

Past Grantees

The following grants were awarded through a competitive process by The Women's and Girls' Fund.

2026

- **EMPower Her Future – Charmed & Chosen** – \$25,000: Supports programs that empower young women through mentorship, leadership development, and life skills training designed to build confidence and long-term success.
- **Girls Leading AgTech – Olinga** – \$20,000: Provides girls with exposure to agricultural technology, STEM learning, and leadership opportunities that connect them to future careers in agriculture and innovation.
- **Lift Her Up Academy – SOAR Solutions** – \$25,000: Delivers programming focused on personal growth, resilience, and educational support for girls, helping them develop the skills needed to thrive academically and personally.
- **Bringing Scouts BSA to Girls – Southern Sierra Council** – \$10,000: Expands opportunities for girls to participate in Scouts BSA programming, including leadership development, outdoor experiences, and skill-building activities.
- **Creative Recovery for Women: Re-Create, Re-Connect, Re-Ignite – Arts Council of Kern** – \$15,000: Uses creative arts programming to support healing, self-expression, and connection for women and girls, promoting emotional well-being and personal growth.
- **R.O.S.E. Mentorship Program – Bakersfield Women's Business Conference** – \$15,000: Provides mentorship and support for young women through guidance, leadership development, and opportunities to build confidence and professional skills.

2025

- **Bakersfield Police Activities League (BPAL)** – \$10,000: "A Road to Success" is an after-school program by the Bakersfield Police Activities League (BPAL) that empowers girls under 18 from disadvantaged backgrounds. It focuses on academic support, career exploration, and leadership development through tutoring, workshops, field trips, and mentorship from professionals and alumni. The program fosters confidence, community engagement, and sustainable career paths, helping participants break cycles of disadvantage and achieve long-term success.
- **Taft College Foundation** – \$20,000: In partnership with Dignity Health/Adventist Health/West Side Health Care District Hospitals, this six-week internship project is offered to women in Taft College's Allied Health Studies program. These students gain invaluable, real-life work experience/education as they pursue AA degrees, solidifying their decision paths to obtain nursing, medicine, lab work, pharmacy, and vet science degrees. We've educated 57 students through this unique intern experience since our project began in 2023.

- **Girl Scouts of Central California South** – \$10,000: The Sensory Success Project creates inclusive spaces for neurodivergent Girl Scouts in Kern County by providing sensory tools like noise-canceling headphones, fidget tools, and calming lighting. Paired with an ongoing patch program workshop for girls & adults, the initiative teaches neurodiversity awareness and inclusive practices. By addressing sensory needs, it fosters confidence, focus, & belonging, empowering participants to fully engage, lead, and thrive in Girl Scout activities and beyond.
- **Diamond in the Rough Events and Sports Inc.** – \$20,000: The EmpowerHer program, hosted at the Chevron S.T.E.A.M. Room, empowers girls from underserved communities by developing entrepreneurial skills through financial literacy, STEAM projects, and mentorship from local female entrepreneurs and college students. The program culminates in a Youth Business Fair, where participants pitch ideas to local leaders, fostering leadership, confidence, and problem-solving.
- **Casa Esperanza Transition Home for Women and Children** – \$20,000: Journey to Success supports the homeless women with children by uniquely mixing shelter with wraparound care. We embrace time-tested, evidence-based curricula that center cognitive-behavioral therapy, discussion-based learning, basic life skills training, and practical application models/scenarios to promote self-sufficiency and financial stability. Alongside Education, we provide stable, secure, and safe housing that allows our women to focus on overcoming barriers to sustainable living.
- **emPOWERment Dess Perkins Foundation** - \$20,000: The EmpowerHer Summer Camp is a two-week program created to empower 30 underserved girls (ages 12-18) from economically disadvantaged backgrounds in Kern County. It provides essential skills in academic preparation, financial literacy, career planning, and mentorship. Participants will engage with educational advisors, women in STEM-related and vocational fields, and attend field trips, all aimed at equipping them with the tools and confidence needed to achieve academic and professional success.

2024

- **Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) Friendship House** – \$25,000: Girls Leading the Way Through STEM. The funding will empower 80-100 girls residing in Southeast Bakersfield's 93307 area with hands-on STEM education. Concentrating on robotics, team building, mentorship, and leadership, the program connects participants with women STEM leaders, ensuring representation and fostering soft skill development.
- **Charmed & Chosen, Inc** – \$25,000: Empowerment Program. The funding will provide ongoing support for girls in grades 7-12 across Kern County the Empowerment Program offers monthly empowerment sessions focused on educational attainment, mentoring, mental wellness, financial literacy, workforce readiness, and college preparation. Participants will also attend events such as a STEM EXPO, Mental Wellness Symposium, and Career Shadow Day.

