



NORTHWEST MINNESOTA GRANT PROGRAM

2008 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF MINNESOTA funds projects that grow economic, political and social equality for women and girls.

As a community foundation, we strive to partner with women and girls from every county in Minnesota to make social changes that are vital, necessary and relevant for their own communities. The social issues that women and girls deal with -- though sometimes different based on ethnicity, geography, income level, age, and sexual orientation -- are all part of the larger tapestry of social change created by extraordinary women and girls across the state. Our commitment to supporting this rich tapestry is reflected in our funding of diverse programs and projects across the state.

In order to increase our investment in communities in Northwest Minnesota, the foundation is seeking proposals from nonprofit groups, programs and projects that serve women and girls located in one or more of the following counties – Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomon, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau. *Priority will be given to applicants from Roseau County.*

2008 GRANTMAKING GUIDELINES

Who is funded?

All applicants for the Women's Foundation's Northwest Minnesota Grant Program must be located and serve constituents in Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomon, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake or Roseau counties. *Applicants from Roseau County will be given priority consideration.* Within this geographic restriction, The Women's Foundation will fund the following:

- Organizations incorporated as not-for-profits.
- American Indian Nations
- Unincorporated organizations (**Note:** If your organization is unincorporated, please contact Sida Ly-Xiong, *before submitting an application*, to discuss your organization, project, and your fiscal arrangements. Sida can be reached at (toll-free) 888-337-5010, 612-236-1803, or sida@wfmn.org.)

What is funded?

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota is committed to funding organizations that seek to create social change for women and girls. "Social change" is the work of eliminating the *conditions* and/or dismantling the *structures and/or policies* that limit equality for women and girls. The work of social change begins when an issue that obstructs equality is discovered and its root cause is identified. A plan of action is then created to address that root cause and produce the desired outcomes for social change. Social change work may be done by individual organizations or collaborations of two or more organizations working to achieve a common goal.

For the Northwest Minnesota Grant Program, the Foundation is seeking to fund programs in one of two cornerstone areas:

- I. Creating Economic Justice for Women; and
- II. Advancing Women's Safety and Security.

Organizations are asked to identify their work within one of these cornerstone areas and describe the outcomes they hope to achieve within the following guidelines:

I. Creating Economic Justice for Women

A. Social Change Option

In the future women will thrive economically. Communities will benefit when women -- as a result of education, employment opportunities and economic development -- make poverty history. Therefore, we fund groups seeking one (or more) of these outcomes:

- Increased access to small business planning and other entrepreneurial resources.
- Increased number of women in underrepresented employment sectors.
- Decreased pay gaps between men and women.
- Decreased pay gap between white women and women of color.
- Adequate social safety net that assures economic self sufficiency.
- Full and equal access to educational opportunities for women and girls.
- Full and equal access to employment opportunities.

B. girlsBEST Option

Organizations may seek to create Economic Justice for Women by developing a program for girls that will achieve one of the following two outcomes:

- Individual girls will increase their readiness to achieve economic well-being
- Public education, activism and advocacy for girls' economic well-being will increase throughout the state.

Programs under the girlsBEST option may fit into one of three program tracks:

- **Academic** – programs that help girls stay in school, pursue college, build girls' financial and economic capacity, and/or help girls excel in math and science and other subjects from which girls have been traditionally excluded.
- **Entrepreneurial** – programs that teach and support girls in business planning and development.
- **Public Education & Advocacy** – programs organized by girls on specific issues that limit the economic potential of girls, such as advocating for equal pay or challenging sexual harassment or violence against girls.

Effective grants under the girlsBEST Option will have the following characteristics:

- Show effective development of girl-driven programs that focus on innovative strategies to build the economic power of girls; and
- Have the support and involvement of women, mentors, community organizations, schools and other organizations serving women and girls.

II. Advancing Women's Safety and Security

We aspire to a day when women experience the world as a safe place and our media, policy makers, families and popular culture reject violence against women. Therefore, we fund groups seeking one (or more) of these outcomes:

- Safe, affordable, livable housing is available to women experiencing domestic violence.
- Media and advertising promote strong, positive images of women and girls.
- Local, criminal justice and judicial systems are more responsive, e.g. they insure cultural and language interpretation services are available.
- Solutions to decrease violence against women are found within communities and cultural groups.
- Men are fully engaged in decreasing violence against women.
- Trafficking of women is illegal and prostitution is recognized as an act of violence against women.

In this RFP, Women's Foundation of Minnesota will NOT fund:

- Scholarships to a university, college, or technical program.
- Capital campaigns
- Religious activities
- Retroactive funding
- Fundraising events
- Direct services
- Individuals
- Organizations that may be deemed as discriminatory on the basis of race, age, gender, ability level, or sexual orientation.
- Organizations that limit or oppose a woman's right to self determination.
- Reduction of an operating deficit or to liquidate existing debt.
- Agencies of state or federal government, unless they are part of a community collaborative that includes eligible organizations.
- Organizations outside of Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomon, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau counties.

Typical Size of Grants: \$5,000 - \$20,000

Duration of Grants: Grants in the Northwest Minnesota Grants Program are for one year.

Types of Funding: Foundation grants may support the following types of activities and programs:

1. General Operating

General Operating grants are for organizations for which social change for women and girls is central to their mission. Grants are for operational costs that maintain and sustain the ongoing work of an organization (salaries, benefits, rent, copying, phone, etc.).

