



Women United *in* Philanthropy

2026 GRANT GUIDELINES

About Women United in Philanthropy

Women United in Philanthropy (WUIP) is New Jersey's first women's giving circle. Since 2004, we have awarded over \$1,300,000 in grant funds to programs that address chronic problems impacting women and families in Bergen County, NJ. In 2021, Women United in Philanthropy joined forces with Women's Foundation of New Jersey (WFNJ). This merge has expanded our mission to provide needed funding to essential programs that empower women and their families.

Grants awarded by the Women United in Philanthropy giving circle are unique because they consist of funds exclusively contributed by our members. By pooling our philanthropy, we are able to collectively make a larger impact on the lives of women. Our members vote annually to award funds to projects in Bergen County, NJ, that helps women become economically strong and independent.

2026 Funding Availability

For 2026, Women United in Philanthropy will vote to award one or more grants up to a maximum of \$60,000. We encourage the submission of proposals that are mission critical, emphasizing the urgent, at-risk needs of the women you serve. For the 2026 grant cycle, funds may be used for capital, administrative, and general operating support for existing as well as new programs. We recognize that the past two years have seen dramatic funding cuts to non-profit organizations and we seek to address specifically areas where funding has been impacted.

Grant Cycle Timeline

Grant Cycle Opens: February 13, 2026

Proposal deadline: March 13, 2026, at 11:59 PM

If invited, full application deadline: May 7, 2026, at 11:59 PM

Site Visits: May 2026

Award Decision: June 2026



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2026 GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Organizations must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply.

- Organizations should serve women living in Bergen County, New Jersey.
- Requests will only be considered from nonprofit organizations certified as tax exempt under Sections 501(c)(3) or 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and are not classified as a private foundation under Section 509(a). Hospitals, churches, educational institutions meeting these requirements are eligible to apply. Organizations that have completed and filed Form 1023 but have not yet received a determination letter from the IRS are not eligible to apply.
- Allowable expenses include administrative costs, general operating support, or capital requests.

As a general practice, we do not provide funding for:

- Annual funds, galas, or other special-event fundraising activities;
- Debt reduction;
- Dissertations or student research projects;
- Loans, scholarships, fellowships, or grants to individuals
- Sectarian religious activities, political lobbying, or legislative activities;
- Organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, creed, or sexual orientation in policy or in practice.

Please also note that:

- Preference will be given to those proposals that leverage grant funds by expanding an organization's ability to secure itself, its programs, and its funding.
- Collaborative proposals that help to strengthen organizations, such as joint staffing, advocacy, shared space, fundraising expertise, etc., will also be given favorable consideration.
- Organizations may only submit one proposal per year.
- Applicants may request an award up to a maximum of \$60,000.
- Agencies may request funding be paid out in increments over a one- or two-year period to ensure sustained mission critical funding



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2026 APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1: Initial Proposal Submission (Deadline: March 13, 2026)

All interested applicants are invited to submit an initial proposal using the provided template. Once finished, please save the document as a PDF and email it to patricia@womensfoundationnj.org. Please note that hard copies will not be accepted. Initial proposals must be submitted by 11:59 PM on March 13, 2026.

The Grants Committee will thoroughly review all proposals submitted by the deadline. If your agency's proposal is selected to move forward, you will receive a copy of the full application by early April 2026.

Step 2: Full Application Submission (Deadline: May 7, 2026)

Invited applicants must complete the full application and submit it by May 7, 2026 at 11:59 PM. Ensure all necessary documentation is included with your submission.

Step 3: Site Visit (May 2026)

If your application advances to the finalist stage, a member of our Grants Committee will contact you to arrange a site visit. During the visit, committee members will discuss your proposed program in detail and request any necessary clarifications.

Step 4: Member Vote and Grant Award (May 2026)

Finalist's proposals will be shared with the full membership. Finalists may have the opportunity to present to WUIP members in advance of the member's vote in June 2026. By a vote of the membership, WUIP will award one or more grants up to \$60,000.

Questions and Clarifications

If you have questions about the application process or eligibility requirements, don't hesitate to reach out to our Administrator, Patricia Klecanda, at patricia@womensfoundationnj.org.