FundforWomen
AT THE DELAWARE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

GRANT APPLICATION ASSISTANCE WORKSHOP

2026 GRANT CYCLE

FundforWomen
AT THE DELAWARE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

OVERVIEW

OUR MISSION

Through collective philanthropy, the Fund for Women invests and advocates by bringing together our knowledge, passion and commitment to empower women and girls to achieve their potential.

Established in 1993 by 16 Founders, there are now more than 2,700 Founders, and an endowment of over $5M

GRANT HISTORY

- 475 GRANTS AWARDED OVER THE PAST 30+ YEARS
- AWARDED MORE THAN $4 MILLION ACROSS DELAWARE
- 2025 GRANTS
  - 93 applications received, totaling over $1,250,000
  - 18 grants awarded, totaling $227,323

2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Boys & Girls Clubs of DE
- Central Delaware Housing Collaborative
- Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition
- Delaware Institute for the Arts in Education
- Fostering Wishes Foundation
- La Esperanza, Inc
- Literacy Delaware
- National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Delaware Chapter
- One Village Alliance
- STEHM INC
- Survivor Ventures
- Vision to Learn
- West End Neighborhood House
- What is your voice
- Wilmington Hope Commission
- YMCA of Delaware
- YWCA Delaware

POST GRANTS CYCLE -REQUESTING FEEDBACK

The announcement of which grants the Fund for Women is able to award is made in May, a few weeks before the FFW Grants Award Ceremony

If you did not receive a grant, and would like feedback as to why, you must reach out to us.

Please use grants@defundforwomen.com and I will be able to provide you with the comments from committee reviewers. – Note that it may take some time to pull this all together.

2026 GRANT CYCLE

Jan. 1 – 31st

Applications accepted online via Grant Portal (Foundant)

February & March

Applications reviewed by Grants Review Committee. Three rounds of reviews

Late March

Successful applicants identified, and submitted to the FFW & DCF Board of Trustees for approval

Mid-April

Successful applicants will be notified. All applicants will be able to request reviewer comments.

May

Grant Awards Ceremony

GRANT APPLICATION CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES

Applications must:

- Address the needs of Delaware women and/or girls
- Have proof of the Agency's exempt status under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code
- Include a detailed description of the *project budget*, and the organization's budget – see later slide for examples & more info.
- Be received in our Foundant system by Midnight on January 31, 2025.
- All 2025 grant recipients, must be current on their grant mid-year follow up reports before submitting an application for 2026

Note that if your organization has received grants in 2023, 2024 & 2025 from the FFW we ask that you wait a year before submitting an application in 2026.

GRANT APPLICATIONS TO BE EXCLUDED

If any of the following apply:

- Funding request is for an individual, or potentially could only be used for only 1 person
- Organization does not have 501(c)3 status
- Funding request is for capital
- Funding is for debt reduction
- Project is for an endowment campaign
- Request for funding exceeds $15,000
- Agency has received a grant for the prior 3 years to this grant.
- Agency received a prior FFW grant and failed to submit a timely final grant evaluation of the project

RATING CRITERIA

- The Fund for Women focuses its grant-making on programs relating to:
  - Health, wellness and life skills that lead to future economic self-sufficiency for girls and women in Delaware

- Many programs that could lead to future economic self-sufficiency, include:
  - Arts, sports, mentoring, education, food, financial literacy, clothing, jobs training, etc.

