



United Way of Aiken County, Inc.

WOMEN UNITED

Grant Application Process

Women United is an affinity group of United Way of Aiken County.

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

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 homeless women and children.

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

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.
Safety:	Support victims of violence, neglect or poverty; prevent/treat physical, sexual, 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.
Education:	Provide access to quality educational opportunities.
Economic Status:	Promote economic equity, address financial stability, build financial well-being through financial literacy.

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

ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS

- Nonprofit tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Registered as a charitable organization with the SC Secretary of State
- Located in and providing services in Aiken County
- Does 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

GRANT CRITERIA

- Program must address an existing or emerging community need.
- Program must 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.
- Program should strive to pool together smaller efforts among nonprofit organizations to have a high impact in community and eliminate duplication.
- Program should foster capacity building among the women and/or children targeted for service, to serve as a useful community model.
- Program should 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.
- Program should promote a sense of community service and giving back among those being served, thereby providing unique opportunities to the community.
- Program must accomplish definite purpose within a specified time period - normally not more than one year.
- Program will show a well-planned approach to address important community issues; involve underserved constituencies; provide identifiable outcomes of the proposed program/project; demonstrate specific measurable goals.

GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

- Grant applications are due **FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024**.
- 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.
- 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