2. Project/Program

For existing project costs or those that may be in addition to or new to an organization's regular programming.

3. **Start-Up Activities**

For new and emerging organizations that may or may not have a track record, but show significant promise for success and sustainability. Funds may be used for initial financing in order to leverage funding from other sources.

4. **Planning**

For the planning of new programming to build equality for women and girls within an existing organization.

How to Submit Your Application: *All materials must BE RECEIVED by September 1, 2008.*

There are two ways to submit your applications:

- **BY EMAIL.** Email applications ARE ACCEPTABLE.
 - You may email a Word or PDF document to sida@wfmn.org. If possible, please scan and include as many documents as possible, such as samples of work, via email.
 - You will receive an email confirmation. If you do not receive one, your application has not reached us.
 - Do not send duplicate copies of your application by email AND regular mail.

OR

- **BY REGULAR MAIL**
 - Send your entire application via mail to the following address:

Sida Ly-Xiong, Associate Director of Evaluation and Research
The Women's Foundation of Minnesota
155 5th Avenue South Suite 500
Minneapolis, MN 55401-2549

Telephone: 888-337-5010/612-236-1803
 - You will receive an email confirmation. If you do not receive one, your application has not reached us.
 - Do not send duplicate copies of your application by email AND regular mail.

Timeline:

Grant Applications available	June 3, 2008
Grant Applications Deadline	September 1, 2008
Notification of Grant Awards	November 18, 2008
Final Report due	January 31, 2010

Throughout the application process, Women's Foundation staff is on-hand to help you!

Please contact us with questions, clarification or assistance, anytime:

Sida Ly-Xiong, Associate Director of Evaluation and Research, 612-236-1803 or sida@wfmn.org.

2008 APPLICATION FORM

Please note that all components in this application are **REQUIRED**. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Please include a valid email address below so that we may send you a confirmation that your application has been received. If you do not receive a confirmation from us, we have not received your application.

Information on your Organization

Name of Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____ Website _____

Contact Person (include title) _____

Contact Person's Telephone Number _____ Email _____

Current Organizational Budget _____

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

If no, please provide information about your Fiscal Sponsor:

Name of Fiscal Sponsor _____

Mailing Address _____

Amount of this request \$ _____ Total Project Budget \$ _____

Proposal Narrative (maximum of 5 pages, using a readable font and spacing)

1. Organization Information

- Provide a brief history of your organization, including your organization's mission, history, and accomplishments. Include a description of your organization's commitment to women's equality and the ways in which your organization is women-led.

2. Program Description

Please be prepared to address who your constituents are, how your program works, and what visible signs of change you might expect in the short- and long-term.

Project Description

- Provide a 3-5 sentence summary of your proposed program or project.

Cornerstone Area

- What Cornerstone area does your program address? (select one)
 - Creating Economic Justice for Women – Social Change Option
 - Creating Economic Justice for Women – girlsBEST Option
 - Advancing Women’s Safety and Security

Diversity & Constituent Engagement

- Describe your constituents. Who are you working with and why?
- How have your constituents been involved in developing your organization’s focus, strategies, and programs? If applying for project support, how were constituents involved in the development of this project?
- Are there underserved and underrepresented women and girls who will benefit from your program or project?
- If relevant, explain who you will be partnering with to achieve the desired social change outcomes. Please provide names of organizations, where applicable. How will these partnerships benefit and strengthen your program?

Social Change Outcome

- Which of this Cornerstone’s identified outcomes will your program work toward? (select one)

Creating Economic Justice for Women – Social Change Option

- Increased access to small business planning and other entrepreneurial resources.
- Increased number of women in underrepresented employment sectors.
- Decreased pay gaps between men and women.
- Decreased pay gap between white women and women of color.
- Adequate social safety net that assures economic self sufficiency.
- Full and equal access to educational opportunities for women and girls.
- Full and equal access to employment opportunities.

Creating Economic Justice for Women – girlsBEST Option

- Individual girls will increase their readiness to achieve economic well-being
- Public education, activism and advocacy for girls’ economic well-being will increase throughout the state.

Advancing Women’s Safety and Security

- Safe, affordable, livable housing is available to women experiencing domestic violence.
- Media and advertising promote strong, positive images of women and girls.
- Local, criminal justice and judicial systems are more responsive, e.g. they insure cultural and language interpretation services are available.
- Solutions to decrease violence against women are found within communities and cultural groups.
- Men are fully engaged in decreasing violence against women.
- Trafficking of women is illegal and prostitution is recognized as an act of violence against women.

Strategies and Activities

- What strategies and activities will you use to achieve your identified outcome?
- Describe the timeline for you activities.

- Who will implement your proposed project?

Evaluation

- Describe the anticipated outcomes of your project, including immediate and long-term impacts. What measurable outcomes, results, and impacts do you expect to see?

Supporting Materials

Budget. On a separate page, please list the expenses associated with your project. Please list other grants for which you have applied and indicate whether the funding is pending or already confirmed.

Audited Financial Statement. Your most recent audited financial statement or 990 with attachments

Copy of 501c(3) letter or your Fiscal Sponsor’s 501c(3) letter, and a letter of agreement.

For questions, please call or email Sida Ly-Xiong 888-337-5010/612-236-1803 or sida@wfmn.org.