



Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona Community Impact Guidelines 2017-2018

adopted by the Board of Trustees in Nov. 2017

Our vision: Women thrive. Our community prospers.

Our mission: We collaborate to achieve social, political and economic change that empowers women and girls.

Our strategic priorities: We connect. We advocate. We invest.

The following Community Impact Guidelines direct our research, advocacy and grantmaking.

Research Agenda

We invest in research to build an evidence base, showing what works to achieve effective policies, programs and systems change that empowers women and girls.

The Women's Foundation partners with researchers and other organizations to publish research reports such as our *Self-Sufficiency Standard* report (published 2012) and *The Impact of the Recession and State Budget Decisions on Arizona's Women and Children* (published 2015).

We collaborate to disseminate research, focusing on Arizona data that addresses the following questions:

- The connection between maternal education and child outcomes compared to similar states
- The connection between access to quality, affordable childcare and workforce development
- Issues affecting women's economic security and how regional and state economic development policies impact women and their families

Advocacy Agenda

In accordance with our status as a 501(c)3 public charity, we engage in non-partisan public policy to create change for women and their families by monitoring legislation, sharing research, participating in coalitions and taking positions on select issues.

When considering supporting legislation, we ask if it:

- Addresses root causes of poverty
- Promotes gender equity and civil rights
- Expands access to health care, safety and workplace protections
- Improves the nonprofit sector
- Influences economic development, helping to create a region where everyone thrives

We support economic security and self-sufficiency for all women, including:

- Reasonable access to affordable, quality child care for all women, including child care subsidies for low-income working families, defining child care as a key component of workforce development
- Expansion of Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) funds (to support single-mother families in poverty)
- Expansion of child support enforcement services
- Pay equity that ensures comparable pay for all jobs, stronger workplace protections and family-friendly employment policies and practices
- Access to higher education and training, including GED/high school and community colleges
- Access to reproductive health services, contraceptives and information for all women regardless of income level
- Comprehensive sexuality education that is evidence-based and age-appropriate, including teen pregnancy reduction programs
- Continuing efforts to combat violence against women and girls, including expanding services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault

Current Grantmaking Priorities

The Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona annually awards flexible (unrestricted) grants to organizations that create measurable impact, achieving change that empowers women and girls in our region.

Inspired by our mission and drawing on key findings from our recent research, **during our next competitive grant round, which opens December 1, 2017**, the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona is especially interested in collaborating to achieve change that empowers women and girls in the following areas:

- **Increasing women's income and assets** by partnering with and investing in organizations that demonstrate measurable impact in economic change that empowers women
- **Influencing legislative and/or workplace policy change** that improves the lives of Southern Arizona women and families in economics, safety, health and leadership.

How to Apply for Funding

For more information about the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona and our community impact—including research, advocacy and grantmaking—please visit www.womengiving.org. The next annual competitive grantmaking round opens December 1, 2017.