

COMMUNITY GRANT CYCLE – 2026

Grant Guidelines

VISION

We envision a strong and vibrant Texas for all in which women share equally in opportunities for economic advancement to support themselves, their families, and their communities.

MISSION

Texas Women's Foundation invests in removing the barriers to women's economic security, stability, and success through targeted research and advocacy, intentional grantmaking and leadership programs.

Overview

Texas Women's Foundation is accepting proposals for its 2026 Community Grant Cycle through January 20, 2026, at 8:00 AM, Central Standard Time. This is a highly competitive grant opportunity.

The maximum grant request to be considered is \$40,000.

Only one proposal per organization will be considered and accepted through the Community Grant Cycle. Grants will be awarded for a 12-month period (May 2026 – May 2027) with the grant payment scheduled for June 2026.

Texas Women's Foundation will consider eligible proposals for capacity building support, general operating support and program/project support from organizations that are current 501(c)(3) public charities directly serving women, girls and their families in Collin, Dallas, Denton, Tarrant, and the immediate surrounding counties.

As an organization with a forty-year mission centered on supporting women and girls, the Foundation seeks to invest in programming that is intentionally designed to benefit their prosperity and well-being.

For proposals seeking general operational funding, the entire **organization's** overall purpose must be dedicated primarily to helping women, girls, and their families. General operating grants provide flexible funding for the overall operations of the nonprofit.

For proposals seeking support for a specific program or to build capacity, the **program or project** itself must primarily and uniquely benefit women, girls, and their families.

Program grants provide funds for a specific new or existing program designed to benefit women and girls and their families. Capacity building grants provide funds for the improvement of an organization's effectiveness in its services to benefit women and girls and their families.

In addition, applicants considered for the Mrs. H.L. (Ruth Ray) Hunt Memorial Fund must have a current or historical tie to a faith or religious institution and must note their institutional association in the application. Nonprofits representing all faiths traditions are encouraged to apply. Proposals considered for this fund will aid or benefit women and girls at risk; support or benefit family units headed by women; aid or support the education of girls at risk or support medical care for indigent

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women. The organization or program must not promote religious activities, proselytize, or require adherence to a particular religion by program participants.

Please submit this application through the Foundation's grant portal utilizing the link provided to you. Questions about the application or portal login-in can be forwarded to grants@txwf.org.

Areas of Focus and Priorities

Areas of focus are aligned with the Texas Women's Foundation [2024 Economic Issues for Women in Texas report](#). The Foundation seeks to create impact on the broad-based issues highlighted in the report which impact the economic security, stability and success of women in the state.

The report findings recognize the current and future contributions of women and girls to the state's economy and the investments needed to ensure their full participation and benefit from the state's economic success.

In addition, the Foundation recognizes women and girls as leaders and their leadership is essential to elevating the issues which most impact their lives and their communities, now and in the future.

Areas of investment opportunities identified in the report and funding areas of focus.

Information quoted can be found in the ["2024 Economic Issues for Women in Texas Report"](#) and the ["Texas Women and the Wage Gap"](#) white paper.

"Texas Women and the Wage Gap: Over her lifetime, the average Texas woman stands to lose \$750,000 in earnings, impacting her ability to achieve economic security, stability, and success for herself and her family."

Support for women's **workforce participation** and living wage career pathways, especially in nontraditional industries and occupations, and positions with high employment demand including but not limited to the following:

- Skill building for today's workforce, especially in information and technology occupations and industries, including the skills and the resources to bridge the digital divide,
- Workforce readiness including placement and transportation services,
- Workforce re-entry,
- Wraparound support for apprenticeship and training program participants.

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“Affordable child care is a crisis for Texas families. The cost for full-time, year-round care for one child ranges from about \$8,000-\$9,000/year. Failure to provide affordable child care costs the state \$11.4 billion annually.”

Support for access to quality and affordable **child care** for low-income communities including but not limited to the following:

- Development, recruitment, retention of the caregiving workforce,
- Child care availability to help low-income women maintain employment or participate in other community programs,
- Child care services during non-traditional work hours,
- Nonprofit child care centers that serve low-income communities.

“Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured women in the nation – 17%. One in four full-time, year-round working women in Texas lacks health insurance.”

Support to provide affordable, high-quality, and community-focused **healthcare** for low-income and uninsured women, especially those in medically underserved and underfunded communities, including but not limited to the following:

- Access to mental health services and behavioral health services,
- Access to maternal and reproductive care,
- Strengthening healthcare initiatives to improve the quality of life, preventative care, and health outcomes for the most vulnerable women and girls, including sex education,
- Prevention and intervention programs addressing safety, healing, well-being, and freedom from violence,
- Improved community health by addressing and removing systemic obstacles related to accessibility and affordability.

“One in three Texas families is housing cost burdened, spending more than 30% of their income on housing. Single mothers and women of color are disproportionately impacted.”

Housing stability that anchors a woman to a community where she can thrive without fear of displacement, including but not limited to the following:

- Programs that remove women, girls, and their families from crisis to housing stability,
- Affordable housing options for women with children, especially women with multiple children or older children,
- Programs focused on securing permanent housing or homeownership,
- Wraparound services to create a pathway to housing stability,
- Access to affordable and safe housing options near high employment opportunities and with easy access to transportation or mobility options.