- **Kern Partnership for Children and Families** – \$20,000: Take Control of Your Future – One Step at a Time! The funding will assist 15 pregnant or parenting teens in applying to and gaining entry to an institution of higher learning. Participants will work with a mentor to identify their future employment goals and build an academic road map and vision board to get there.
- **Kern Dance Alliance** – \$10,000: SHINE for Girls: DANCE + MATH = SUCCESS Expansion Project. This grant will fund bring the program to 25 girls residing in Lost Hills, CA. SHINE for Girls: DANCE + MATH = SUCCESS is a curriculum-based, after-school program for girls in grades 6-8 that uses kinesthetic learning by combining formal dance training with rigorous math instruction to improve girls' math scores and spark their interest in STEM.

2023

- **Open Door Network** – \$14,000: Teen Mothers Transcending. The funding will launch a pilot project to assist five teen mothers in Kern County by removing barriers to education. Teen mothers will be able to return to the classroom because they will have childcare, study hall, and life skills training to help them achieve their educational goals.
- **The Mission at Kern County** – \$25,000: From Bondage to Empowerment. The funding will provide ongoing support for a continuing program of The Mission—the transitional housing program for women with children. Women living in homelessness and addiction can bring their children into transitional housing after they spend one year in the Lee and Krystyna Jamieson Recovery Home for Women and Children. At the transitional housing unit, they are provided life skills training and vocational training, through Bakersfield College's Project Hire-Up, which trains for living wage jobs.
- **United Way of Kern County** – \$25,000: Professional Development Internship Program. The funding will support two interns working at United Way as they develop the office and advocacy skills necessary to obtain a living wage job at a local nonprofit agency.
- **Global Family Care Network** – \$19,000: Fostering Academic Futures for High-Risk Foster Youth. This grant will fund supplies and equipment for the learning lab and salaries for tutors at the Daughter Project Girls Home, which is a Short Term Residential Treatment Facility for commercially sexually exploited girls.

2022

- **Valley PBS** – \$25,000: Engineer It, Girl: Workshops serving 240 girls (ages 3 to 8) from Wasco, Delano, Shafter, and McFarland, in collaboration with "Engineering for Kids." Video broadcast to the entire VPBS viewing area during children's programming.
- **STEMTaught Foundation** – \$25,000: Girls Coding Club: After school program for 3rd to 8th

graders to empower them to teach their peers—both boys and girls—the coding and robotic skills they learned in the club. Project will serve Delano, General Shafter, and Del Rio Elementary.

- **Be Finally Free** – \$20,000: Path Finder Program: A three-phase program for women recovering from addiction including support for life planning, developing skills and education including GED, and follow up.
- **Kern Partnership for Children & Families** – \$10,000: Women Educated=Women Empowered: A monthly program for teen parents in the Cal-Learn program to help them identify future employment goals by working with their social worker to build an academic road map and vision board to get to their goals using academics and career planning, basic computer skills, tutoring, encouragement, and support.

2021

- **Kern County Superintendent of Schools Educational Services Foundation** – \$25,000: Girls Excelling in Math and Science (GEMS): GEMS is a pilot program in the Edison School District, focused on 4th and 5th grade girls. It will serve 35 girls and 10 female STEM majors from CSUB as mentors. It starts with a summer week at CALM and continues through the school year in an already existing after-school program. The girls will conduct experiments, complete engineering challenges, and explore STEM careers. Activities will include English-language development strategies to support ESL learners. The program also includes family activities so that parents can see their girls in the scientist role, thus helping to reshape cultural norms that may prevent girls from seeking out STEM careers.
- **Starbase Edwards** – \$25,000: Mighty in Stem Sisters (MiSS): MiSS is a pilot program at Edwards Air Force Base, designed to demonstrate a successful all-girls program to Department of Defense (DoD) Starbase, thus securing federal funding into the future. Our Starbase is one of 70 throughout the country. MiSS is an after-school mentoring program for 10-to-14-year-old girls from areas closest to the AFB gates, including California City, Boron, and Mojave. It will provide two 6-month cohorts of between 12 and 24—and possibly as many as 35—girls (depending on COVID restrictions). During sessions held on the AFB, girls will be mentored by professional women including DoD civilians and NASA and STARBASE professionals, as they are immersed in a variety of STEM core areas including electronics, 3D CAD, robotics, physics, and aerospace. Also included in the program are DoD training modules on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and working in teams, to help the girls develop leadership skills.
- **No Sister Left Behind** – \$25,000: Total Wellbeing Program: No Sister Left Behind is a startup nonprofit to support economic empowerment of women of color who are undereducated and thus underprepared and unqualified for jobs that would provide a better life. The Fund is

