***2024 GRANTS PROCESS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS***

***1.What is the best way to contact the Women’s Fund El Dorado?***

For direct contact regarding grants, the email address is grants@womensfundeldorado.org. Our general email address is coordinator@womensfundeldorado.org.

***2. Can an organization apply for multiple grants?***

No - an organization can apply for one grant. The grant options are an Inspiration, Acorn, or Impact Grant. Organizations must decide for themselves which is the best fit for their project.

***3. How many applications does the Women’s Fund El Dorado typically receive?***

We receive between 40 and 50 applications in any year.

***4. Does an award need to be fully used within a specific time period?***

Yes. This grant period runs from June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025. All grant monies must be expended by May 31, 2025. If an organization does not anticipate expending all funds by May 31, 2025, they must request an extension in advance or possibly return funds to Women’s Fund El Dorado.

***5. What if there are changes to the original grant proposal during the funding period?***

WFED’s Cabinet is committed to the program which was selected by a vote of its members. If changes or deviations from the original proposal are anticipated, the organization must contact the Site Visit Committee Chair prior to making program or funding changes to avoid triggering a recall of funds. Potential changes can be due to changes in infrastructure or unanticipated challenges in implementing the original proposal. WFED wants to fund the interests of its members through supporting your organization’s success in achieving outcomes. We are able to do this when there is early and open communication about any changes or challenges.

***6. Does the entire Women’s Fund membership decide on all grants?***

The Grants Committee, comprised of seven Women’s Fund El Dorado members, reviews and scores all grant proposals received. A maximum of five grant proposals in the Inspiration category will move forward to the membership who then votes for two. This year, six Impact and six Acorn Grant selections will move forward to the membership who then votes for three in each category to determine which will be funded.

***7. What are the grant categories?***

This year we are funding:

 **(2) Inspiration Grants:**
Total to be awarded: $52,000

Inspiration Grants do not have a specific focus, thereby inspiring nonprofits to identify and address our community’s most pressing needs. Applicants can apply for up to $26,000.

**(3) Acorn Grants:**

Total to be awarded: $24,000

A total of three (3)Acorn grantsof up to $8,000 eachwill be awarded to nonprofit/community organizations that have not previously received a grant from the WFED. New and established nonprofits are encouraged to apply. Any organization with a fiscal sponsor who has received funding from WFED in the past is not eligible to receive an Acorn Grant.
 **(3) Impact Grants:**Total to be awarded $24,000Atotal ofthree (3) Impact Grants of up to $8,000 each will be awarded to nonprofit organizations offering direct impacts on the western slope of El Dorado County. This includes but is not limited to human services, such as those pertaining to mental or physical health, education, youth development, or services to children, families or seniors, arts, community beautification, animal welfare, or community development.

***7. Does the Grants Committee want to see the nonprofit financials or audit reports?***

Financial reports or audit reports for the nonprofit are not required.  All grant proposals require a program budget submittal. A budget template is provided.

***8. Is there a limit on salaries that can be paid from the grant?***

There is no limit on salaries that are providing direct services. For salaries related to indirect costs, please refer to the question below.

***9. Are indirect costs allowed and is there a limit?***

Indirect costs and/or unrestricted uses are allowed. While we would like to see the majority of the grant dollars used for direct services, we understand the impact on your organization and allow for indirect costs and/or unrestricted uses not to exceed 20%. Our priority is that we provide the funding which enables you to meet the outcomes in your proposal.

If these costs are claimed for an amount greater than 10%, the budget must include a description of what is included for indirect costs and/or unrestricted uses.

***10. Does the Women’s Fund El Dorado encourage building relationships with local partners?***

We do encourage building relationships with local partners on the western slope of El Dorado County.

***11. If a proposed project is a new scope for an organization, how will the Grants Committee judge its feasibility?***

By the track record of the organization and whether the project is logical and sustainable.

***12. Women’s Fund El Dorado - Grants we do not fund:***

* Research (medical or otherwise)
* Operating deficits/retirement of existing debt
* For-profit organizations
* Individuals, for any purpose
* Religious organizations, unless religious teachings are not a prerequisite to receiving services.
* Scholarships for a named individual, although scholarship funds may receive grants.
* Endowments
* Nonprofit organizations not operating within the western slope of El Dorado County
* Political nonprofits

Please contact the Grants Chair, Teri Whiting, at grants@womensfundeldorado.org if you have any additional questions.