- Remember our mission: “To empower women and girls to achieve their potential”

GRANT READERS ARE LOOKING FOR:

- Overall value
- Proposal is clear, organized and complete
- Identified source for participants in the project
- Collaboration/Leveraging (with other entities)
- Innovation/Creativity/Uniqueness
- Number of women/girls impacted
- County/Counties served

GRANT READERS ARE LOOKING FOR:

- Need and value of program and its services offered
- Clear goals and measurable objectives
- Plan to objectively measure results
- Clear description of project needs and how it will impact the lives of recipients
- Reasonable allocation of resources
- Sound methodologies
- Plan for staffing the project

ORGANIZATION/CONTACT INFORMATION

- ORGANIZATION NAME/ADDRESS/PHONE/WEBSITE
- WHAT YEAR WAS YOUR ORGANIZATION FOUNDED?
- EIN
- PERCENTAGE OF BOARD MEMBERS WHO DONATE TO THE ORGANIZATION
- CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THREE DIFFERENT PEOPLE
    - *Executive Director*
    - *Project Leader*
    - *Third contact*

PROJECT FOCUS & OVERVIEW

- PROJECT NAME
- PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

  1-2 sentences, describe the project with detail, including who will manage the project and be accountable for its results
- FUNDING AMOUNT YOU ARE REQUESTING (MAXIMUM OF $15,000)

  Funding is for one year, no multiple year grants
- WHAT IS THE NEED YOU EXPECT TO FILL WITH THIS PROJECT?
  - Why are you doing this?
  - What need does this project address? You can use data to back up the need.
  - How will the project meet the need?
  - What are the longer term outcomes for women and girls?

PROJECT FOCUS & OVERVIEW

- EXPLAIN HOW YOUR PROJECT WILL EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL.

- DESCRIBE YOUR TARGET POPULATION

  Include how you intend to recruit them and a timeline for recruitment

- MEASURES OF SUCCESS - GOALS
- HOW WILL YOU MEASURE SUCCESS

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- How will you measure success and how will you know if the project has been successful? Be specific about your goals. Include the data that will be collected, major milestones where measurement will be taken and timeline for data collection.

- Describe how the project will be sustainable over the next 5 years.

I have been struck again and again by how important measurement is to improving the human condition. - Bill Gates

EXAMPLES – MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Have a goal and measure against that goal

Multiple measures are helpful. For example -

Temporary housing program – number / of women moving to permanent housing and

Financial literacy – reducing debt / creating a budget / savings increase / credit score increase

Counseling / education – use surveys before & after, quantify emotional goals, use industry metrics

COLLABORATION

- INDICATE ANY COLLABORATORS AND THE EXPECTED BENEFIT OR THE ROLE THEY WILL PLAY
  - Are you working with any other organizations?
  - The government? Corporations? Non-Profits?
  - Churches? Synagogues? Mosques?

- WE ASK THAT YOU INCLUDE A LETTER (ON THEIR LETTERHEAD) FROM THE COLLABORATING ORGANIZATION CONFIRMING THAT THEY WILL BE ASSISTING WITH THE PROJECT

PRIMARY FOCUS AREA

- PROJECT PRIMARY FOCUS AREA:

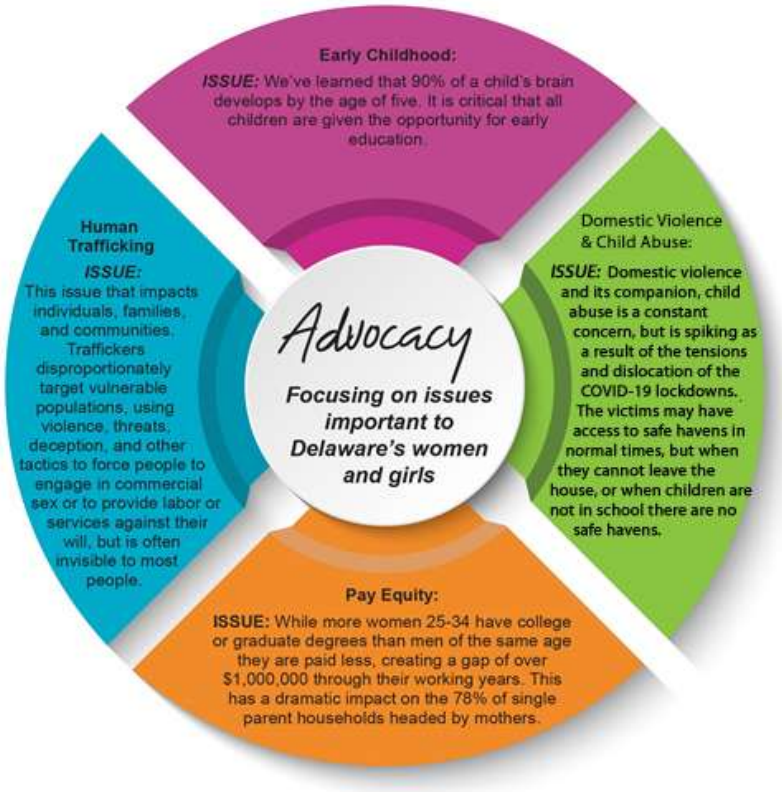
Pick (choose all that are applicable)

