



girlsBEST Fund Multi-Year Grant Request for Proposals and Grant Application

**** APPLICATION DEADLINE ****

April 15, 2020 – 11:59 p.m.

[Register here to access the web portal & start your application](#)

[Access the webinar recording here](#)

Introduction

Investing in the economic success of girls is a proven strategy to advance gender and racial equity in Minnesota. Why? Because when girls thrive, families and communities thrive. In 2002, the Women's Foundation of Minnesota (WFMN) launched the girlsBEST (girls Building Economic Success Together) fund to support programs that work to ensure the future economic opportunity of girls across Minnesota. Economic opportunity is the underpinning for girls' equity; it increases their safety, improves their health outcomes; and impacts their access to leadership opportunities.

Since launching the girlsBEST program, the Women's Foundation of Minnesota has convened, elevated, and invested in five cohorts of statewide grantee-partners through multi-year funding. Since 2002, girlsBEST has impacted the economic success and leadership development of 44,000 low-income girls across the state. girlsBEST has proven to be an effective model for impact: 94 percent of girlsBEST participants graduate from high school, 90 percent enroll in post-secondary education, and the teen pregnancy rate is four per 1,000 girls in Minnesota.

We invite Minnesota organizations and groups with girl-driven programs to apply to join the sixth cohort of girlsBEST partners who receive multi-year grants. Funded programs enhance economic opportunity for girls ages 12 through 18 by applying the girlsBEST Program Framework (see page 3). The girlsBEST program engages low-income girls with an emphasis on girls of color, American Indian girls, and girls in Greater/Rural Minnesota, LGBTQ+ youth, and girls with disabilities. Our definition of girls includes any young person that identifies as a girl; all WFMN programs are inclusive of transgender, gender nonconforming, and gender nonbinary people who experience gender-based structural harm. Grants will be awarded for up to three years of funding, renewable each year based on evidence of satisfactory progress toward goals and outcomes.

Multi-Year Grant Information & Timeline

Grants range from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year. The average award is \$15,000.

Grant Period:

Year 1: June 15, 2020 through June 14, 2021

Year 2: June 15, 2021 through June 14, 2022

Year 3: June 15, 2022 through June 14, 2023

Our girlsBEST participatory grantmaking process engages girls, community volunteers, board, and staff as members of the girlsBEST Fund Committee. The Committee reviews the grant proposals and recommends awards for groups who are determined to best represent the mission, goals, and values of the Women’s Foundation and the girlsBEST program.

2020 Application and Process Timeline

Action	Date
Online application for organizations open	February 28, 2020
Grant information webinar— Register here	March 10, 2020; 2-3 p.m.
Proposals due by 11:59 p.m.	April 15, 2020
Applicants selected for site visit will be notified	April 29, 2020
All applicants: please hold this date. Site visits will be conducted in-person with the girlsBEST Grantmaking Committee at the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota.	May 30, 2020
Organizations notified of grant status	June 11, 2020
Evaluation information webinar— Register here	July 21, 2020

Questions & Assistance

Please note that you must submit your application online. To do so, [please register to access the web portal](#). Your registration will prompt an authentication by WFMN, which should take no more than one business day to complete. Please give yourself time to register ahead of the application deadline. Please note: Internet Explorer users often run into issues with the portal, so it is best to use Google Chrome or Firefox as your browser. If you have any question or need any technical assistance with the application, please contact Jasmine Sánchez.

Jasmine Sánchez, Program Officer & Grants Manager
 612.236.1836 (direct), 888.337.5050 (toll free)
jasmine@wfmn.org

Funding Criteria & Eligibility

- The WFMN definition of girls includes any young person who identifies as a girl; the program is inclusive of transgender, gender non-conforming, and gender non-binary people
- Must operate in Minnesota and serve low-income girls in Minnesota
- Priority is given to programs that focus on low-income girls, girls of color and American Indian girls, girls in Greater and Rural Minnesota, LGBTQ+ youth, and girls with disabilities
- Must demonstrate a strategic focus on increasing girls’ economic readiness and opportunity
- Must demonstrate how girls are engaged in all aspects of the program including planning, implementation, and evaluation

- Programs must serve girls between 12 and 18 years of age

Eligible Programs Include:

- Nonprofit tax-exempt organizations and schools that operate programs in Minnesota
- Unincorporated organizations with a tax-exempt fiscal sponsor
- American Indian Nations

The following activities or groups are NOT eligible for girlsBEST funding:

