



## **FAQ – 100 Women Charitable Foundation**

### **About the Foundation**

#### **1. What is the mission of the 100 Women Charitable Foundation?**

The 100 Women Charitable Foundation streamlines and amplifies our members' engagement in philanthropy, making it easy for them to create a lasting difference in our local communities. We are committed to channeling 100% of all donations annually to nonprofits dedicated to benefiting underserved or disadvantaged populations.

#### **2. How does collective giving work?**

Each member contributes annually, and these donations are pooled to fund grants. Members also participate in the grant review and voting process, making philanthropy a shared experience.

#### **3. Are there any restrictions on membership?**

No! While the Foundation was founded by women, membership is open to anyone, of any age, living anywhere, who supports its mission.

#### **4. What types of organizations receive funding?**

Nonprofits that serve in Santa Clara and/or San Mateo Counties with an emphasis on Education, Family, and/or Health & Wellness. Past recipients include organizations focused on literacy, domestic violence prevention, mental health, and youth development.

#### **5. What is the Foundation's history?**

Founded in 2006 by a group of women in Los Altos who set out to recruit 100 women to donate a minimum of \$100 that they would collectively give away to local charities. Since then, the Foundation has awarded almost \$2.5 million in grants to more than 100 organizations.

#### **6. Is the 100 Women Charitable Foundation associated with any other group?**

No. We are built on a similar model, but we are independent. We do not have chapters and are not part of any other organization.

#### **7. How many employees does 100 Women have?**

None. We are entirely a volunteer organization.

## **8. What principles guide the Foundation's operations?**

The Foundation is guided by these principles to keep it simple:

- Make it affordable.
- Require minimum time involvement.
- Run as an all-volunteer organization.
- Grant **all** donated monies each year.
- Ensure every member has an equal vote, regardless of donation amount.
- Support local charities working in the three areas: Education, Family, and Health & Wellness.

## **9. How can nonprofits stay informed about grant opportunities?**

Nonprofits can subscribe to the Foundation's mailing list or check the website for updates on the annual grant cycle.

## **10. Does the Foundation host events?**

Yes. Events include member fundraisers, grant finalist presentations, and community engagement activities.

## **11. How is transparency maintained in the grant process?**

The Foundation uses a structured scoring rubric, site visits, and member voting to ensure fairness and clarity in grant decisions.

## **12. Can I nominate a nonprofit for funding?**

Yes. Members and community members can encourage nonprofits to apply during the open LOI period.

## Membership and Giving

### 1. What is the donation requirement for membership?

The minimum donation has remained at \$100, as a principal, though of course this has not kept up with inflation and the rising costs of services and goods. The average donation is approximately \$360. Membership is on a calendar year basis, irrespective of when a member joins. All member contributions are granted annually.

### 2. What are the different ways I can donate or support the Foundation?

There are two main donation categories:

- **Donation to Grants:** This is the primary membership donation. **100%** of these funds go directly to the annual grant recipients.
- **Donation to “Friends”:** This type of donation supports the Foundation’s operating costs, events, and administrative functions.

### 10. Are donations tax-deductible?

Yes. The Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

### 9. How can I get involved beyond donating?

Members can join grant committees, volunteer through the “100 Minutes” program, participate on the Board and its committees, and attend events.

## The Grant Process

### 1. What is the timeline for the annual grant cycle?

- **Spring:** Letter of Intent (LOI) is due.
- **Mid-August:** Full applications are due from invited organizations.
- **Fall (September - November):** Grant Committees meet three times to evaluate submissions and make site visits.
- **First Saturday in March:** The Membership Dinner & Grant Vote is held.

### 2. How many grant applications does 100 Women accept?

We accept up to 45 grant applications per year. 12 semi-finalists will participate in a site visit, and there are 6 finalists each year. All finalists will receive a grant.

### 3. How are grant finalists selected?

After submitting a Letter of Inquiry, selected nonprofits are invited to submit full applications. Grant committees review applications, conduct site visits, and present finalists for member voting.

#### **4. How are grant recipients selected at the final vote?**

The six finalists present their charity and project at the March event. Each member is able to vote, in-person or remotely, and:

- The **three top-voted organizations** are announced as **Impact Grant** winners.
- The other **three organizations** are given smaller **Investment Grants**.

#### **5. What were the amounts of the first grants awarded?**

In 2007, the Foundation's first grants totaled \$31,500.

#### **6. Who is eligible to vote for the grant recipients?**

All members who made a donation in the previous calendar year are eligible to vote for grant finalists the following March.

## **Engagement and Contact Information**

### **1. Where can I follow the Foundation online?**

The Foundation maintains an active presence on several social media channels:

- **LinkedIn** for professional updates.
- **Instagram** for engaging visuals and behind-the-scenes content.
- **Facebook** for community interactions and organizational updates.

### **2. How do I contact the Foundation for general or partnership inquiries?**

You can reach out via email or postal mail:

- **Email:** [info@100womenfoundation.org](mailto:info@100womenfoundation.org)
- **Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 3418, Los Altos, CA 94024-3418