providing a capacity-building grant to help NSLB reach a) its goal of 100 members, and b) its goal of providing workshops to approximately 20 women, ages 18 to 44, regarding education and wraparound workshops focused on social, mental, emotional, physical, financial, career, and community wellbeing.

2020

- **Bakersfield Police Activities League** – \$15,000: The “A Road to Success” girls leadership program serves 30 inner-city teen girls. The project is a weekly program that provides tutoring and life skills development. The grant ensures the participants will become aware of positive life options and will enable them to develop a plan for success in pursuing higher education or other career options
- **Kern Literacy Council** – \$20,000: Empowering Women Through Education – Build Your Own Path is a collaboration between the Kern Literacy Council and Dress for Success. The project is intended to serve approximately 100 adult women. Each woman selects her educational path: obtaining a GED or high school diploma, improving her English skills, gaining U.S. citizenship, and/or attaining living wage employment.
- **Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County** – \$25,000: Workforce Development/Summer Jobs Program provides training and options for 40 socioeconomically disadvantaged, 15-to- 18-year-old girls. The young women will complete “Career Launch,” an after-school job- readiness, college- and career-preparation program at the club. Each girl will be eligible to interview for one of ten paid STEM- focus summer jobs funded by the grant.

2019

- **Teen Success, Inc** – \$25,000: Teen Success empowers teen mothers to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty that is too often associated with teen parenting. Our grant will support the programs in Greenfield and Lamont in a partnership with Clinica Sierra Vista.
- **Latina Leaders of Kern County** – \$25,000: LLKC’s Youth Leadership Program focuses on both leadership and educational attainment serving teen girls throughout the county in a unique partnership with local high schools.

2018

- **Bakersfield Police Activities League** – \$15,000: A Road to Success girls leadership program, for 33 at-risk girls in Southeast Bakersfield, focusing on educational attainment and other leadership skills.
- **Girl Scouts of Central California South** – \$21,000: Girl Scouts Connect Program, to assist 200

disadvantaged girls in Bakersfield City Schools, focusing on STEM projects.

- **Kern Partnership for Children and Families** – \$10,000: The Bridge – From Cal-Learn to Higher Education and Beyond, a pilot program for 20 pregnant or parenting teens who are currently enrolled in the Cal-Learn Program, to help them navigate the world of higher and vocational education.

2017

- **Valley PBS** – \$15,000: Engineer It, Girl! A series of four Saturday workshops serving 150 girls each, ages 4 to 6, to help plant the seeds of tomorrow's engineers in their young minds.
- **The Wildlands Conservancy at Wind Wolves Preserve** – \$15,000: Girls in the Outdoors program, to help girls from low-income, ethnically diverse communities to enjoy the outdoors, learn from naturalists and participate in habitat restoration, while acquiring a love for nature and science along the way.
- **Boys and Girls Clubs of Kern County** – \$15,000: Girls' STEM Club, to teach girls about science, technology, engineering and math through robotics.
- **Teen Success, Inc.** – \$5,000: Teen Mother Peer Support Program, to assist 50 Bakersfield teen mothers through a 47-week program in partnership with Clinica Sierra Vista.

2016

- **Kern River Valley Revitalization** – \$7,086: To inspire and promote bright futures for girls by providing opportunities to learn sciences that develops competitiveness and self-sufficiency.
- **Bakersfield Police Activities League** – \$8,500: To guide at-risk youth through quality educational and athletic after-school programs to healthy alternatives to drugs, alcohol, gangs, and violence.
- **Kern Dance Alliance** – \$9,100: To improve the math proficiency, confidence, and interest in STEM careers in the girls and mentors.
- **Kern Literacy Council** – \$10,000: To teach mothers English, reading strategies, and specific books, with the dual goals of improving their skills and reading with their children.