- ☐ Housing/Homelessness/Safety
- ☐ Healthcare/Nutrition
- ☐ Education/Career Training/Life Skills
- ☐ Economic Advancement/Civic Engagement
- ☐ Recovery/Self-sufficiency/Domestic Violence/Human Trafficking

ADVOCACY CONNECTION:

- FFW Advocacy Alignment: this will not impact your request; we are using this to keep our advocacy group connected with the grant requests we are seeing

[FFW Advocacy Focus Areas]



PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

- TOTAL # OF INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL DIRECTLY BENEFIT
- WHAT % OF THE TOTAL INDIVIDUALS BENEFITING FROM THIS PROJECT WILL BE WOMEN AND GIRLS?
- HOW DOES INCLUDING MALES IN THE PROJECT ALSO BENEFIT WOMEN AND GIRLS?
- **PROJECT** SERVICE AREA:
  New Castle County
  Kent County
  Sussex County

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION:

- There is a section towards the end of the application, asking for questions about your organization, and your efforts around DEI
- This information will not impact your chances for an award, the reviewers will not see this information.
- We are hoping that by asking this information, it will prompt your organization to begin these conversations and tracking if you have not already done so.
- It will also give FFW a baseline on where we stand with grantee organizations and help us determine how we can be the most equitable in our granting.

FINANCIALS

- FINANCIAL STATEMENT
  - Statement of Revenue page of your 990 part VIII for both 2023/2024
  - Accounting records showing the board approved budget and actuals
- CURRENT OPERATING BUDGET
- PROJECT BUDGET
  - Clearly and specifically itemize the costs that will be covered by a Fund for Women Grant –

Item	Cost	$ from FFW	$ expected from other external sources	$ to come from your Operating Budget
TOTAL:				

EXAMPLE PROJECT BUDGET

This is an example. If you have a clear project budget that you are using, that is fine to submit.

Item	Cost	From FFW	From other sources	From operating budget
Project coordinator - $25 per hr, 4 hrs per week, 12 weeks	$1200	$1200		
Supplies – sports equipment	$8000	$2000		$6000
Cost to purchase workbooks	$1400	$1400		
Advertising	$1650	$250	$1400	
Evaluations – 10 hours	$2500	$2500		
Space (2% of overall cost)	$3700			$3700
totals	$18,450	$7350	$1400	$9700

Financial Statements are attachments in the grant portal. They must be either a word or excel document in order to be accepted by the Foundant grant portal.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/PROCESS:

- ATTACHMENTS
  - We have added a chance for you to attach a short video talking about the importance of your program and why you should receive funding. Please keep it less than 2 minutes. This is optional
  - Optional upload of any additional items, pictures, powerpoint, ect.

