



21 YEARS OF EMPOWERING WOMEN & GIRLS

P.O. Box 15060
Detroit, Michigan
48215

phone
(313) 640-0128

fax
(313) 640-0157

website
www.miwf.org

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Michigan Women's Foundation is a leadership development organization, developing young women, through the process of philanthropy and grantmaking, into successful, fiscally responsible and socially responsive women.

VISION:

Empowering women and girls to realize their dreams of economic self-sufficiency and social equality resulting in a better society for all.

WHAT IS MICHIGAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION?

For more than 20 years, the Michigan Women's Foundation has championed the cause of social justice for women and girls through public and grantee education, advocacy and leadership development. Our work is rooted in the three principles of women's rights: economic self-sufficiency, freedom from violence, and access to quality health services and information. As the next 20 years unfold, we invite you to join us as we empower women and girls to reach their full potential.

As the only statewide foundation specifically dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls, the Michigan Women's Foundation has been a powerful force for change. Since 1986, we have helped women of all ages overcome disadvantages, learn new skills, and reach their full potential.

WHY DOES MICHIGAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION EXIST?

We are part of a women's movement that is rooted in a commitment to justice and an appreciation of the value of a gender lens. For every issue on the national agenda—from violence to healthcare—there is a major dimension specific to women. There are few community problems that can be resolved without programs and strategies that specifically address the needs of women and girls. Women's issues involve the entire community. When a woman is given an opportunity, an entire family can benefit.

The Foundation fills a unique and vital niche by supporting programs that are often overlooked by traditional funders who view them as too new, too small or too risky.

As a pioneer in women's philanthropy, the Michigan Women's Foundation faces changes head on. But we do more. By leveraging the gifts of individuals, foundations and corporations, MWF in turn makes grants to many emerging and established nonprofit organizations that provide services to the women and girls of Michigan.



Michigan Women's Foundation (MWF) believes that women and girls continue to face significant barriers and challenges to reaching their full potential. Therefore, we promote the economic self-sufficiency and personal well being of women and girls in the state and strive to maximize their contributions to society. We do this by providing assistance and funds to non-profit organizations serving women and girls, by educating the general public, policy makers and donors, and by encouraging women and girls to exercise their responsibilities as philanthropists.

Because granting resources are limited, Michigan Women's Foundation's intention is to utilize these resources in ways that will leverage the most change, and to focus on groups and/or activities for women and girls that have been traditionally under funded.

AREAS OF INTEREST:

A. Economic self-sufficiency for women, particularly programs that encourage:

- Higher wage career pathways for women and girls
- Asset acquisition (such as home, business ownership, or Individual Development Account -IDA programs)

B. Public policy and leadership development, particularly programs that affect:

- Advocacy and systemic change efforts to improve the lives of women and girls
- Public policy related to girls and women's health

FUNDING CRITERIA:

Organizations/projects must:

- Meet at least one of the MWF Areas of Interest (*listed above*)
- Serve women and/or girls, with priority given to low-income and diverse underserved populations
- Serve within the state of Michigan and be tax exempt under IRS code, section 501(c)(3)

Priority will be given to organizations/projects that:

- Have a component that promotes the personal wellbeing of women and girls
- Clearly articulate the role of gender and the needs of women in the program
- Demonstrate female staff and/or board leadership
- Address root causes of problems and effect positive systemic change
- Provide a clear connection with the mission of MWF
- Affect a critical mass of women or girls
- Show collaboration with program participants and/or other community organizations

MWF seeks to fund community-based organizations with smaller budgets and limited access to other funds; however, MWF will consider funding larger/established organizations under the following conditions:

- For a new service or for the expansion of a current service to another underserved population
- Public schools, health departments or colleges/universities that have other non-profit service providers as the lead partners with activities focused on social and systematic change
- Projects not in one of the areas of interest but demonstrating emerging needs of women
- Planning and technical assistance grants when it builds the capacity of an organization working in the areas of interest to the foundation

MWF does not fund:

- Organizations headquartered outside the state of Michigan
- Individuals, scholarships, funds or staff attendance at conferences
- Endowments, capital campaigns or building renovation projects
- Campaigns to elect candidates to office

GRANT CATEGORIES:

Young Women for Change®: \$1,000 - \$5,000 awards for:

- Programs that serve girls or young women in the communities where the program operates: Detroit Brightmoor area, Kalamazoo County, Kent County, Metro Detroit, Southwest Detroit, Traverse City, and Washtenaw County
- Programs that address funding priorities set annually by the local committee

Note: Michigan Women's Foundation may not award an organization the full amount of their request.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL:

All MWF grant cycles begin with a **“Request For Proposal” (RFP)** which can be obtained by calling the MWF office at (313) 640-0128 or by sending your request to info@miwf.org. The RFP includes the grant application and instructions of how and when to submit your proposal.

GRANT CYCLES:

The Request for Proposal is released approximately two months before the submission deadline. After the deadline, a committee will review proposals, make site visits to some of the organizations, and make funding recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Upon approval by the board, applicants will be notified of the final decisions in writing. Currently, all funding is for one year with grant payments received in two installments; the first payment is released after the signing of a contract and the second payment is released after the approval of the grantees' midterm report.

The Michigan Women's Foundation will only provide support to organizations whose mission, policies and practices demonstrate sensitivity and inclusively to women of any race, class, sexual orientation, age, disability, political affiliation, national origin, ethnicity, or religious belief.

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE APPLYING FOR A GRANT FROM MICHIGAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION:

- *Does your program address a critical need for women and/or girls?*
- *Can you support the need for this program with statistics or other research?*
- *What strategies will be used to address this need to make positive change happen?*
- *What type of change will occur?*
- *How will this program be evaluated?*
- *What resources do you already have to implement this program?*
- *What other resources will you need to implement this program?*
- *Are there any other organizations already addressing this need in the same community? If so, have you explored the possibility of collaboration?*
- *Have you conducted this type of program in the past? If so, how would this differ?*
- *What would happen if you don't received MWF funding?*
- *If you receive MWF funding, what will happen to the program after the funding period is past?*

For questions or copies of the Request For Proposal (RFP), contact Carolyn Baetz, Program Officer, at (313) 640-0128 or baetz@miwf.org.