



2025/2026 Women in Health Collaborative Fund Guidelines

Background

Women's Fund of Central Indiana created the Women in Health Collaborative Fund to provide funding to organizations providing health services. The Fund will harness the work, wealth, and wisdom of women in healthcare, working at all levels to improve health outcomes for Central Indiana women and girls. The 2025/2026 grantmaking focus will be on services for self-identified women and girls in the areas of **reproductive and sexual health, maternal mortality, and mental health**.

Application Parameters

- Organizations must serve self-identified women and/or girls in central Indiana (Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, and Shelby Counties).
- Applicants can apply for a program grant (not an operating grant). Staff and indirect costs are allowable.
- Applications demonstrating collaboration will be encouraged. We would like to see inclusion of organizations that are working directly in the community and serving the most vulnerable underserved populations. Organizations are strongly encouraged to partner with a grassroots organization(s) serving underserved populations.
- The maximum allowable request is \$50,000.
- 2025 Women's Fund annual round grantees (grants made in September 2025), as well as other organizations, may apply.
- Previous Women in Health Collaborative Fund grantees (grants made in March 2025) are NOT eligible to apply.
- The organization submitting the application will serve as the fiscal agent and the grant will be made to that organization. Requested board and financial documents should come from the applicant organization.
- The grant period will be April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027.
- The applicant organization must be a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and have a board composed of at least 50% individuals who identify as women. If you are interested in using a fiscal sponsor, please contact Julie Koegel at juliek@womensfund.org to discuss prior to application submission.
- Women's Fund is interested in innovative and collaborative solutions in the following focus areas. Priority will be given to programs that serve women and girls who have high needs but who are less able to get services, and organizations that can demonstrate they are culturally competent and provide trauma informed services.
 - **Reproductive and sexual health:**
 - Organizations addressing reproductive rights/health and access to sexual health and education.
 - Improved access to affordable reproductive and sexual health care
 - Increased/improved education on reproductive and sexual health

- **Maternal mortality:**
 - Improved access to geographic, affordable, equitable and evidence-based maternal care during pregnancy, delivery and post-partum
 - Services that are recommended in the Indiana Maternal Mortality Review Committee 2023 or more recent (if available) Annual Report.
- **Mental health:**
 - Evidence-based mental health treatment or other therapeutic modalities
 - Increased/improved programming focused on image and identity
 - Improved access to and knowledge about existing services
 - Decreased stigma relative to mental illness and mental health services

Key Application Questions

- Choose only one of the three focus areas.
- List and describe the applicant's mission and key services/programs and the mission and key services/programs of any partner organization(s) (if applicable).
- List collaborative partners' specific roles and how funds will be distributed among the partners (if applicable).
- Describe the women and/or girls you will serve.
- Describe the services you will provide, including the number of women/girls to be served and the number of touchpoints with the women/girls to be served over one year.
- Describe how your services will be provided to women and/or girls who have high needs but are less able to get services.
- Describe how/why you deem your staff to be culturally competent and providing trauma informed care/services.
- If applying under reproductive and sexual health, describe how your services will improve Indiana's current reproductive and sexual health and education environment.
- If applying under maternal mortality, describe how your services address the Indiana Maternal Mortality Review Committee Annual Report recommendations.
- If applying under mental health, describe how you will use evidence-based mental health treatment or other therapeutic modalities.
- Define success for the women and girls who will be served.
- Demographic information – number of women/girls to be served, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, age, income level.
- How requested funds will be used.

Timeline

- Information webinar will be held Friday, October 3, 2025, 12:00 – 1:00 pm. Register at: [Women in Health Collaborative Grant Information Session - Women's Fund](#)
- Application open October 1 – 31, 2025 in the CICF grants portal (see below)
- Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by March 31, 2026

Ineligible

- Organizations not committed to gender equity
- Programs promoting religion, including proselytizing, religious training or prayer (see below)
- Fundraising activities (such as golf tournaments or galas)
- Political campaigns
- Individuals
- Organization-sponsored conferences or event sponsorships
- Schools
- Organizations whose board of directors or advisory group is composed of less than 50% self-identified women.

Other

Women and girls in Central Indiana have a variety of spiritual practices and religions; some practice no religion at all. Women's Fund of Central Indiana remains neutral regarding women and girls' chosen religious expression. We believe all women and girls deserve support regardless of spiritual belief. Therefore, it is our policy not to fund programs that include prayer, the promotion of religion, religious preferences, objectives, education, and/or training. If your organization's mission statement is religious in nature, you must describe the role that mission and presence have in the grant activities for which you are seeking Women's Fund support.

As a good steward of donor dollars, Women's Fund is required to closely examine organizations' financial and governance structures. Women's Fund understands that some executive directors serve on an organization's board of directors according to the organization's bylaws. However, no paid staff or their family members should be a board officer or compose 50% or more of the organization's board of directors. If an organization's staff or board members own a for-profit organization and the for-profit interacts with the not-for-profit, there must be a clear financial and governance delineation between the two and separate books kept for the for-profit and not-for-profit organization.

Submission Instructions

- a. Organizations must submit an application through the CICF portal at <https://cicf.smartsimple.com> between October 1 - 31 at 4:00 p.m. When submitting an application, choose the *Women in Health Collaborative Fund 2026* under Open Calls. During the Open Call period, organizations can start an application and finish it later. Once the application is submitted, no changes can be made.
- b. If an organization does not have a current organizational profile in the grants portal, it must either create one or update the profile before completing the application. An organizational profile can be created or updated at any time.
- c. For technical or CICF portal questions, contact grantsupport@cicf.org.
- d. If you have other questions, please contact Julie Koegel at juliek@womensfund.org or 317.696.1933.