- PAYMENT PROCESSING
  - Authorization of Payment
  - Bank Details
  - Agreement with Direct Deposit

RUBRIC

Criteria	Does not meet Criteria Score – 1/2	Somewhat meets Criteria Score - 3	Fully Meets Criteria Score – 4/5
Clear and compelling case is given for the need addressed by the project. Data provided to support the project need.	• No or little explanation of need • Mismatch between the stated need and the program • No context provided to explain why the need exists	• Need is explained only • Match between the need and program is evident • Context is provided to explain why the need exists	• Comprehensive description that the program addresses the need • Is holistic in its approach in tackling the identified need • Demonstrates a clear structured collaboration with other agencies to provide support • Only program available to meet the identified need in the area/community
Empowers Women and/or Girls to exceed or excel.	• Does not describe how women/girls are supported/helped/empowered • Activities seem more social than transformative • A one-time event with little or no explanation as to how this event impacts women & girls • No direct contact with target population • Provides positive impact now but it's not sustainable	• Describes how women/girls are supported/helped in general terms • Serves as a connector to other services through referrals • Does not clearly describe how it's sustainable • Benefits males and doesn't clearly explain how the presence of males will benefit women and girls	• Transformative for women/girls or helps them become independent of further support • Provides life-changing learning opportunities (work/life skills) or resources to help them move forward • Provides relief for those in crisis • Is sustainable, even after the grant is completed.
Target Population is clearly defined and realistic.	• No clear description of the targeted population, or, seems to be primarily serving males • Number of women/girls is unrealistic based on the budget • No or unclear description about recruitment or access to the program	• Description of the target population indicates the program serves women/girls and males • Number of women/girls seems realistic based on the budget • The process for recruitment and for access to the program is included but more explanation would be helpful	• Description of targeted population is clear • Number is clearly realistic based on history. For newly developed programs with no history, provides context for target population to be served • Outlines a realistic process to identify and recruit the population and clearly explains how the population will access the program

RUBRIC

Criteria	Does not meet Criteria Score – 1/2	Somewhat meets Criteria Score - 3	Fully Meets Criteria Score – 4/5
Measures of success are clear, realistic and measurable. Milestones and timelines are reasonable.	• Program goals/outcomes are not included (little or no description of success) • Data to be collected and timeline are not described • Method(s) of measurement are not included • Expectations regarding success are unrealistic • Describes what the project/program DOES versus its IMPACT • Success is defined but little or no details on how goals will be met or the program's impact upon women and girls	• Describes anticipated outcomes/goals of success • A basic description of data collected, and timeline of implementation is provided • Method(s) of measurement is/are included but not detailed enough for post grant tracking • Expectations regarding success seem realistic • Success is defined with some detail on how goals will be met or the program's impact upon women and girls	• Realistic, measurable, clearly described outcomes/goals. • Supported with sound method(s) of reliable qualitative and/or quantitative measurement • Program implementation is clearly outlined with milestones and timelines • Long term impact and sustainability is described
Project Budget	• Did not follow instructions • No clear link between requested funds and program and/or the budget seems unrealistic • Numbers don't add up	• Some link between requested funds and program outcomes /activities • Budget is mostly realistic • Numbers add up	• Clear link between requested amount and the project outcomes • Realistic expense levels relative to the targeted population and program parameters

Criteria	**Meets or partially meets the criteria**	**Does not meet criteria**
Was the 990 Statement of Revenue Page for 2023 & 24 included? Or the 990EZ form? Cannot accept 990N Board approved budget & actuals – 2 years, if organization is old enough, 1 year if that is how long the organization has been in existence	Yes 1	No - 0
If collaboration is included, did it include a letter on all collaborators letterhead?	Yes 0	No subtract 0.6
Does the board of the organization donate to the organization?	>90% - 1 between51% - 89% - 0.6 <50% - 0	Didn't answer - 0

Because Foundant requires whole numbers, sums will be rounded to 0, 1, 2

ADMINISTRATIVE (Objective) RUBRIC

Criteria	Meets or partially meets the criteria	Does not meet criteria
Was the 990 Statement of Revenue Page for 2023 & 24 included? Or the 990EZ form? Cannot accept 990N Board approved budget & actuals – 2 years, if organization is old enough, 1 year if that is how long the organization has been in existence	Yes 1	No - 0
If collaboration is included, did it include a letter on all collaborators letterhead?	Yes 0	No subtract 0.6
Does the board of the organization donate to the organization?	>90% - 1 between51% - 89% - 0.6 <50% - 0	Didn't answer - 0

A subset of the Grants committee will evaluate these criteria. Because Foundant requires whole numbers, sums will be rounded to 0, 1, 2

NEW FOR 2026 – PILOT PROJECT

We recognize that not every organization has professional grant writers. Our goal is to empower your organization to not only improve your FFW grant application, but all grant applications.