2015

- **Dress for Success Bakersfield** – \$7,000: To support a Career Center where clients can learn administrative skills, interview techniques, resume writing, and computer skills.
- **Youth 2 Leaders Education Foundation** – \$8,000: To provide seminars for emancipating foster girls, covering such topics as Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Chafee Grants,

scholarships, and college application essays.

- **Kern Adult Literacy Council** – \$15,000: To offer small-group ESL classes to mothers from economically disadvantaged communities around 11 BCSD campuses.

2014

- **Garden Pathways** – \$15,000: To expand the successful program "Transformative Job Skills Education," in partnership with Kern County Sheriff's office and WESTEC, to create a pathway to self-sufficiency for 50 at-risk women.
- **CSUB Foundation** – \$10,000: To support "WINGS," Women Influencing the Next Generation through Sports, a program to prepare women for the transition from successful collegiate athlete to the workforce.
- **Bakersfield Women's Business Conference** – \$10,000: To expand the capacity of "Realizing Options for Student Excellence (ROSE) Mentoring," a program where successful adult women mentor high school junior and senior girls.

2013

- **Community Action Partnership of Kern** – \$4,250: To support their program that seeks to increase high school graduation rates, promote college attendance, provide job skills training and work experience, and encourage professional development and careers over low-paying, low-skilled jobs.
- **Latina Leaders of Kern County** – \$6,250: Their Youth Leadership Program will draw 100 high school girls from across Kern County into a culturally relevant project that strongly promotes college attendance and community engagement.
- **Mountain Communities Family Resource Center** – \$4,250: A Single Parent Program will be presented in Frazier Park, offering career-building skills, financial literacy, goal setting, and community involvement, while encouraging college attendance as appropriate.
- **Planned Parenthood Mar Monte** – \$10,000: To support teen mothers that will benefit from the "Bright Futures" project that provides intensive intervention to develop academic skills and improve participants' outcomes for: high school graduation; reduced dropout rates; and advancement to post-secondary education and/or job training opportunities.

2012

- **Bakersfield Police Activities League** – \$10,000: This program will be an intense academic and life-skills enrichment program designed to help 30 at-risk Latina girls aged 11-14 reach their respective grade levels of competence.
- **Covenant Community Services** – \$3,240: Funding will be used to underwrite the equipment (laptop and projector) and production for "Project LIFT" training videos geared to former foster youth aged 18-24 in the areas of education and vocation.
- **Mercy Housing** – \$6,760: To provide seminar-style education programs designed to inspire 20 girls aged 12-16 from low and very low-income families in southeast Bakersfield.

2011

- **Garden Pathways, Inc.** – \$5,000: to expand its capacity to recruit and train volunteers for both its Family to Family Mentoring program and its initiative with teens in local high schools.
- **Kern Economic Development Foundation** – \$10,000: The program pairs socio-economically disadvantaged students with professional women in energy-related businesses, encouraging students to pursue college educations, and exposing them to nontraditional career options in the energy sector.
- **Women's Economic Ventures** – \$5,000: WEV will partner with the local Small Business Development Center (SBDC) serving the mountain communities to offer a proprietary Self Employment Training program which encourages microenterprise development.

2010

- **Alliance Against Family Violence** – \$10,000: To provide education in personal safety and self-defense techniques for 600 women, age 14 and older in rural Kern County.
- **Kern County Network for Children** – \$10,000: To underwrite the curriculum and instructional model of the Domestic Violence Advisory Council (DVAC), which guide a multi-disciplinary crisis response teams called to domestic violence death scenes.

2009

- **Kern High School District Educational Foundation** – \$4,000: To support the mentoring of 20 African American students to complete their A- G course requirements, making them eligible for CSU and UC systems.
- **Kernville Union School District** – \$9,000: To support the mentoring of 20 junior high female

students from single-parent families at risk of losing their children.

- **Garden Pathways, Inc.** – \$ 7,000: To support the recruitment of up to 50 new mentors, expanding their capacity to mentor at-risk youth and adults.

2008

- **CSUB Foundation** – \$5,000: To provide funding of the Early Start Summer Math Program.
- **Girl Scouts** – Joshua Tree Council - \$6,500: To provide funding for the On My Own Project
- **The Henrietta Weill Memorial Child Guidance Clinic** – \$8,500: To provide funding of the Afterschool Mentoring Pilot Program