

**Women's Giving Circle
Gainesville Community Foundation**

2008 GRANTMAKING STRATEGY AND GUIDELINES

GRANTMAKING IS GOVERNED BY:

- 1) WGC Mission
- 2) WGC Guiding Principles

GRANTMAKING PHILOSOPHY:

GOALS

Make strategic grants which:

- Apply creative solutions to critical needs of women and girls in the Gainesville community
- Produce lasting and measurable impact in our community
- Will shape the community's agenda for women and girls and could have the potential to produce systemic change for target populations

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles guide our grant making:

- Use community research to develop priority initiatives
- Support new ideas and untested efforts, as well as, programs, which have demonstrated results and impact
- Establish expectations for sustainability; significant, lasting value, and impact

ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

- 1) Organizations must be physically located in the Gainesville community.
- 2) Applicants must be qualified as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS or classified as a unit of local government
- 3) Areas generally NOT funded
 - a. Capital and endowment campaigns, fund-raising events and primarily food programs
 - b. Personnel costs.
 - c. Travel and conferences; however, expenses could be considered if expense is related to supporting professional development/training of a program's staff to build capacity.

DEFINITION OF GRANTS

1. Definition of initiatives to be funded

The following areas will be used to identify where the WGC will focus its grant dollars:

Marketable skills/job training
Economic independence
Problem solving/life skills
Self reliance

Delinquency/truancy/criminal behavior

Literacy

Unwanted pregnancy

2. Determination of potential grantee organization

Potential grantee organizations will be sourced in three ways:

- Identifying prospective organizations listed on the Gainesville Community Foundation's database
- Posting request for proposals on the GCF website – www.gnvcf.org
- Seeking prospective organizations from WGC members

3. Size and term of grant – At least \$72,000 (2008)

- a. 1 vs. 2 or more gifts
- b. One time vs. multi-year funding

DEFINITION OF GRANT IMPACT

WGC will measure success of its grants in one or more of the following ways:

- 1) Programs WGC funded continuing after the grant period and/or were replicated elsewhere (sustainability of a program)
- 2) Quantitative in that it changes lives for specific number of women and/or girls
- 3) Qualitative impact, which may not be realized until beyond the grant period
- 4) Programs address needs of women and girls in innovative ways
- 5) Impact beyond empirically measurable outcomes

STRUCTURE OF GRANTS COMMITTEE

- 1) Community Research Team – This team would reflect on all current research and activity in the area regarding community initiatives, arising community problems, and be actively aware of initiatives by other funders and, talk with providers addressing community needs. This committee will keep the membership and the Grants Committees apprised of needs and issues of women and girls in our area. Team will assist in generating programs to receive RFPs.
- 2) Decision Making Team – This committee will have readers who read, evaluate and score the RFPs. Finalists for current year RFP's would be invited for a final interview with the Decision Making Team and the Evaluation Team, prior to final grant decisions being made.
- 3) Evaluation Team – On-site written evaluation of RFP candidates will be done by teams of two prior to selection by Grants Committee. In addition, this team will make an on-site visit after the grant is completed to reflect on the successes and challenges of the grant.
- 4) GCF Staff – Work with the Community Research Team to determine guidelines for focus areas each year. Send out Letters of Interest (LOI's) and/or RFPs to selected grant candidates utilizing GCF grant database, member suggestions, and/or web inquiries. Will assist the Evaluation Team with conducting onsite interview and evaluations. Will manage all administrative duties.