- Scholarships to attend college, university, technical or certificate programs
- Projects within religious institutions that do not align with the mission and values of the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota
- Retroactive support of projects or activities
- Fundraising events
- Individuals
- Organizations that may be deemed as discriminatory based on race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, physical or mental ability, veteran status, military obligation, immigration status, and marital status
- An organization that limits or opposes a woman’s right to self-determination
- Reduction of an operating deficit or to liquidate existing debt

girlsBEST Program Framework

A. girlsBEST Program Outcome

Grants awarded through the girlsBEST program support girl-led programs that are designed to achieve the following outcome: *Individual girls ages 12 to 18 will increase readiness to achieve economic well-being.*

B. Stages of Girls’ Economic Development

Achieving the outcome of girls’ increased readiness to achieve economic well-being takes time. As they grow, girls ages 12 through 18 change their attitudes and develop skills as a result of their participation in girlsBEST programs. Our evaluation has identified three stages of girls’ readiness for economic well-being:

1. **STAGE ONE | Awareness:** Girls become increasingly aware of the ways in which women are treated unequally in our society due to racist and sexist practices that are embedded in institutions and policies, which in turn affects their economic potential.
2. **STAGE TWO | Agency:** Girls become aware that they can become agents of change and build power within and with each other in their girlsBEST programs through leadership and participation in program activities.
3. **STAGE THREE | Activism & Advocacy:** Girls become aware that they can take action, individually and collectively, to advance gender and racial equity and impact systems and institutions.

C. girlsBEST Program Tracks

The girlsBEST fund supports programs in four program tracks. **Applicants will choose one program track that best describes their work with girls:**

1. **Academic Programs:**

- Programs that help girls stay in school and pursue college and future career goals.
- Programs that build girls' financial and economic capacity.
- School-based programs that help girls excel in math, science, technology, and other subjects in which girls have been underrepresented or excluded.

2. **Entrepreneurial Programs:**

- Programs that teach and support girls in business planning and development.

3. **Employment Development and High-Paying/High-Skill Careers:**

- Programs that build girls' employment skills and/or encourage them to seek high-paying and high-skill careers.

4. **Public Education and Advocacy Programs:**

- Programs in which girls organize on issues that impact their economic success, such as access to reproductive and family planning, sexual health, and ending violence.

D. girlsBEST Notable Practices

Evaluation shows that girlsBEST programs that are successful in developing the economic potential of girls share some notable practices:

1. **Financial Literacy.** Successful programs offer a variety of financial literacy curricula to help girls learn how to manage and save money. In these programs, girls might learn how to apply for financial aid for post-secondary institutions, gain skills in running and managing a small business, or expand their knowledge of high-wage and nontraditional jobs and careers.
2. **Leadership Development.** Girls are involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of girlsBEST programs. Programs build girls' leadership by allowing girls to design and implement program strategies and take activist roles in the community.
3. **Mentoring.** Building supportive environments where girls can engage with mentors who reflect and represent their identities leads to increased readiness of girls to achieve economic well-being. Mentoring helps build girls' confidence and economic readiness.
4. **Build on Cultural Strengths.** Projects that focus on helping girls build self-esteem within their cultural traditions, community identities, and strengths, where appropriate, have been found to enhance girls' leadership skills and self-confidence.
5. **Collaboration.** Building collaborative relationships in communities, with schools, faith organizations, nonprofits, and community agencies, builds the status of girls and strengthens girls' programs and economic readiness in communities throughout Minnesota.
6. **Multigenerational Approach.** Programs that offer parallel or complementary opportunities for mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and families of girlsBEST participants tend to increase the readiness of girls to achieve economic well-being.

7. **Healing and Wellness.** Programs that incorporate healing, including cultural practices of healing, into their work promotes physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional well-being.
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girlsBEST Multi-Year Grant Application

**** APPLICATION DEADLINE ****

**April 15, 2020 – 11:59 p.m.
through online submission**

Organizational Information

Name of Organization:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Website:

Contact Person (include title):

Contact Person's Telephone Number:

Contact Person's Email:

Federal Taxpayer Identification Number (if applicable):

Do you have 501 (c) (3) status? Yes No

If no, please provide information about your Fiscal Sponsor:

Name of Fiscal Sponsor and Contact Information for Executive Director:

Fiscal Sponsor's Mailing Address:

Current Organizational Budget: \$

Amount Requested: \$

Total Project Budget: \$

Have you previously received a grant from WFMN?

