



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — Feb. 15, 2016

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Women's Fund Grant Program Expanded,
Proposals Due March 7

El Dorado County nonprofits serving a wide variety of interests—from human services to the environment to animal welfare—are now invited to apply for financial assistance from Women's Fund El Dorado (WFED), it was announced this week.

"After receiving input from our members in a survey conducted last June, the granting process now looks much different than in previous years and is open to a broader range of organizations," noted Cathy Bean, chair of the WFED Cabinet.

A total of \$60,000 is available to nonprofits on the county's western slope (El Dorado Hills to Silver Fork). Requests for proposals (RFPs) and details are available online at www.womensfundeldorado.org/grants. Completed proposals must reach WFED no later than 5 p.m. on March 7 (electronic submission preferred; for more information, contact Debi Harlow, Grants Committee chair, at grants@womensfundeldorado.org).

The WFED membership will vote in April to select the successful applicants, who will be recognized at the annual Grants Gala on June 3.

A \$5,000 grant will be awarded in each of three new **Impact Grant** categories. An **Acorn Grant** will be available to nonprofits that have not yet received a WFED grant, with the hope that newer and/or smaller organizations will be encouraged to apply. A **Human Services Grant** is available to any local nonprofit delivering social programs or services on the western slope and a **Community Benefit Grant** will be available to nonprofits working on community projects ranging from beautification to environmental cleanup to the arts to animal welfare.

Community Focus Grants totaling \$45,000 (with no single grant of more than \$22,500) will be awarded for programs or projects that will benefit the western slope, including direct human services and programs/projects pertaining to the arts, the environment, community beautification, animal welfare or community development.

The new process also eliminates the one-year “waiting period” formerly imposed on grant recipients to allow funding for multi-year programs.

To qualify, organizations must have nonprofit status, an established office on the western slope of El Dorado County and provide services to the western slope. If a nonprofit does not have an established office on the western slope, it may collaborate or partner with a qualifying organization. The qualifying nonprofit must serve as the grant applicant.

Women’s Fund El Dorado, a fund of the El Dorado Community Foundation, is a collective giving organization that is open to all for a donation of \$200 a year or more. Funds collected are pooled and leveraged in the form of grants, voted on by members, which support community philanthropy to enhance the quality of life on the western slope of El Dorado County. Since it was founded in 2008, membership has grown to over 400 and the organization has granted more than \$350,000. For details, visit womensfundeldorado.org.

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Calendar item:

March 7 —Women’s Fund El Dorado grant proposals due — no later than 5 p.m. Western slope nonprofits invited to apply for \$60,000 in grant funding; requests for proposals (RFPs) and information available online at www.womensfundeldorado.org/grants or contact Debi Harlow, Grants Committee chair, at grants@womensfundeldorado.org.