

OVERVIEW

The Women's Fund of Central Ohio accepts Letters of Intent (LOI) prior to inviting full applications. The LOI is an abbreviated online form where you will describe what you intend to do; how it aligns with our funding priorities; how you are serving women and girls in central Ohio; and how you will influence social change.

A Letter of Intent application is required to be considered for a grant. LOI applications submitted by the deadline that meet the minimum funding criteria will be invited to submit a full application for funding consideration.

Letter of Intent applications must be submitted by Monday, September 28, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

LOI applications must include the following components:

- Complete answers to all application questions.
- Proof of 501(c)(3) status. All funds must be distributed through nonprofit organizations federally determined as 501(c)(3) entities. Applicants without 501(c)(3) status must engage a fiscal agent to administer their grant funds.

[Click here to read the 2021 Grantmaking Guidelines.](#)

[Click here to submit your Letter of Intent application.](#)

The Women's Fund will support new and innovative, as well as established programs. Programs may include single day or multi-day programming, in-person or virtual programming, or initiatives that may not directly serve individuals when focused on outreach or advocacy. We will support operating costs for your program including costs related to child care needs, transportation, or stipends.

Grants will be made in amounts up to \$20,000 for programs that will take place between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021. Funds will be announced in February 2021 and retroactively applicable to January 1, 2021.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

To aid in the Letter of Intent and grant writing process, The Women's Fund will hold grant workshops. These workshops are not mandatory but are recommended and will help to understand The Women's Fund's grantmaking goals, objectives, and process. Workshops will be held the following dates:

- Wednesday, September 9, 2020 from 12:00 - 1:30 PM. [Click here to register.](#)
- Tuesday, September 22, 2020 from 9:30 - 11:00 AM. [Click here to register.](#)

If invited to submit a full application, The Women's Fund team will also provide technical assistance to grant applicants.

LETTER OF INTENT APPLICATION

[Click here](#) to submit your LOI application or visit womensfundcentralohio.org/grants/apply.

Outlined below are the questions in the LOI application. You will be able to edit your online application after submitting, but we recommend considering your answers before beginning the online application. Read the [2021 Grantmaking Guidelines](#) for detailed information on the types of proposals we will consider. LOI applications will be reviewed by staff to ensure that they meet the minimum funding criteria, which includes alignment to our grantmaking philosophy, theory of change, grantmaking priorities, and eligibility.

I. Organizational Information:

- a. Organization name and contact information.
- b. Proof of 501(c)3 status or fiscal agent.
- c. Diversity and equity in leadership: The Women’s Fund of Central Ohio is committed to gender equity and intersectionality. Grant partners must demonstrate that women and people of color are represented within program leadership and on their board of directors (or executive leadership for organizations without a board of directors).
 - i. You will indicate the number for both gender identity representation and racial and ethnic background for your organization's board of directors (or executive leadership) and program leadership.
 - ii. Program leadership can include staff who will be creating the program, staff who will be delivering the program, and/or organizational leaders who will be overseeing the program. This may change depending on the structure of your organization.

II. Program Information:

- a. Indicate if funds will be used for any of the following ineligible organizations or programs: organizations that do not provide a respectful atmosphere for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, transgender, intersex, or asexual; organizations that seek to restrict reproductive rights; programs that promote religious activities and/or belief; political campaigns or promotion of candidates for public office; advancement of capital or endowment campaigns; event sponsorship; scholarships that fund individual students; co-educational programs that do not clearly communicate a specific and unique focus on women and girls.
- b. Total budget for the program.
- c. Amount requested from The Women’s Fund.
- d. Indicate if your program or organization has been previously funded by The Women’s Fund.
- e. Indicate which of these central Ohio counties will be served: Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, Union.
- f. Number of women and/or girls directly and indirectly served by the program.

- g. Indicate which one, two, or three of these strategic priorities this program will address: child care and the benefits cliff, access to contraception, reduction of teen pregnancy via comprehensive, medically accurate sex education, paid leave, pay equity, women running for elected office, advocacy training through voting rights and informed voting, women’s leadership and influence on policy, girls’ leadership, and/or women’s philanthropy.
- h. Indicate which one or two of these social change shifts the program hopes to achieve:
 - i. Shifts in definition: The issue is defined differently in the community or larger society. For example, “going green” becomes a mainstream definition as the result of environmental awareness and action.
 - ii. Shifts in behavior: People behave differently in the community or larger society. For example, people recycle at greater rates and buy energy efficient appliances.
 - iii. Shifts in engagement: People in the community or larger society are more engaged in your issue. For example, people attend talks and information sessions on environmental issues.
 - iv. Shifts in policy: An institutional, organizational, or legislative policy or practice has changed. For example, the local school district enacts a “no idling” policy for school buses.
 - v. Maintaining or holding the line: Earlier progress on the issue has been maintained in the face of opposition. For example, a bill to ease clean water standards is defeated.

III. Program Narrative (each question has a 75-word limit):

- a. Program Summary: Briefly describe the program and program activities.
- b. Gender Lens: Using a gender lens means examining a particular issue with a focus on the real-life conditions of women and girls—and acknowledging that gender is a powerful predictor of experience and opportunity.
What specific and unique needs for women and girls does this program address?
- c. Gender Norms: Gender Norms are the popular and conventional ideas most people have about what it means to “act like” a man or a woman. We tend to learn them from our experiences in family, peer groups, churches, schools, movies, magazines, and the internet, for example. With persistent use, they come to be taken for granted or thought of as “natural” and “just the way things are.”
How does this program address or disrupt rigid gender norms?
- d. Short term social change: Over the next year, how will this program achieve the intended social change shift(s)?
- e. Long term social change: What is the big picture goal the program hopes to ultimately achieve?

DATES AND DEADLINES

Letter of Intent Released	Wednesday September 2, 2020
Grant Workshops	Wednesday, September 9, 2020 from 12:00 - 1:30 PM. Register here. Tuesday, September 22, 2020 from 9:30 - 11:00 AM. Register here.
Letter of Intent Deadline	Monday, September 28, 2020 at 5 PM
Full Grant Application Invitation	Monday, October 12, 2020
Technical Assistance	October 16 through November 13, 2020
Grant Application Due	Friday, November 13, 2020 at 5 PM
Grants Announced	February 2021
Funds Released	Within 30 days of funding announcement and upon receipt of required signed documents