

Women's & Girls' Fund of Kern County GRANT POLICIES

About us

The Women's & Girls' Fund of Kern County is a field of interest fund within the Kern Community Foundation. We seek to transform the lives of women and girls in Kern County by mobilizing the power and passion of women working together. In particular, we EDUCATE to create awareness of women's and girls' needs unmet by current strategies; we ENDOW a permanent fund whose annual yield supports programs benefiting women and girls; and we EMPOWER one another and our girls to become philanthropists and advocates of positive social change.

Our grant-making philosophy

The Women's & Girls' Fund values social change grant-making that focuses on long-term solutions to societal problems facing women and girls in all parts of Kern County. We believe that when women and girls prosper, communities thrive.

Our Focus Area for 2010 grants

Physical, Sexual & Domestic Safety

We value the direct-service work provided by Kern nonprofits and will consider funding these efforts. However, we are most interested in and will give prime consideration to efforts that:

- address root causes of problems faced by women and girls
- go beyond providing direct services to create underlying and sustainable social change for women and girls *as a group*
- explore new approaches to solving an issue when status quo has limited effect
- ensure sustainable impact beyond the year that grant monies are received
- cause shifts in individual/community behaviors
- increase skills and/or access to resources for constituents, propelling them to self-sufficiency
- produce leadership from the constituency most directly affected
- have the capacity for impact that extends beyond the women and girls immediately involved in the project
- provide potential for replication to multiple sites/communities
- develop collaboration between the applicant organization and other organizations in the community.

Who may apply

As a field of interest fund of the Kern Community Foundation, we comply with KCF's grant-making guidelines. Primarily, we fund organizations that have a 501(c)(3) nonprofit designation or fiscal agent. However, we will consider applications made by grassroots or start-up organizations doing charitable work for Kern women and girls. All organizations seeking funds must have a presence in Kern County and all programs must benefit women or girls within Kern County.

Funding is for one year only. Multi-year grant requests will not be considered, however, grantees may re-apply for funding. All requested follow-up reports for previous grants from the Kern Community Foundation (including the Women's & Girls' Fund) must be on file before an agency can apply for additional funding.

The Women's & Girls' Fund will not provide grants to: individuals, political campaigns, one-time events, capital fund drives, litigation, programs inconsistent with non-discrimination statutes, religious causes, endowments, reimbursements, scholarships, businesses or for-profit organizations, government agencies, programs that do not specifically address the needs of Kern County women or girls, or any organization that limits options.

Expectations of grant recipients

Grant recipients will sign a fund agreement with the Kern Community Foundation before grant monies are delivered. Grant recipients will be expected to complete interim and final evaluations of their program's outcomes. Forms will be provided. One half of the entire grant amount will be provided upon KCF's receipt of a signed fund agreement. The second half of the grant amount will be provided upon KCF's receipt of the interim evaluation of the program being funded.

A representative from the grant-winning organization should plan to attend the spring luncheon of the Women's & Girls' Fund, where the award will be made.

Publicity around the grant award is encouraged. Any promotional materials, press releases, etc. produced in connection with the grant award should note that the grant was funded by the Women's & Girls' Fund of Kern County as part of the Kern Community Foundation. If needed, the logo of the Kern Community Foundation will be supplied. Copies of any printed materials and photographs should be shared with KCF.

Funding calendar

October 2009 – Announcement of Focus Area - Physical, Sexual & Domestic Safety

- Request for *Letters of Intent to Apply* opened to Kern nonprofits

November 20, 2009 (4:00 p.m.) – *Letters of Intent to Apply* due to KCF office

December 15, 2009 – Invitations/Declinations to Apply are mailed

December 18, 2009, 11:00-1:00 – Grant-writing tutorial offered

February 4, 2010 (4:00 p.m.) – Application packets due to KCF office

March 15, 2010 – Grantees notified

April 29, 2010 – Grants awarded at 4th annual luncheon of Women's & Girls' Fund