



Celebrating 20+ Years

Dear Beaufort County Non-Profit Director,

Women in Philanthropy is pleased to announce its 2026 grant opportunity. We will award grants ranging from \$15,000 to \$50,000 to projects that focus on ***Bridging the Gap: Employment, Basic Needs, and Family Stability***. Applications are due by **January 9 at 4:00 p.m.**

This year's grant theme is designed to support initiatives that remove obstacles to employment, and financial stability. The initiatives should ensure access to essential needs, including food security, housing, transportation, childcare, adult workforce education, and job access. By focusing on these areas, we seek to strengthen the foundation for individual and family well-being, while fostering long-term resilience within our community.

Women in Philanthropy is a fund of the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry, established in 2003 by a dedicated group of local women with the mission of: *"Through a woman's unique lens, we promote the power of collective giving; engage and inspire women along their philanthropic path; commit to growing an endowment to ensure grantmaking into perpetuity; and support new approaches to address community needs."*

The grant-making goal of Women in Philanthropy is to award funds to non-profit organizations that provide programs to enhance the quality of life for citizens specifically in Beaufort County. Since 2006, Women in Philanthropy has awarded over \$1,200,000 in grants that have strengthened families, individuals, and organizations in the areas of health, human services, arts and culture, community development, education, environmental issues, and the history and heritage of the Lowcountry.

More details on the application process for 2026 are described in the attached document. We look forward to learning more about your work and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lynda Kaplan and Bobbi Gillis

Chair, and Vice Chair, Women in Philanthropy Grants Committee





Women In Philanthropy 2026 Grant Application Process

All grant requests must be specific to this year's area of focus: **Bridging The Gap.**

WIP seeks to support initiatives that remove obstacles to employment, financial stability and ensure access to essential needs, including food security, housing, transportation, childcare, adult workforce education, and job access. By focusing on these areas, we seek to strengthen the foundation for individual and family well-being, while fostering long-term resilience within our community.

Please adhere to the following when applying

Requests for funding should be made in the range of \$15,000 - \$50,000.

Clarity in project description and statements are critical components of the evaluation process. Applications are also evaluated for their strength in the following areas:

- Organizational Capacity
- Empowerment for Those Being Served
- Project Relevance & Sustainability
- Collaboration
- Impact

General Considerations

WIP strives to fund projects that empower individuals and do not create dependency, have long-lasting benefit, and can be sustained by the organization once the grant period is over. We are looking for projects based on best practices and supported by Board and Executive levels in the organization. If the project is being done by others, we ask you to work collaboratively with them. We generally do not fund a duplication in services. If your organization has lost state or federal funding, please feel free to note that within your application.

A Grant is Generally Not Awarded for A Project That:

- Pays current **operating** expenses: administrative salary, rent, utilities, maintenance
- Is supporting a pre-existing staff position or salary for work currently being done by a volunteer
- Involves paying pre-assumed debt
- Is a fundraising event/tool or part campaign
- Supports religious or political activities

CONTINUED



Women In Philanthropy 2026 Grant Application Process – Cont.

Timeline and Process

If your organization needs a grant training session to complete the application process, please contact: Lisa Hodge, CFLC Program Associate, (843)681-9100, lhodge@cf-lowcountry.org.

Grant applications must be entered online by **4:00 pm on Friday, January 9, 2026** through the grant application portal at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=lowcountry>. Please click “apply” at the top of the page to access the application.

All members of WIP’s Grants Committee will review applications. Follow-up interviews may be scheduled with your organization’s representatives if needed. If so, WIP will contact you and interviews will occur between **late February to early March 2026**.

Organizations will receive a decision letter regarding their grant application in **April 2026**.

A representative from organizations selected to receive 2026 WIP grants will be invited to attend the WIP Spring Luncheon, where awards are announced. This year’s spring luncheon is scheduled for **May 2026**.

Projects must be completed by **April 30, 2027**. Grantees are responsible for submitting a final report to WIP by the deadline articulated in their Grant Award contract.

WIP is an all-volunteer organization. We regret that we cannot respond to individual or organizational requests for follow-up discussions regarding declined grant applications. Technical questions about the application process should be addressed to Lisa Hodge at the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry.

