



Women's Fund of Long Island

1740 Old Jericho Turnpike, Jericho, NY 11753

www.womensfundli.org

516-396-9857 Ext. 9

Email : grants@womensfundli.org

2012

Social Change Grants Request for Proposals

Our Mission

The Women's Fund of Long Island invests in the power of women and the dreams of girls.

Our Vision

Our vision is a world of justice and opportunity for women and girls, where we serve as the primary decision makers about the issues that affect us, have equal voices in the political process, are paid equitably for work, and live in homes and communities without fear of violence.

Social Change Grantmaking

Social change grantmaking is one strategy the Women's Fund of Long Island uses to advance equity and social justice for women and girls. Over the past 17 years, our Women's Fund has harnessed the collective power of Long Island women to make over \$1.5 million in grants to hundreds of non-profits serving Nassau and Suffolk counties. These individual grants, as a group and over time, have helped create the conditions for long-term social change right here on Long Island. Our 2012 grantmaking program will continue this tradition and more concretely address how nonprofit programs run for and by women can be the driving force behind greater equity and empowerment at the broader system level while also improving individual lives.



Five Indicators of Social Change

The Women's Fund of Long Island believes that social change occurs in a variety of ways. We believe that social change is most recognizable and easiest to track and measure when it is categorized as one of the five key indicators below:

- 1. A Shift in Definition or Reframing of Issues:** The issue is defined differently in the community or larger society.
- 2. A Shift in Individual or Community Behavior:** People are behaving differently in the community or larger society.
- 3. A Shift in Engagement::** People in the community or larger society are more engaged. Critical mass has been reached.
- 4. A Shift in Policy:** An institutional, organizational, or legislative policy or practice has changed.
- 5. Maintaining Past Gains:** Past gains have been maintained, generally in the face of opposition.

Examples of Past Social Change Grants

We support ideas and fund projects that change attitudes and addresses systemic discrimination, break down barriers that prevent equity and promote positive public policy to ensure the economic, physical and emotional well-being of women and girls of all ages.

● **A Shift in Definition or Reframing of Issues:** Child Abuse Prevention Services helped shift the issue of “bullying” from a boy-focused problem of physical violence to “relational aggression,” the form that girls’ bullying typically takes.

● **A Shift in Individual or Community Behavior:** The North Fork Spanish Apostolate provided home visits and parenting workshops to immigrant Mixteco mothers to shift parenting behavior in individual families and at the community level.

● **A Shift in Engagement::** The Siena Women’s Center at Molloy College developed a Young Women’s Leadership Initiative to more fully engage college women in their understanding of women’s rights by focusing on the past, present, and future of feminism.

● **A Shift in Policy:** The Center for Science Teaching and Learning is conducting research examining inequities in science education between men and women, based on their own summer science workshops, to help policymakers and advocates address these inequities through policy change.

● **Maintaining Past Gains:** The Workplace Project advocates for the Unity Housecleaners Cooperative by educating employers and prospective employees about the Nassau County Domestic Worker Bill of Rights and provides training on compliance with current policy.



Funding Eligibility

We encourage **collaborative efforts**.

Priority will be given to organizations or groups in which **women are the primary decision makers**.

Priority will be given to **smaller, grassroots organizations** with limited access to other donors. Larger organizations may apply for start-up program grants, but may not apply for general operating support. **No general operating support will be provided to agencies with budgets over \$350,000.**

We encourage organizations that have not been previously funded by the Women's Fund of Long Island to apply. Organizations may receive funds for 3 consecutive years, and then must take 2 years off before applying again.

Formal 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organizations, as well as informal groups of women or emerging grassroots organizations that would be able to secure the cooperation of a 501(c)(3) organization willing to serve as fiscal agent are eligible to apply for funding. In some instances, 501(c)(4) organizations are eligible, exclusive of electoral activities.

The Fund will **not** support individuals requesting funding for college tuition or in need of economic support, religious organizations for religious purposes, or programs and projects outside of Nassau & Suffolk counties.

