

**Women United** 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, families, and children.

## Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a registered nonprofit (501(c)(3)), registered as a charitable organization with the SC Secretary of State, providing services in Aiken County.
- Align with Women United's mission of empowering women, families, and children through programs focused on education, health, and financial stability.
- Demonstrate measurable impact and a clear plan for fund utilization.
- Provide a detailed financial statement outlining total project costs and showing that the organization can contribute at least 5% of the requested funds.
- Submit a budget narrative/justification, including prior-year funding details if applicable.
- List income sources for the project, indicating whether funds are 'Pending' or 'Received'.

## Financial & Accountability Requirements:

### **Financial Statement:**

- Applicants must submit a detailed budget outlining project costs.
- The budget must show the organization's ability to contribute at least 5% of the requested amount.

### **Income Sources:**

- Organizations must list all income sources for the project, including the amount requested in this application.
- Mark whether each income source is 'Pending' or 'Received'.

### **Accountability Report:**

- Grant recipients must submit a progress and financial report within 6-12 months after receiving funds.
- Reports should include measurable outcomes, budget usage, and project impact.
- Failure to submit a report may result in future funding denials or a requirement to refund the grant.

## Scoring Metrics (Total: 100 points)

Category	Points	Evaluation Criteria
Project Impact & Community Need	25	Does the project directly benefit women, families, or children? Does it address a critical need?
Financial Stability & Contribution	20	Does the financial statement clearly outline costs? Can the organization contribute at least 5%?
Sustainability & Feasibility	15	Is the project realistic and sustainable beyond the grant year?
Measurable Outcomes	15	Are there clear, trackable goals (e.g., 75% of clients employed within two months)?
Community Engagement & Partnerships	10	Does the project involve collaborating partners or volunteers? Are partner commitment letters attached?
Management Capability & Action Plan	10	Does the organization have a well-defined project plan, staffing structure, and timeline?
Past Accountability (if applicable)	5	Has the organization effectively used previous funding and submitted required reports?

**Minimum Score to Qualify: 70/100**

## Grant Application Process:

- Grant applications are due FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025.
- Women United's Executive Committee will screen and evaluate applications completeness and applicability to Women United's mission, issues of interest, and supported approaches/endeavor.
- Women United's Executive Committee will produce a ballot of qualified applicants to the Women United membership to vote on recipients.
- Recipients will be notified and invited to a Women United Spring Awards Ceremony.
- Applicants who are not selected will be notified.
- Grant recipients must acknowledge Women United funding on all marketing materials. (For example, the marketing materials may state: "Funding assistance provided by United Way of Aiken County's Women United Grant Program.")

*\*Only electronically submitted applications will be accepted. (paper applications, mailed or hand-delivered applications will NOT be considered.)*

## Activities Women United will NOT fund:

- Capital, endowment, or memorial campaigns
- Expenses for travel, legal, fundraising, special events, or galas
- General operating costs or overhead expenses
- Scholarship requests for individuals
- Training of organization's 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 Women United funding for their own purposes
- Activities outside Women United's focus area(s)
- Programs that take place outside of Aiken County