



Introduction to the Grants Process

The Women's Giving Circle of Cumberland County is an established philanthropic women's organization in Cumberland County. The Women's Giving Circle held its first grant cycle in the spring of 2009.

What is the Women's Giving Circle of Cumberland County?

The Women's Giving Circle is a charitable fund established by the Cumberland Community Foundation through a grant from NCGives. The Women's Giving Circle seeks to empower women givers, educate donors, and make a positive change for women and children throughout Cumberland County. Assets of the Women's Giving Circle are held and maintained at the Cumberland Community Foundation, and members serve as the advisory panel to oversee the administration of the funds.

The mission of the Women's Giving Circle is to build and encourage philanthropy in women, engage all generations, and encourage women to be more intentional with their giving.

Who We Are:

The Women's Giving Circle of Cumberland County consists of women of all ages and backgrounds residing in Cumberland County who come together, pool their contributions, and make funding decisions together.

How We Give:

Each member contributes \$550 annually for a period of three years. The three-year commitment helps women to realize that philanthropy is a lifetime venture and helps provide stability to the funds of the Women's Giving Circle. This year, the Women's Giving Circle has \$52,000 available to grant to organizations in Cumberland County serving women and children.

How to Apply:

A letter of inquiry is a short form to be completed by an organization that wishes to make the Grants Committee aware of a potential project. The Grants Committee will review the Letters of Inquiry during the initial research phase of the grants process and invite projects of their choosing from this pool to complete full grant applications.

Deadline: Letter of Inquiry forms will be accepted on a rolling basis starting December 5, 2011. The final deadline to submit a Letter of Inquiry for consideration in the 2011 grant cycle is January 6, 2012.

IMPORTANT: Letters of Inquiry are not grant proposals. They are strictly for preliminary information-gathering purposes. Submitting a Letter of Inquiry does not guarantee formal consideration for funding.

The Letter of Inquiry form is available as a Microsoft Word document on our website: www.cumberlandcf.org/WGCGrantInformation.php.

If you are unable to download the Letter of Inquiry form, please contact Susan Barnes at Cumberland Community Foundation at susan@cumberlandcf.org or 910-483-4449.

Submitting the Letter of Inquiry Form

1. Letter of Inquiry forms must be received at the Cumberland Community Foundation's office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 6, 2012. Postmark dates do not qualify.
2. Organizations may submit **only one** Letter of Inquiry per grant cycle.
3. Funding is only available for one year. No multi-year funding will be considered.
4. Agencies may attach a single annual report or an agency brochure if they would like.
5. Eligibility requirements and a timeline are included in the full Letter of Inquiry form.

If you need additional information or have questions, please contact the Women's Giving Circle Coordinator, Susan Barnes at: susan@cumberlandcf.org or 910-483-4449.

Thank you for your interest, and we look forward to learning more about your organization.