Focus: Review applications for measures of success and budgets.

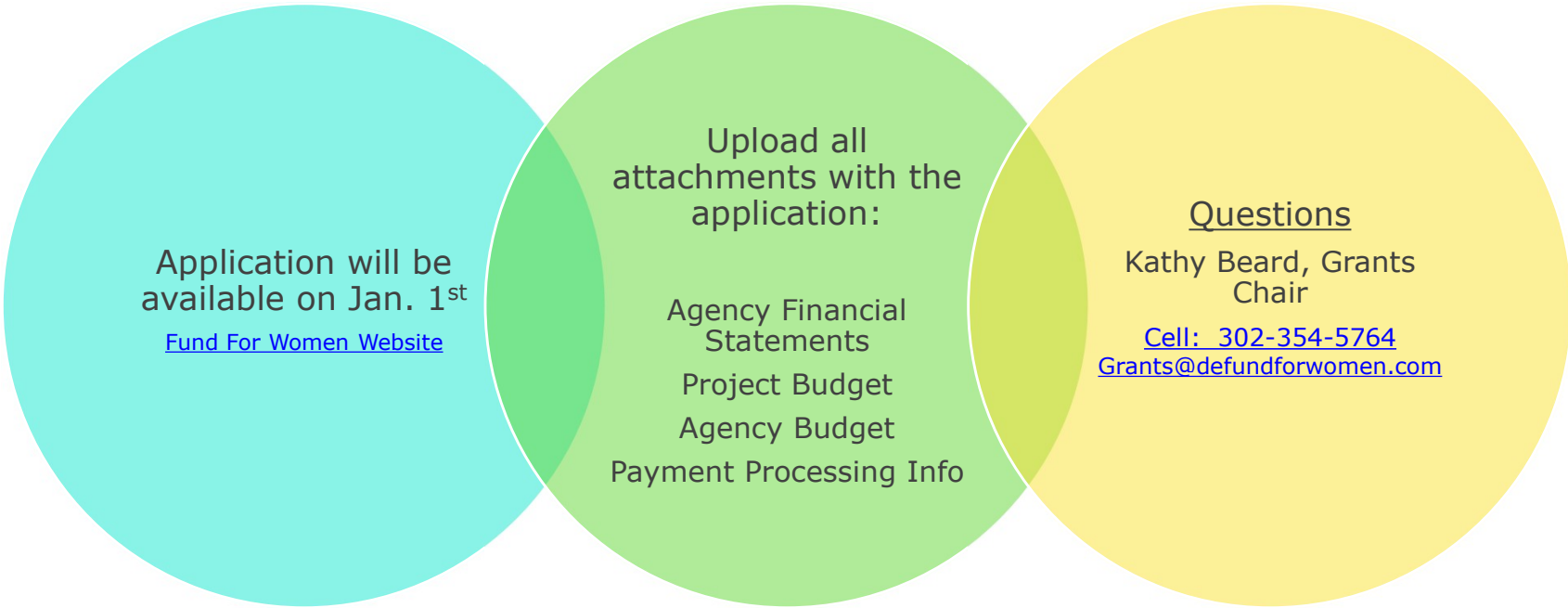
Criteria: Organization has not had a grant from FFW in the last 6 years AND that they request the review by January 10th by submitting your (draft) application into Foundant by that date

Lynn Evans – volunteered to assist with these reviews. She is not scoring grants.

I will supply a word document version of the application if you want to submit a draft to the grants email before Foundant goes live on January 1st.

As always, questions & concerns can be emailed to the grants mailbox: grants@defundforwomen.com

SUBMISSION PROCESS



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