- Yes

No

Proposal Description

Maximum of 3,000 characters (including spaces) for EACH question through online submission.

1. Describe your organization (mission, goals, major programs, and participants).
2. Describe your girl-led programs and the core elements and activities that build readiness for economic well-being among girls, ages 12 through 18.
3. Describe the girls who will be involved in your program, including age, geographic location, race/ethnicity, and socio-economic background.
4. Describe the outcomes you anticipate during a one-year period and how you plan to measure success. Please include a timeline of activities.

Applying the girlsBEST Program Framework

Maximum of 2,000 characters (including spaces) for EACH question through online submission.

5. Outcome (*Optional*)

- If you received a planning grant, please describe the outcomes thus far.
- If the program is a current or former girlsBEST grantee-partner, please describe how your program has evolved in effectively building girls' economic well-being.

6. Program Tracks (*see pg. 4, girlsBEST Program Tracks*)

- Which girlsBEST program track applies to your program? (*Select one.*)
- How does your program best fit this program track?

7. Stages of Girls' Economic Development (*see pg. 3 - girlsBEST Stages of Economic Development*)

During an anticipated three years of your girlsBEST-funded program, how will your program:

- Facilitate an increase in girls' *awareness*?
- Help girls develop a sense of *agency*?
- Increase girls' *activism and advocacy*?

Notable Practices

Please respond to each notable practice and describe how it is incorporated in your programming to advance the economic opportunity of girls:

8. *Financial Literacy*

- In what ways will your program build girls' financial literacy?

9. *Leadership Development*

- How will your program develop girls' leadership?
- How will girls be involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of your program?

10. *Mentoring*

- How will your program include mentoring?
- In what other ways will your program build a supportive environment for girls?

11. *Build on Cultural Strengths*

- How will your program build on the cultural strengths of its participants?

12. *Collaboration*

- Will you be collaborating with other organizations as part of your program? Please describe.

13. *Multigenerational Approach*

- How does your program incorporate activities with significant adults in the lives of girls?

14. *Healing and Wellness*

- How does your program incorporate healing and wellness to promote girls' physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional well-being?

Application Checklist

Please complete and attach the following:

- Grant application in online portal.
- Current year organizational budget and year-to-date income and expense statement.
- Signed W-9 form for the organization or fiscal agent.
- Copy of most recent audited financial statement or IRS Form 990.
- IRS Determination letter.
- Project Budget
- If you have a fiscal sponsor, copy of signed Fiscal Sponsor Agreement.
- List of staff, which **MUST** include gender and race/ethnicity of your staff.
- List of current board members, which **MUST** include gender and race/ethnicity of your board of directors or governing body.

Questions & Assistance

Please contact Jasmine Sánchez with questions or request for application assistance.

Jasmine Sánchez, Program Officer & Grants Manager

612.236.1836 (direct), 888-337.5050 (toll free)

jasmine@wfmn.org

Women’s Foundation of Minnesota Demographic Survey

Collecting the demographics of individuals and communities impacted is an essential aspect of the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Completing the demographic survey is critical to the success of your grant application. Demographic information helps WFMN evaluate proposals by understanding the communities served by organizations and the ways programming is responsive to community-specific needs.

TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY ORGANIZATION (#)			
Please complete remaining questions for those served by your program.			
TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY PROGRAM (#)			
GENDER IDENTITY (#)		WHERE DO PARTICIPANTS LIVE?	
Woman		American Indian Nation	
Man		(Please identify)	
Transgender Woman		Greater Minnesota	
Transgender Man		Twin Cities Suburban	
Gender Nonconforming or Nonbinary		Twin Cities Urban	
Other			
RACE/ETHNICITY (#)		OTHER CHARACTERISTICS (More than one may apply)	
American Indian or Alaska Native		Immigrant or Refugee	
Asian or Pacific Islander		People with Disabilities	
African American or African or Black		LGBTQ+	
Latina/o/x		Veteran	
White		AGE GROUP AT START OF PROGRAM (#)	
Multiracial		10-13	
INCOME LEVEL (#)		14-17	
		18-24	
Low-Income		25-30	
Middle-Income		31-55	
High-Income		56+	
Unknown		EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AT START OF PROGRAM	
		Less than high school completion	
		High school degree/GED	
		Associate degree	
		Bachelor’s degree	
		Advanced degree	
		Unknown	