



2026 Women to Women Grant Information Sheet

DESCRIPTION

For 2026, the Women to Women Giving Circle's grant focus on programs offering assistance/solutions for women and children facing insecurities with housing, food, transportation and/or childcare.

- The total amount available to grant to ALL programs is \$60,000; historically, multiple grants are awarded and range from \$5,000-\$20,000
- Applications open **September 1, 2025**; Submission deadline is 5:00 (Central) **September 30, 2025**. The online grant system automatically closes applications at 5 p.m. Monday, September 30, 2025, whether they are in progress or not

REQUIREMENTS

Grant Eligibility

- Program must address the grant focus; funding may support a new or existing program
- Grant funding is for the period of **February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027**; programs seeking funding must occur during that timeframe
- Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to collaborate with at least one other organization for a common program; applicant will act as the lead organization for program
- Applicants must have tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, operate under a fiscal agent that is a 501(c)(3) organization, or be a local unit of local, county, state or federal government. Faith-based organizations may apply for funding provided the program is non-sectarian and available to the community at large.
- Women to Women will fund programs for **up to two** consecutive grant cycles (funding is not guaranteed in second year); after that, program should have the ability to become self-funded or find alternate funding sources
- Program must be available to residents of McLean, DeWitt, Livingston or Logan counties; however, programs do not have to serve all four counties
- Program must be operated and organized in such a manner that no applicable anti-discrimination laws are violated
- Organizations that have received past Women to Women or Illinois Prairie Community Foundation grants must be current on Final Reports
- Executive Director, CEO or President of the Board of lead organization applying must approve the application

Criteria Given Greatest Consideration

- Has potential to be on-going and self-sufficient beyond the time of funding
- Promotes systemic change, increases range of options for women and children, and fosters self-sufficiency
- Is an existing program that is results-driven or is a new program that offers creative and innovative solutions to address the focus issue by building on proven practical methods
- Facilitates cooperation and collaboration among organizations so as to avoid duplication of services
- Utilizes clear methods of measuring and reporting results
- Has the potential for obtaining matching funds or additional grant money (a bonus, but not an expectation)

What Is Not Funded

- Non program-related expenses
- Endowment campaigns
- Annual fundraising events and expenses
- Conference expenses
- Scholarships

Other Expectations

- Finalists will be asked to make a 10-minute oral presentation to the Grants Committee and other Women to Women members in mid-November (date and location TBD). The person responsible for managing the program (along with other relevant staff members or volunteers) should make the presentation.
- A representative of the organization and one or two participants of the program, if feasible, will be invited to speak at the Women to Women Summer Celebration in **June 2026**.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **September 1, 2025** – Application window opens for Women to Women grants
- **September 30, 2025** – Applications due at 5:00 p.m. (Central); no applications will be accepted after that time
- **Early November 2025** – Applicants notified of their status
- **Late November/early December 2025** – Oral presentations by finalists (details to be determined)
- **Early January 2026** – Finalists notified of the Grants Committee’s and IPCF Board of Directors’ decisions

Grant funds will be distributed during the month of January 2026, upon receipt of the completed Grant Agreement from successful applicants.

We regret that not all projects can be funded. A denial should not be viewed as a negative reflection on an organization, but rather a reflection on the number of applications received and the amount of funding available.

Grant funds must be expended by **January 31, 2027**. A grant Final Report must be completed and submitted by **February 28, 2027**, or within one month of grant program completion, whichever is soonest. If extenuating circumstances prevent the completion of the grant within the specified period, Illinois Prairie Community Foundation must be notified as soon as these circumstances are known, but no later than one month before the deadline. We will try to accommodate reasonable requests for an extension.

Grant recipients are required to complete a Final Report through our online grant application portal. Failure to submit a Final Report will result in grantee's ineligibility for future grants from Women to Women and Illinois Prairie Community Foundation.

ONLINE GRANT PORTAL INFO

To begin the online grant application, go to

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=ipcf>. After logging in or creating a new account, you will be directed to an Apply page showing all open grant applications for the fall grant cycle. Click on the Women to Women Giving Circle Grant application to begin.

Log in to the online grant portal to start an application, finish a previously started and saved application, check the status of a previous application or complete follow-up reports assigned for successful grantees.

Questions? Contact Michele Evans, Vice President (Programs), Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, 309-662-4477 or mevans@ilpcf.org.