Funding Priorities 2012

The Women's Fund of Long Island supports programs that improve the lives of women and girls on Long Island. Here are the specific areas we are looking to fund this year:

Economic Opportunity & Financial Stability:

job skills development and training; workforce and economic development support for women (e.g. access to education, childcare, healthcare, housing, and transportation); career planning and development in the higher-paying non-traditional employment fields of science, technology, engineering, math, the trades, and other "green" jobs; financial literacy programs and efforts to respond to the economic needs of women and girls of all ages (e.g. poverty prevention, career development and addressing issues that affect the aging female population).

Gender Equality & Women's Rights:

anti-bullying, anti-discrimination and women's human rights (e.g. taking on "relational aggression" or cyber-bullying of girls, sex trafficking of minors or immigrant women); educating and advocating for women's workplace rights, pay equity and targeted legislation focusing on the betterment of women in the workplace (e.g. working towards changing policy or building political will); and gender equity in education.

Leadership:

leadership development (including political, professional, and philanthropic); political empowerment; and self-esteem building and mentorship.





Grant Review Process

The Women's Fund of Long Island will make our 18th round of grants this year. Grants will be awarded in amounts up to **\$7,500** to organizations that meet the criteria outlined in this Request for Proposals.

We have a rigorous grant review process conducted by a volunteer Grant Review Committee comprised of current and past Board members and qualified volunteers from the broader Long Island community. The Grant Review Committee makes funding recommendations that are then reviewed and approved by the full Board of the Women's Fund of Long Island. Applicants will be notified if their proposal has been selected or declined in early June.

The duration of the grant will be for one full year and project reporting using our "Making the Case" grant evaluation tool will be required as a condition of funding. Training and technical assistance to help grantees evaluate their projects will be provided by the Women's Fund of Long Island as part of the grant award. Two required training sessions on using the "Making the Case" tool and procedures for submitting a final report will be held in Summer 2012 and January 2013, respectively. This training and ongoing technical assistance is an in-kind contribution made to all grantees valued at approximately \$1,000 in additional assistance.

Application Deadline & Submission Requirements

All proposals must be postmarked no later than **March 1, 2012**. Our committee requires **one original, plus 5 copies of each component of your application** to:

**Women's Fund of Long Island
c/o Fran Medaglia
Director of Programs & Advocacy
1740 Old Jericho Turnpike
Jericho, New York 11753**

The application is available on our website (www.womensfundli.org) and can be filled out with pen or using Microsoft Word. If you have any trouble accessing the application file or would like a hard copy of the application, please contact Fran Medaglia at grants@womensfundli.org or 516-396-9857 Ext. 9.



Questions & Additional Information

If you have additional questions, please contact Fran Medaglia at 516-396-9857 ext. 9 or email grants@womensfundli.org. You may be contacted if we have any questions or need any additional information about your proposal.

Grant Application Information Workshops

The Women's Fund of Long Island will be hosting two **Grant Application Information Sessions** before the March 1, 2012 deadline. These workshops are structured to help you better understand our funding priorities and to better familiarize you with our grantmaking process. These workshops are especially helpful for first-time applicants, though we strongly recommend that all applicants consider attending one of the two sessions offered.

Session 1 - Suffolk County

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Time: 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Location: Middle Country Library

101 Eastwood Blvd.

Centereach, NY 11720

Community Room

Directions:

Exit #62 North (Nicolls Road) off Long Island Expressway. Go North on Nicolls Road to Middle Country Road (Route 25). Take the exit ramp on your right for Smithtown (West). At the end of exit ramp, make left onto Route 25. Continue 6/10 mile to Eastwood Boulevard. Turn right at light (across from Burger King) and continue 4/10 mile to MCPL-Centereach on the left.

Session 2 - Nassau County

Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Women's Fund of Long Island

1740 Old Jericho Turnpike

Jericho, NY 11753

Conference Room

Directions:

Exit #41N of the Long Island Expressway to Route 106/107/N Oyster Bay. Turn right onto 106/107. Stay to the right for 106 N and take first right onto Old Jericho Turnpike (watch for the large, white Maine Maid Inn sign). Stay on Old Jericho Tpke and go right when you see the Maine Maid Inn. You will be turning down what appears to be a dead end street (this is still Old Jericho Tpke). The Fund office is the second yellow house on the right. Look for our mailbox and sign and pull into the grass parking circle between the hedges.

Seating is limited at both locations so please RSVP to Fran Medaglia at 516-396-9857, ext. 9 or email grants@womensfundli.org to reserve your seat.