



WOMEN IN PHILANTHROPY

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Women In Philanthropy (WIP) Initiative?

Women In Philanthropy is an initiative of Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia and was established to encourage, increase, and recognize women's participation in philanthropy and to make significant impact grants in the local community through a member-driven pooled grant-making process. This initiative is based on a philanthropy model started in Seattle, Washington in 1995 called the Washington's Women's Foundation. It has since been replicated in other cities around the country.

Why was this initiative started?

WIP was started in order to:

- Further engage women already involved in philanthropy
- Involve women of all ages in philanthropy
- Enable women on the non-profit sector and how the non-profit organizations are working in our community
- To have an organization that allows women to have an active role in large-impact grant-making

What is the process?

Each member contributes \$500 annually and casts an equal vote in the grant-making process based on which agency proposals the member find the most compelling. Each annual contribution is pooled with other members' contributions to make the yearly large-impact grants to local non-profit organizations. A portion of that donation will go into the Women In Philanthropy Endowment Fund in order ensure a perpetual source of community funding.

When can I join?

Membership is welcomed throughout the year. Membership periods run from July 1-June 30 of each year.

Is there a limit to the membership?

No, WIP is open to any woman who makes the commitment to contribute \$500 annually.

Is this just an organization of women?

While membership is limited to women, grants will not be limited to women and girls as beneficiaries.

Who decides what WIP supports?

Every member will help decide through her vote on the proposed grants. Grants review meetings will be held for members to discuss the proposals. Grant proposals are also sent to each member to review before voting. Ballots will be mailed to all members for a vote. The organization(s) that receive the most votes will be awarded. The amount of money available to award is directly proportional to the size of the membership.

Are there funding priorities?

No, funding is not limited to organizations that serve women and girls. Any qualified charitable organization in the local geographic area can apply for a grant for any purpose as long as the request is at least \$10,000.

What are the values of WIP?

- Membership is open to individual women only
- Membership is diverse
- Every member is entitled to one vote
- Grants are made solely from members' contributions
- Grant-making is not limited to women and girls as beneficiaries
- Pooled fund grants are large impact grants
- There is no obligation to volunteer or participate in committee work
- The geographic reach of support will include: City of Martinsville, Henry County, and Patrick County

How may I pay my membership?

Payments may be made by check payable to Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia, through on-line giving or by stock. (Contact CFSWV for details.)

Are there other costs?

No, there are no other costs to the members. CFSWV will assess a very modest 1% fee of the total raised each year to offset the cost of administering the pool of funds and the grants program.

What if I can't join at this time but would like to contribute?

Gifts of any amount are appreciated either to the permanent endowment fund or the pooled grants funds to award large-impact grants, and all who donate will be invited to the annual awards luncheon.