual Abuse Support
- **Family:** The Family Committee seeks to fund organizations that work to ensure the stability, security and affordability for women and their households. Family areas may include (but are not limited to):
 - Housing Stability and Security
 - Child/Spouse/Parent Care
 - Food Security/Food Access
 - Parenting Education and Resources
 - Domestic Violence, Prevention, and Intervention
 - Family Health, Wellness and Safety
 - Family Crisis Support
- **Small Grants:** The Small Grants Committee seeks to fund organizations that have smaller budgets or are newly established. Applicants must meet the following criteria.
 - ⌇ Annual revenue in the previous fiscal year: minimum \$25,000; maximum \$500,000. If the organization is a chapter or affiliate of a national organization, the local, independent budget must be within this range.
 - ⌇ Grant request must align with one of the three focus areas (Education, Health and Family)

Who is Eligible?

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must be charitable, tax-exempt organizations with 501(c)3 certification
- Must support charitable activities in Delaware County
- Must be in operation for a minimum of three years
- Churches are not eligible to apply; however, organizations that use church facilities to further the mission of Project W may apply for funding, as long as they are independent 501(c)3 organizations

Project W will not fund:

- Individuals
- For profit organizations
- Religious programs or those promoting religious education
- Programs that attempt to influence legislation or that promote or support a political organization as defined in 26 U.S.C. 527. A 527 is a non-profit organization formed under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code, which grants tax-exempt status to political committees at the national, state, and local level.
- Organizations that do not provide services in Delaware County
- Currently funded Project W grant recipients

If selected to apply, what is the timeline?

- January 9, 2026 – Applications will become available
- February 6, 2026 – Deadline to submit applications
- March – Grant committees' first meeting to review and score applications
- March 20, 2026 – Applicants will be notified if they have progressed to the site visit phase, or if their application has been denied
- April – committee members conduct site visits
- End of April
 - Committees convene their second meetings to discuss site visits and select the grant recipients.
- May 11, 2026 – Grant winners announced
- June 10, 2026 – Annual Meeting and Celebration, Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County, 145 W. Rose Tree Road, Media, PA 19063

I have more questions. Who should I contact?

Email projectw@tcfhelps.org for more information.