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“Texas women are achieving remarkable progress in higher education, however disparities in educational attainment among racial groups, the advanced-academic glass ceiling and rising tuition fees highlight the critical need for targeted support and policies.”

Support for **educational success** for women and girls, with a lens for economic success and mobility and respect for individual agency, including but not limited to the following:

- Exposure to and readiness for Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Medicine (STEMM) at all levels of education,
- A targeted approach to support students for success which is mindful of their unique needs (language, parenting, non-traditional, first generation, etc.),
- Readiness for post-secondary economic independence.

“From 2012 to 2022, the share of women in management occupations has only marginally increased by 3%.”

Support for community-led **leadership** programs that recognize **women and girls** as agents of change, especially where women or girls are included in the design, and implementation of the program, including but not limited to the following:

- Programs which demonstrate a proven ability of women and girls to transform their communities, the lives of their peers or multiple generations,
- Building leadership capabilities, self-assurance, and self-efficacy within underrepresented communities,
- Building critical skills that enhance leadership potential so participants can elevate their issues through community organizing and civic engagement.

Priorities

Proposals that clearly demonstrate and communicate that women and girls who are recipients of the organization’s services are thriving (goals and outcomes).

Proposals that demonstrate the organization’s history of working locally on behalf of and in partnership with historically under resourced communities, especially as it impacts women and girls. (community-informed).

Proposals that demonstrate the organization’s understanding of the intersectionality of the unique needs of women and girls and their families within the elements of systemic structures (data-informed).

Proposals with a women/girl centered approach that is grounded in a strength and growth mindset (woman/girl centered approach).

Organizations with the capacity to be responsive to the women and girls they serve through effective governance, leadership, and operations (organizational strength).

Organizations that align with the Foundation’s mission, vision, values, and research driven priorities (mission alignment).

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Eligibility

Eligible nonprofits must:

- have a current 501(c)(3) status as a public charity,
- demonstrate a three-year operating history,
- serve Dallas, Collin, Denton and Tarrant Counties, and the immediate surrounding counties,
- have operations that are consistent with the Texas Women's Foundation mission, vision, and values,
- demonstrate how women and girls and their families are centered in the funding sought.
- note that as indicated in the "[2024 Economic Issues for Women in Texas report](#)," "Our use of the term women is inclusive of all women – transgender women, cisgender women, genderqueer women and all other individuals that identify as women."
- identify their current or historical tie to a faith or religious institution in the appropriate section of the online application if seeking consideration for funding from the Mrs. H.L (Ruth Ray) Hunt Memorial Fund,
- ***Updated*** Organizations **funded** through the Community Grant Cycle in one of the two previous calendar years (May/June 2024 and May/June 2025) must sit out for two years before submitting a new proposal. This period will be extended to three years in 2027 and will include the grant recipients for 2026.

The Foundation does NOT fund:

- individuals,
- campaigns to elect public officials or for partisan political projects,
- projects or expenses which take place before the grant is awarded,
- projects inconsistent with federal, state, and local nondiscrimination ordinances and laws including discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, and are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services,
- grants that ultimately go wholly to another agency other than the applicant (pass through),
- organizations which have the ability to levy taxes,
- sponsorships for events or networking events,
- fundraising campaigns,
- endowments,
- individual education scholarships,
- programs which promote religious activities, proselytize, or require adherence to a particular religion,
- projects inconsistent with Texas Women's Foundation mission, vision, and values.

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Accessing the Grant Portal

Grant guidelines and an FAQ document are available on the Texas Women's Foundation's Grants Page

Click the “Access Application” button to enter the portal.

Grant proposals will only be accepted if submitted through the Foundation’s grant portal.

To create a new account, select the application link and click the “Create Account” button. When you have completed the steps to create your account, be sure to save your login information. Your page will refresh and automatically load at the beginning of the application, which you can access by clicking the “Start New Application” button.

For existing accounts, select the application link and use your login and password which will take you to the beginning of the application which you can access by clicking the “Start New Application” button.

Once you have submitted your application, you should receive an email from Texas Women’s Foundation with the email address noreply@yourcause.com. If you do not see the email from noreply@yourcause.com in your inbox, check your spam folder. We encourage you to add it to your safe senders list.

Note that the link to the grant portal is solely for grant application submission. The login and password created for submitting a grant application is different from the login created by individuals when making online donations to the Texas Women’s Foundation or registering to attend Foundation events or purchasing event tickets or tables.

Important Dates

- Tarrant County Information Session: Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 10AM
- Collin/Denton County Information Session: Thursday, December 4, 2025, 10AM
- Dallas County Information Session: Monday, December 8, 2025, 10AM & 1PM**
- Application deadline for 2026 Grant Cycle: Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 8AM CST
- Notification of site visit or elimination from consideration: February 24, 2026
- Site visiting period (in-person): March 4 – April 9, 2026
- Final notification of grant status for site-visited applicants: May 29, 2026

*Please register so that you receive reminders and Know Before You Go for the information session you select to attend.

**Space is limited for each session. Please only attend for the session registered.

Foundation staff performs due diligence. Community volunteers perform site visits for select proposals. The Foundation’s Board of Directors makes all final decisions regarding approval of grants awarded.

Contacts

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