



### **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 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.

**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.

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.

**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 programs or projects focusing on women and children in Cumberland County, N.C.

#### *Basic Needs*

- *Financial insecurities (home, job, food, healthcare)*
- *Educational insecurities (literacy, financial literacy, academic)*
- *Human trafficking*

#### *Child Security*

- *Child abuse*
- *Foster care*
- *Childcare insecurity*

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

- Programs or projects that demonstrate the ability to achieve measurable results and have a high probability of successful continuation beyond the grant period
- Programs or projects that impact a larger population
- Opportunities to collaborate and foster partnerships, as well as leverage other funding sources
- New, creative approaches to a critical community need

### **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 beliefs nor be a religious organization that serves exclusively sectarian purposes.
- **Organizations (any person from organization) must attend one grant information session via Zoom that will be held either Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 4:00 PM or Friday, August 15, 2024 at 10:00 AM to learn about our grant program. Go to the Cumberland Community Foundation calendar to register on the date you would like to attend.**
- If you attended a grant information session in 2024 for the Women's Giving Circle, you are not required to attend one this year (unless your organization point of contact has changed). If you are not sure if your organization attended, please email [tara@cumberlandcf.org](mailto:tara@cumberlandcf.org).
- 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        | • Travel and conferences          |
| • Event sponsorships                     | • Individuals or scholarships     |
| • Deficit budgets                        | • Projects promoting religious or |
| • Organizations for re-granting purposes | political views                   |

## How to Apply

A link to the online application will be available August 18, 2025. 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

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Online application available   | <b>August 18, 2025</b>                |
| • Deadline for application submission                                    | <b>September 12, 2025 at 11:59 PM</b> |
| • Proposals evaluated and site visits conducted                          | <b>October 3 - October 31, 2025</b>   |
| • Final grant approvals by members of giving circle                      | <b>February 2026</b>                  |
| • Funding available upon return of signed grant/communication agreements | <b>February - March 2026</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, Tara Martin at: [tara@cumberlandcf.org](mailto:tara@cumberlandcf.org) or 910-483-4449 ext. 105.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Attendance at the Grant Information Sessions is required if you did not attend a session in 2024. Questions will be answered there. If you have a question regarding your attendance, please email [tara@cumberlandcf.org](mailto:tara@cumberlandcf.org).**

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

Reach out to either of the WGC Grants Co-Chairs, Cathy Mitchell at [mitchellact@gmail.com](mailto:mitchellact@gmail.com) or Amanda Nimocks at [amanda.nimocks@gmail.com](mailto:amanda.nimocks@gmail.com), with questions regarding project eligibility. Be sure to provide your contact information in your email.

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

Call Cumberland Community Foundation at 910-483-4449 and connect with the Women's Giving Circle Coordinator, Tara Martin (ext. 105) or email [tara@cumberlandcf.org](mailto:tara@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 2025-2026 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.