

Women’s Fund Grants

Supporting organizations improving the lives of women and girls in Black Hawk County

Grant Guidelines

Women’s Fund – 2026

SNAPSHOT		
APPLICATION OPENS	May 15, 2026	This document provides the necessary details about this specific grant opportunity, including deadlines and eligibility requirements. For information about accessing the online grants management site, tips on grant writing, and more, visit the Grantseeker Resources section of our website (www.cfneia.org). If you have any additional questions, please contact Director of Community Impact Sherita Jenkins at 319-243-1356 or sjenkins@cfneia.org .
APPLICATION DEADLINE	July 15, 2026, at 5:00pm	

About the Women’s Fund

The Women's Fund is a permanent endowment fund established within the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa in 1999. Women’s Fund grants are used to support organizations and programs benefiting women and girls in Black Hawk County. The members of Women for Good, a leadership initiative of the Community Foundation promoting the intellectual and economic growth of women, advise the grants from the Women’s Fund each year.

What We Support

The Women’s Fund supports organizations and programs addressing issues that lead to long-term change for Black Hawk County women and girls. This grant opportunity provides funding in the following focus areas:

Education and Literacy

Organizations and programs providing education and literacy to all ages that enhance the leadership, cognitive, and/or knowledge skills of women and girls. Educational opportunities for girls and women to learn and experience things that will expand skills leading to long-term economic, personal, and career development.

Health and Healthcare

Organizations and programs that concentrate on identifying and addressing healthcare issues specific to women and girls. Organizations that offer specialized programs addressing the mental, emotional, and/or physical health for women and girls.

Poverty and Homelessness

Organizations and programs that address the unique challenges for women and girls dealing with poverty and homelessness. Programming that provides concrete assistance in obtaining housing, moving out of poverty, and creating long-term solutions to these issues.

Violence and Safety

Organizations and programs that focus on the safety of women and girls within their community, homes, and schools. Violence prevention efforts include educating on the individual, institutional, and societal level through specific programming and advocacy strategies.

Eligibility to Apply for Funding

Organizations must provide benefits to women and girls of Black Hawk County **and** must meet the following criteria to apply for a grant:

- Be classified as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or be a government entity. Tax-exempt organizations classified as *other* than 501(c)(3) are also eligible **if, and only if**, the request is deemed charitable; please contact our office to discuss the request's eligibility prior to submitting a proposal. Organizations with fiscal sponsors are eligible.
- Be current with all state and federal reporting requirements, such as filing of 990 forms.
- Must not have any past due grant reports for previous Women's Fund grants.

Restrictions

- **Public and private schools and school districts** may apply, but the Foundation will not fund capital improvements, salaries, or technology/equipment requests. Priority will be given to requests for innovative, replicable programs.
- Organizations may only submit one proposal annually.
- If awarded, **grants must be expended within Black Hawk County**. Administrative or other fees paid to a parent organization are not eligible budget expenses.
- Request minimum is \$5,000 and maximum is \$20,000.
- Inherently religious activities such as religious worship, instruction, or proselytization or activities that promote specific religious doctrine are not eligible.
- Requests for funds to be re-granted (pass-through funds) by the applicant are not eligible.
- Requests for programmatic scholarships are eligible.
- Requests for operational or programming support from other foundations or funders are not eligible. This does not apply to fiscal sponsorships.
- The Women's Fund currently does not accept requests for **capital campaigns**.
- **Late, incomplete, or hard copy applications will not be considered**. Incomplete applications are those that are in DRAFT mode at the time of the application deadline.

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed and scored on the following elements:

- **Organization** – The overall health and reputation of the organization and how the application reflects the organization's capability for success.
- **Feasibility** – The probability of success, including the organization's level of staff/volunteers and collaboration with community partners.
- **Community Need and Outcomes** – The need in the community and how the proposed outcomes impact Black Hawk County women and girls.
- **Budget** – The details and clarity of the budget and the ability to secure and/or leverage other funding sources, including in-kind services.

Funding Priorities

The Women's Fund Committee prioritizes grant requests according to the following criteria:

- Requests that address barriers to racial equity and/or work to reverse the systems of racism for women and girls in Black Hawk County.
- Requests that address a critical and urgent need by fostering a solution-based approach.
- Requests for effective programming focused on creating significant and direct impact to women and girls in Black Hawk County.
- Requests that show innovative approaches to advancing women’s and girls’ growth and success.
- Requests that show other funding and/or community support or that will use this grant to leverage additional funding support.

How to Apply

Applicants interested in seeking grants from the Community Foundation should fully review these grant guidelines prior to submitting an application to ensure all eligibility requirements are met. Applications must be submitted through the foundation’s online grant management system, which can be located in the grant opportunity section of www.cfneia.org. Also located on the website are helpful resources for logging in and navigating the online grants system.

Important Dates

- **The grant application deadline is 5:00 pm on July 15, 2026. Support for applicants will be available until 5:00pm on July 14th.**
- All applicants will be notified of the results of the grant decisions in mid-September 2026.
- 2026 grantees are invited to the Women for Good Holiday Social on December 12, 2026.
- Grant Reports, for successful proposals, will be due by **October 31, 2026**.

Grant Conditions

Awarded applicants are required to:

- Sign a Terms of Grant agreement which clarifies legal parameters for use of the grant.
- Submit a Grant Report to show the results and that all the funds have been spent as intended. (If additional time is needed, the Community Foundation will consider a request to extend the Grant Report deadline.)

Questions

Organizations interested in applying are advised to contact Director of Community Impact, Sherita Jenkins, (319-243-1356 or sjenkins@cfneia.org) with specific questions on submission procedures or eligibility.