



An initiative of The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina

Frequently Asked Questions

Membership

1. Is *Women for Women* a nonprofit?

No. *Women for Women* is not an independent organization. It is an initiative of The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina (CFWNC), which is a 501c3. Because CFWNC is a nonprofit, membership gifts are 100% tax-deductible.

2. Does WFW have less expensive, junior memberships available?

No. All members contribute equally - \$1,100 per year. This allows us to effectively manage our administrative and grant budgets.

3. Can my partner and I share a membership?

No. Because each member has a vote, memberships can't be shared.

4. Can I sponsor a friend or family member's membership?

Yes. As long as the \$1,100 membership is paid in full, you can pay for as many women's memberships as you'd like.

5. What are the benefits of membership?

- Learn about regional issues impacting women and girls
- Make meaningful friendships and build professional connections by attending our meetings and social events
- Join a Committee that fits your interest: Advocacy & Education, Grants, or Membership & Communications
- Vote to decide which organizations receive grant funding
- Receive updates on grantees and learn how your gift was put to good use

6. Are members required to volunteer for a committee?

No. Your participation beyond your generous contribution is totally flexible and determined by your interest level and availability.

7. I can't join now, but I'd like to support your work. Can I make a donation?

Yes. There are two options:

- The [Women for Women Endowment Fund](#) will provide a revenue stream for the giving circle's operations and ensure our future financial sustainability. The Fund helps protect our finances from fluctuations in membership and supports our long-term growth.
- The [Women's Fund](#) is a CFWNC endowment that addresses the unmet needs of women and girls. Spendable income is granted through the WFW grant program.

Tax-deductible gifts of any size are appreciated and make a difference.

Grants

1. How do you decide which organizations receive grant funding from *Women for Women*?

The WFW Grants Committee uses the following process and timeline to select grant recipients:

- *October*: Organizations throughout the region submit a Letter of Intent (LOI).
- *November*: After reviewing and ranking each LOI, the Committee votes to select organizations invited to complete a full application.
- *January*: The Committee reviews and ranks each application. They then vote to decide which organizations will receive a site visit.
- *February – March*: Grants Committee members work in small groups to conduct site visits to selected organizations and report on their visits to the full Committee. The Grants Committee then votes to determine which organizations will move forward to the ballot, which is presented to the full WFW membership.
- *April*: WFW members receive a summary of each proposal on the ballot and vote online or at the Spring Gathering.
- *May*: After reviewing the membership votes, the Grants Committee determines final award amounts for each grant recipient. Grantees are announced at CFWNC's Power of the Purse®.

2. How do you determine your funding focus area?

A subcommittee of the Grants Committee researches issues impacting women and girls in our region. They review information from nationwide and state women's funding organizations (Ex: NC Status of Women Report) and interview local community leaders. They present a list of the highest priority topics, along with a summary of each topic, to the membership for their vote.

WFW will fund projects in the current focus area, Facilitation of Safe Living and Work Environments for Women and Girls, through 2020.

3. How do I know my membership gift gets put to good use?

All WFW grantees submit 6 month and final grant reports detailing the success of their project. Summaries of these interim reports are shared with members in the quarterly WFW Enews. Additionally, WFW members are encouraged to like and follow the [WFW Facebook page](#) for grantee updates. Lastly, past grantees are often invited to speak about their projects at our Brown Bag Lunch & Learn programs and our fall membership meeting.