



## **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 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. The Women's Giving Circle seeks to empower women to be contributors, 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. Members serve as an advisory panel to oversee the administration of 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 joint funding decisions.

**How We Give:** Each member contributes \$550 annually for a minimum of three years. This helps women to realize philanthropy is a lifetime venture and helps provide stability to the funds of the Women's Giving Circle.

**Funding Priorities** - The Women's Giving Circle of Cumberland County awards high-impact grants to projects focusing on women and children in Cumberland County, N.C.

The focus areas for this grant cycle will be the following:

1. **Child Abuse** – Data for 2015-16 indicates that an estimated 6,632 children in Cumberland County were victims of abuse or neglect, resulting in a victimization rate of 76.99 per 1,000 children in the population compared to a state rate of 56.99.
2. **Foster care** - In 2016, Cumberland County had an average of 872 foster children, a 40% increase in five years. Nowhere in NC is the surge in foster care population more evident

than in Cumberland County, which had the highest in the state. There is a shortage of foster care families.

3. **Life skills** - Programs that focus on financial literacy, career development, personal health and basic living skills.
4. **Literacy** - Improving literacy among all ages is needed. The WGCCC has highlighted reading proficiency by 3rd grade as a focus area for the past several years. This focus will continue as data indicates that improvements are still needed. Additionally, adult literacy programs will also be considered for grant support.

**Special considerations will be given to projects that incorporate any of the following:**

- New, creative approach to a critical community need
- Opportunities to collaborate and foster partnerships, as well as leverage other funding sources
- Projects that demonstrate the ability to achieve measurable results and have a high probability of successful continuation beyond the grant period
- Projects that impact a larger population will be given priority

**Eligibility**

- Organizations must be located and provide services in Cumberland County, North Carolina.
- Applicants must qualify as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or be classified as a unit of government.
- Organizations must not discriminate on the basis of age, race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, physical ability, sexual orientation, political affiliation or religious belief nor be a religious organization that serves exclusively sectarian purposes.
- Organizations (any person from organization) must attend one grant information session that will be held either **Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at 11:00 AM or Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 1:30 PM** to learn about our grant program.
- Organizations must have met all reporting requirements on previous Women's Giving Circle funding to be eligible for future funding; **for those organizations with active Women's Giving Circle grant in process, a final or interim report must be submitted to be considered for funding.**

**Areas Not Funded**

- Capital and endowment campaigns
- Event sponsorships
- Deficit budgets
- Organizations for re-granting purposes
- Travel and conferences
- Individuals
- Projects promoting religious or political views
- Scholarships

## How to Apply

A link to the online application will be available September 19, 2018. Go to the Women's Giving Circle grants area of [www.cumberlandcf.org](http://www.cumberlandcf.org). Funded projects will be selected based on an objective review of full applications and site visits.

## Timeline for the Grant Process

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Online application available   | <b>September 19, 2018</b>             |
| • Deadline for application submission                                    | <b>October 19, 2018 at 12:00 Noon</b> |
| • Proposals evaluated and site visits conducted                          | <b>November - December</b>            |
| • Final grant approvals by member of giving circle                       | <b>January/February 2019</b>          |
| • Funding available upon return of signed grant/communication agreements | <b>February/March 2019</b>            |

## Submitting the Application

1. Go to <https://www.cumberlandcf.org/womens-giving-circle/womens-giving-circle-grant-timeline-and-application.html> for online application information.
2. Organizations may submit **only one** application per grant cycle.
3. Funding is only available for one year. No multi-year funding will be considered.
4. A draft project budget, income statement, balance sheet and evidence of non-profit, tax-exempt status must be submitted.

If you need additional information or have questions, please contact the Women's Giving Circle Coordinator, Susan Barnes at: [susan@cumberlandcf.org](mailto:susan@cumberlandcf.org) or 910-483-4449 ext. 108.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**\*Attendance at the Grant Information Sessions is required and questions should be answered there.\***

**I am not sure that my project is a good fit for Women's Giving Circle funding. Who can I contact to ask questions?**

Contact Judy Klinck at [jbklinck@aol.com](mailto:jbklinck@aol.com) and she will call you. Be sure to give contact information in your email.

**I am having difficulty with the online application. What should I do?**

Contact Amanda or Kimmi at Cumberland Community Foundation at 910-483-4449 or [amanda@cumberlandcf.org](mailto:amanda@cumberlandcf.org) or [kimmi@cumberlandcf.org](mailto:kimmi@cumberlandcf.org).

**Does the Women's Giving Circle of Cumberland County consider grant requests outside of Cumberland County, North Carolina?**

No, our focus is on Cumberland County.

**May I submit more than one application from my organization?**

No, each organization is able to put forth one application for each grant cycle.

**Does the Women's Giving Circle of Cumberland County commit to multi-year funding?**

Currently, the Women's Giving Circle of Cumberland County is only considering funding for one-year intervals.

**I missed the deadline to submit an Application for the 2018\_2019 grant cycle, is there other funding available?**

The Women's Giving Circle of Cumberland County currently offers one grant cycle held in the fall each year. Check the website ([www.cumberlandcf.org](http://www.cumberlandcf.org)) for Cumberland Community Foundation's grant cycles.