WCA Foundation 2026 Project Investments Grant Round

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Overview

The WCA Foundation, a Signature Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation, is pleased to announce its 2026 Project Investment grant round. WCA will accept grant applications from Thursday, November 13 through 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025.

The WCA Foundation is a volunteer-led grantmaking organization whose mission is "women changing the lives of women." Its members, all local women, are committed to learning about and responding to the most urgent needs of women in communities across the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area. They contribute their time, talent, and care to advance the foundation's mission and engage in participatory grantmaking.

What We Will Fund

The WCA Foundation seeks proposals from nonprofit organizations based in the Twin Cities metro area for projects or programs that advance its members' shared commitment to a world where all women thrive.

WCA will consider requests for initiatives delivering direct services that address the fundamental needs of adult women (ages 18+) in these areas:
- Health
- Economic stability
- Shelter
- Safety

Our members prioritize initiatives that:
- Are led by women, designed by and for women, and primarily serving women.
- Take a holistic approach to supporting women, recognizing the interconnectedness of their needs.
- Center women's voices and lived experiences in program development.
- Challenge barriers that prevent women from thriving, including by providing education and training that empowers women to advocate for themselves and their communities.
- Demonstrate clear impact, showing how programs build women's knowledge and skills in ways that create meaningful and lasting change.

These grant guidelines reflect the WCA Foundation's Strategic Framework and its dedication to partnering with nonprofits to facilitate community-directed solutions. WCA members updated these guidelines in 2025 to reflect what they have learned from grant partners, and to describe more clearly the kinds of initiatives they aim to support. Learn more about what changed and why.

Award Amounts

In this grant round, the WCA Foundation will invest between $550,000 and $595,000. Grants will range from $10,000 to $30,000 and will be awarded to roughly 17 to 22 organizations.

Eligibility

This funding opportunity is open to 501(c)(3) nonprofits with public charity tax determinations. Note these additional eligibility guidelines:

- Grant applicants must maintain direct responsibility for the work for which they are requesting funds. (Requests from fiscal agents or fiscal sponsors will not be considered.)
- Applicant organizations must be based in the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area—Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties— and primarily serve clients from this area.
- WCA will not fund charitable activities that promote a religion or require participation in a religion as a condition for receiving services. However, grants may be made to faith-based organizations for non-religious purposes, if other eligibility criteria are met.
- WCA will not make grants to organizations requesting funds for either pro-life or pro-choice projects.
- Organizations may submit only one request per grant cycle.
- Note to current grantees: Organizations that received 2025 Project Investments grants may submit requests for funding. Recipients of 2024-2026 Multi-Year General Operating Pilot Program grants are not eligible to request funding.

The WCA Foundation has supported a diverse range of organizations in recent years. More information about previous grant rounds is available here: Projects 2025, Projects 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, and Fall 2021.

Application Process

We will begin accepting applications on Thursday, November 13, 2025. All applications must be submitted by 1 p.m. CST on December 16, 2025. We do not accept late or emailed applications. Incomplete applications, including those with missing or incorrect required documents, will not move forward for funding consideration. All applicants will be notified of funding decisions by June 2026.

The Minneapolis Foundation is using a new online application portal for this grant round. Even if you have received funding from the Minneapolis Foundation in the past, you will need to set up a new account. Please note each individual grant writer should have their own account. Your credentials should be your own; do not share you user ID or password with others. If you work with more than one organization that is applying for a grant, you can affiliate yourself with multiple organizations once you have created an individual account in the portal. We encourage all prospective applicants to get a head start and create your account today. Register today.

Before completing the online application, we recommend that you review the Application Preview Worksheet below and use it to draft responses.

Questions

If you experience technical problems or need help accessing our online portal, please contact our Grants Administration team at impactgrants@mplsfoundation.org or 612-672-8665. If you have questions related to eligibility criteria and content of your proposal, contact Julia Ruther at jruther@mplsfoundation.org or schedule a brief info call. Please allow one to two business days for responses from our staff.

APPLICATION PREVIEW WORKSHEET

Section 0: Required Documents

Please convert all documents to PDF format before uploading them. This helps ensure your documents keep your preferred formatting. The portal cannot accept proposals unless documents are in PDF format, so converting them ahead of time will make the process smoother. If you're using Microsoft Word or Excel, you can easily convert files using Adobe Acrobat's website. Thank you for your attention to this step!

