

## **WA Women's Foundation**

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**Website:** <https://wawomensfdn.org/for-nonprofits/>

### **2021 Grant Criteria**

We seek to support and collectively invest in organizations that are reflective of and embedded in the communities they serve, draw on the strengths and assets of these communities, and are accountable to these communities in order to achieve the long-term goals of increasing equity and reducing disparities. This year, we invite Letters of Inquiry from organizations that meet all the following criteria:

1. Is focused on providing services to people affected by inequity due to **race and/or gender identity**.
2. Is accountable to the people being served. “**Accountable**” can mean one or more of the following:
  - Ensures that people being served are visibly leading;
  - Develops leadership of the people being served;
  - Engages the people being served in ongoing decision-making, planning and assessment; and/or
  - Draws on the strengths, assets, and lived experience of the people being served.
3. Has an understanding of the **root causes** of the issues facing the people being served.
4. Can **demonstrate progress** towards reducing disparities and/or achieving more equitable outcomes.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

1. Tax Exempt Status. Organization must currently qualify as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) or 7871 of the Internal Revenue Code or be fiscally sponsored by another tax-exempt organization.
2. Connection to Washington. Organization must operate programs or provide services within the state of Washington.
3. WA Women's Foundation does not fund endowments, pass-through scholarships or out-of-state projects of Washington-based organizations.

## Frequently Asked Questions (more questions are answered online)

1. *Does the Foundation support only proposals relating to women's issues?* From our Pooled Fund, we fund broadly in the areas of Arts & Culture, Education, the Environment, Health, and Human Services. From our WFA Fund For Women, we will make grants to Washington State nonprofits working to improve the lives of women and girls.
2. *Does WA Women's Fdn fund Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives?* While we believe that integrating DEI practices into your work is key for all organizations, for this grant process we are focused on organizations that already meet the above criteria. For that reason we are not funding DEI initiatives with this grant.
3. *Does my organization need to meet all elements of the grant criteria?* Yes, we believe that all four elements will help us assess an organization's fit with our goal of funding organizations working to increase equity and reduce disparities in Washington State.
4. *My organization is open to everyone, and because of that, we do provide services to people affected by inequity. Does that work?* We are looking for organizations that intentionally work with people affected by inequity, not organizations that work with the general population, and thus, happen to provide services to people affected by inequity. We believe this focus on providing services to specific communities indicates your organization's understanding of the disparities experienced by people affected by inequity and your organization's resolve to help reduce these disparities.
5. *What about other kinds of inequities?* We have intentionally decided to prioritize funding organizations that provide services to people affected by inequity due to race and/or gender identity, because we know that race and gender identity are key factors that create inequity. Within this priority, we approach proposal review from an intersectional lens, and acknowledge the many ways other characteristics historically linked to discrimination and/or exclusion compound to create more inequity.
6. *What do you mean by providing services?* We know that services can include many different kinds of community support. If you consider your work to be service providing, please apply and make the case. We will not be funding advocacy work with this grant process.
7. *How does my nonprofit apply for a grant from the WFA Fund for Women?* WA Women's Foundation is working with our members, former Women's Funding Alliance donors , and the broader community to develop a plan on how to use the Fund for grantmaking, so please stay tuned for more details. In the meantime, please [subscribe](#) to our monthly Community Newsletter to receive updates.