

Grant Application Overview

The grantmaking philosophy of the Women's Fund of Mississippi is to effect social change through efforts that address the root causes of a social problem and/or explore new approaches to solving an issue. We are interested in funding efforts that go beyond providing direct service to efforts that create lasting change in our communities and our state. Our grantmaking priorities are based on the strategic goals of the Women's Fund of Mississippi (WFM). All successful applicants must be able to affirm the philosophy and priorities of WFM in **women's economic security** or in one or more of the following areas:

*Improving
Early Childhood Care
and Education*

- Increase access to affordable child care for working families
- Promote healthy prenatal care for pregnant women, therefore enhancing the development of very young children
- Improve the academic achievement of young children and their parents through early childhood education and parenting education
- Ensure a coordinated and comprehensive system of early intervention services for infants, toddlers and their families
- Advocate for a more effective, affordable, publicly-financed child care system meeting the needs of working women and families
- Research/Data collection to support above listed activities

*Preventing
Teen
Pregnancy*

- Decrease rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), with a focus on low-income teens
- Increase access to reproductive health and maternal health services
- Provide advocacy on the need for evidenced-based, age appropriate, medically accurate sex education in Mississippi schools
- Research/Data collection to support above listed activities

*Preventing
Violence
Against Women*

- Reframe domestic violence as a community problem, not a family problem
- Engage men in decreasing violence against women
- Outreach to immigrant women
- Provide evidence-based prevention programs
- Advocate for stronger domestic violence-related laws and penalties
- Research/Data collection to support above listed activities

*Interceding
for Vulnerable
Children**

- Increase access to high quality, developmentally appropriate, safe child care
- Increase access to services for children with severe developmental and behavioral disorders
- Create high quality, effective initiatives that link the education and health sectors to improve child health and increase school success for young children
- Research/Data collection to support above listed activities

* *Vulnerable Children* is defined as children, prenatal through 6th grade, who are eligible for any type of public assistance.

Eligibility: WFM will make grants to programs/initiatives that foster **economic security** for the women of Mississippi and also support organizations conducting social change advocacy efforts within the above focus areas. Eligible applicants must be non-profit organizations, working primarily in the State of Mississippi, that are federally determined as 501(c)(3) entities as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and *not* classified as a private foundation under Section 509(a).

The Women's Fund of Mississippi does *NOT* support the following:

- Individuals and scholarships
- Grants for long-term operational costs
- Religious or evangelical activities
- For-profit organizations
- Organizations outside of the United States
- Organizations with a focus outside of Mississippi
- Organizations lacking a focus on women and girls
- Organizations lacking diversity in their Board and Staff will be less competitive
- Direct service projects will be less competitive

Our Investment: With an average grant size of \$12,000-\$15,000, it is highly unusual for WFM to make grants larger than \$20,000. All funds are to be used to carry out the program effort or initiative as defined in the grant proposal. The Women's Fund considers support for program/initiative operating costs and supports start-up as well as established programs.

Your Investment: The Women's Fund of Mississippi is seeking to work in partnership with its grantees to promote women and girl's success across Mississippi. We expect that the investment of our grant funds will be matched by the recipients' investment of time, and other resources. We expect grantees to participate in our online evaluation program, *Making the Case*, which includes a 12-month report to evaluate project progress.

Grant Application Guidelines

The Women's Fund of Mississippi has a layered grant application process, which starts with your organization submitting a *Concept Brief*. Applicants approved at this level will then be asked to provide a full *Proposal* for consideration by the grants committee.

STEPS TO TAKE

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Step 1: Prepare & Submit Concept Brief

- Visit our website at www.womensfundms.org to review case studies of previous grant recipients and to download a *Concept Brief* form.
- As soon as possible, contact us (601-326-0701) to brainstorm your project concept, as we have found greater success with those applicants who sought feedback before formally submitting *Concept Briefs*.
- Follow instructions in generating and submitting the 4-page form (cover sheet plus parts A, B, and C).

Concept Briefs accepted

July 1 - August 31, 2011

BY FAX: 601-326-0702

BY MAIL OR HAND-DELIVERY:
 Women's Fund of Mississippi
 120 N. Congress St., Suite 903
 Jackson, MS 39201

BY EMAIL:

jamie@womensfundms.org

Step 2: Wait for Request for Proposal

- Applicants with accepted *Concept Briefs* will receive a *Request for Proposal* outlining requirements.
- Applicants are encouraged to further discuss details of their project with WFM staff before formally submitting a *Proposal*.

Requests for Proposals are sent out to select applicants

September 19, 2011

Step 3: Prepare & Submit Proposal

- *Proposals* include a 6-8 page narrative regarding your organization, the purpose of your grant application, evaluation methodology, budget, and other support materials.
- Completed *Proposals* must be submitted in a set of 8 duplicate copies
- *Proposals* fulfilling more than one WFM *Priority Area*, must provide an additional set of 8 duplicate copies for each applicable *Area*.

Proposals are due

October 27, 2011

BY MAIL OR HAND-DELIVERY:
 Women's Fund of Mississippi
 120 N. Congress St., Suite 903
 Jackson, MS 39201

Step 4: Wait for Funding Decisions

- Applicants with accepted *Proposals* will be notified

Applicants with accepted *Proposals* will be notified by

December 15, 2011