



Women's Leadership Council
(WLC) is an affinity group of the United Way of Aiken County.

Founded in 2015, WLC is dedicated to transforming the lives of women and children in Aiken County through grant awards that advance their health, safety, education and economic status.

Mission and Focus Areas

The Mission is to advance the health, safety, education and economic status of Aiken County's women and children.

WLC will consider funding programs/projects/initiatives from organizations that demonstrate the ability to achieve measurable results. Priority will be given to projects and organizations that demonstrate a high probability of sustainability beyond the grant period, fostering permanent change and having a long-term positive impact on Aiken County's women and children.

Grants must impact at least one of these four focus areas:

- ① *Health* - Improve access to affordable healthcare and healthy, affordable food options; foster self-esteem, empowerment and self-respect; improve physical and/or mental health and wellness; advance quality of life
- ② *Safety* - Support victims of violence, neglect or poverty; prevent/treat physical, sexual and verbal abuse; provide housing, food and other shelter services; educate women on their rights and ways to help others while ensuring their own safety and well-being
- ③ *Education* - Provide access to quality educational opportunities, especially Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math
- ④ *Economic Status* - Promote economic equity, address financial stability, build financial well-being through financial literacy

WLC reserves the right to change these criteria in future years and intends to fund different projects each year.

Grant Criteria

- ④ ***Existing or New Needs:*** Address an existing or emerging community need
- ④ ***New Program/Project:*** Provide a new, creative approach to a community need; provide innovative but practical approaches to solving community problems; improve existing programs or create new ones
- ④ ***Partnerships:*** Pool together smaller efforts among nonprofit organizations to have a high impact in community and eliminate duplication.
- ④ ***Capacity Building:*** Foster capacity building among the women and/or children targeted for service, to serve as a useful community model.
- ④ ***Leveraging:*** Leverage other funding sources; produce significant results with moderate amount of grant money; demonstrate a base of other support (financial, participatory and voluntary); efficiently use community resources.
- ④ ***Giving Back:*** Promote a sense of community service and giving back among those being served, thereby providing unique opportunities to the community.
- ④ ***Timeliness:*** Accomplish definite purpose within specified time period – normally not more than one year.
- ④ ***Outcomes:*** Show well-planned approach to address important community issues; involve underserved constituencies; provide identifiable outcomes of the proposed project or program; demonstrate specific measurable goals.

Eligible Organizations

- ④ Nonprofit tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- ④ Located in and provide services in Aiken County

- Ⓜ Do not discriminate on the basis of age, race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, physical ability, sexual orientation, political affiliation or religious beliefs
- Ⓜ Demonstrate organizational and financial stability

Activities WLC Will Not Fund

- Capital, endowment or memorial campaigns
- Expenses for travel, legal, fund-raising, special events, or galas
- General operating costs or overhead expenses
- Scholarship requests for individuals
- Training of organization staff
- Private foundations
- Projects for political purposes, religious purposes, or programs requiring religious participation
- Deficit or debt reduction, bridge funding, interim financing, or loans
- Organizations whose goal is to re-grant WLC funding for their own purposes
- Activities outside WLC's focus area(s)
- Programs that take place outside of Aiken County

Grant Application Process

- Ⓜ Grant applications are due *Friday, March 30, 2018*
- Ⓜ Only on-line applications will be accepted; paper applications, mailed or hand-delivered applications will NOT be considered.
- Ⓜ WLC's Executive Committee will screen and evaluate applications' completeness and applicability to WLC's mission, issues of interest, and supported approaches.
- Ⓜ WLC's Executive Committee will produce a ballot of qualified applicants to the WLC membership to vote on recipients.
- Ⓜ Recipients will be notified and invited to a WLC Spring Award Ceremony.
- Ⓜ Grant recipients must provide a final report (30% of grant funding will be withheld until receipt of this report).
- Ⓜ Grant recipients must acknowledge WLC funding on all marketing materials. (For example, the marketing materials may state: "Funding assistance provided by United Way of Aiken County Women's Leadership Council Grant Program.")