Attachments	Mandatory	Description	Document Format
List of Key Staff:	Yes	Include names and positions of staff involved in the project or program. Short descriptions of role and/or relevant experience are welcome but not required.	PDF Only
List of Board of Directors:	Yes	Include names, officer positions, and term dates. Professional and/or community affiliations are welcome but not required.	PDF Only
Organization Budget:	Yes	Include your organization's current or upcoming fiscal year operating budget. This should include both income and expense categories.	PDF Only
Project Budget:	Yes	Include the cost of the whole project or program, rather than only the specific expenses covered by the grant request.	PDF Only
List of Other Funders	Yes	Include names or types of funding sources (government, foundations, individuals, etc.) for the project or program, along with the amount and status of funds (secured, pending, to be submitted, etc.).	PDF Only
Statement of Financial Position	Yes	Include the most recent financial report showing your organization's assets, liabilities, and equity.	PDF Only

(Balance Sheet):			

Section 1: Organization Information

If you are a returning user and your organization has an existing profile, this section will populate with the information we have on file. Please review and update it as necessary.

Legal name of organization	*Open Text*
Employer Identification Number	*Numeric*
Organization website	*Open Text*
Type of organization **Language to add**, *Only 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible to apply; please refer to the grant guidelines for additional information. If you have questions, reach out to Julia Ruther by email at jruther@mplsfoundation.org.*	*501 (c)(3) Public Charity* *Government Entity, School District, or Religious Institution* *Utilizes a fiscal agent or sponsor* *Other*
Organization street address	*Open Text*
Organization city	*Open Text*
Organization state	*Open Text*
Organization zip code	*Open Text*
Year of establishment	*Numeric*

Section 2: Contact information

Head of organization first name	*Open Text*
Head of organization last name	*Open Text*
Head of organization email	*Open Text*
Head of organization phone number	*Numeric*
Head of organization title	*Numeric*

Are you the contact person for this application? *Application contact's first name* *Application contact's last name* *Application contact's title* *Application contact's email Application contact's phone number* *Application contact's mobile number*	*Yes,* *No → Provide the contact information for the contact for the application*

Section 3: <u>Organization senior leadership composition</u>

This set of questions asks about the demographics of your organization's senior leadership. Who or which positions qualify as "senior leadership" is defined by your organization and its structure. Please only include data that has been self-reported.

Total number of senior leaders in the organization:

Senior leaders staff by race/ethnicity.	TOTAL	ACTIONS
African		Edit
American Indian or Native American		Edit
Asian		Edit
Black or African American		Edit
Hispanic or Latinx		Edit
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		Edit
White/Caucasian/European		Edit
More than one race/ethnicity		Edit
Identify in another way		Edit
Prefer not to answer		Edit
Information not available		Edit

Senior leaders by gender	TOTAL	ACTIONS

Woman		Edit
Man		Edit
Identify in another way		Edit
Prefer not to answer		Edit
Information not available		Edit

Senior leaders by age	TOTAL	ACTIONS
40 and younger		Edit
41 and older		Edit
Prefer not to answer		Edit
Information not available		Edit

Section 4: Population served and geographic location of the work

This set of questions asks about the demographics of the population served. Who will be served by this grant and where will the work take place?

Which primary race or ethnic populations were served by this grant? Please share only self-reported information and select all that apply.
- African
- American Indian/Native American
- Asian
- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latinx
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- White, Caucasian/European
- More than one race/ethnicity
- Prefer not to answer
- Information not available

What age groups were served by this grant? Please only share self-reported information and select all that apply.
- Younger than 18
- 18-24 years
- 25-34 years
- 35-44 years

- 45-54 years
- 55-64 years
- 65 years and older
- Multi-generational approach
- Information not available

Will the work take place in the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington) and serve clients primarily from that area? Please provide specific locations below.

Section 5: Proposal Information

Have you received funding from WCA Foundation? Yes/No/Uncertain

If yes, please provide the year(s). [comment box]
There is no penalty if this information is uncertain or unknown.

Project Title: (Maximum of 70 characters)

Amount requested:

Please provide a brief description of your proposal. (Maximum of 2,000 characters)

Describe how this request provides targeted support for the fundamental needs of adult women (ages 18+). (Maximum of 1,500 characters)

To help us understand your project's core contribution and primary impact, please select the categories that best describe the main focus or strongest outcome areas of your proposal. **You may select up to three categories, as appropriate.**
- Health
- Safety
- Shelter
- Economic Stability
- Other [comment box]

How does this project address the multiple and interconnected needs of the women you serve (e.g., economic stability, safety, health, emotional well-being, etc.)? (Maximum of 1,500 characters)

How are women prioritized in the design, leadership, and delivery of this project? (Maximum of 1,500 characters)

Describe your implementation plan, including milestones and timeline. (Maximum of 2,000 characters)

Section 6: Evaluation Information

What is the anticipated impact of your project on the lives of women? Please provide qualitative examples and/or quantitative evidence as available. (Maximum of 1,500 characters)

What internal and/or external risks exist that could impact the strategy, implementation, or execution of this project? (Maximum of 2,000 characters)