

Giving Circle



women's
connection

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER



A Donor Advised Fund of the
**PHILADELPHIA
FOUNDATION**

Fully completed applications are due by 5 pm, Friday, February 13, 2026

Giving Circle of Women's Connection Philadelphia Grant Application 2026

The Giving Circle of Women's Connection Philadelphia ("Giving Circle") is the philanthropic arm of the Philadelphia Chapter of Women's Connection and a Philadelphia Foundation Donor Advised Fund. We are pleased to announce that this year, we will be awarding three grants of at least \$20,000 each. The grants are unrestricted and may be used for general operating support.

The mission of the Giving Circle is to support local nonprofit organizations working to improve the lives of women and children in the City of Philadelphia by raising funds for collective donor-advised philanthropy, nurturing relationships with the organizations we support, and engaging with our donors to build a better community. The Giving Circle is committed to inclusion across race, gender, age, religion and identity. We are looking to support organizations who share this commitment.

The Giving Circle of Women's Connection Philadelphia's focus for 2026 is Food Insecurity. Eligible organizations will be nonprofits with a significant commitment to improving access to affordable, healthy food for women and their families in Philadelphia. They will include those offering a range of services, such as food banks, community gardens, meal programs, excess food collection and distribution, and nutrition education.

Applicant organizations must meet the following criteria:

- Primarily serve women and families residing in Philadelphia.
- Have a 501(c)(3) public charity exempt status from the IRS or a fiscal sponsorship confirmation for a minimum of two years.
- Have a general operating budget for the most recent fiscal year-end of \$3 million or less not including in-kind donations.
- Have not received a grant from Giving Circle in the past 3 grant cycles.
- Do not promote religious or political ideology.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Organization:

Address:

Website:

Executive Director:

Phone:

Email:

Primary Contact:

(if different than above)

Title:

Phone:

(if different than above)

E-Mail:

How did you hear about the Giving Circle grants?

APPLICANT INFORMATION (continued)

Please provide the following documents, numbering your responses and attachments to correspond to the required information.

A. Organizational:

1. Mission statement.
2. 501(c)(3) designation letter from the IRS or fiscal sponsorship confirmation letter.
3. List of key staff members, including previous experience and length of service. Please include a resume for the Executive Director.
4. Most recent strategic plan, if available.
5. List of Board of Directors, including designated officers, length of service and relevant experience.

B: Financial:

1. Audited financial statements from the past 2 years and your most recent IRS form 990. If audits are not conducted, 2 years of reviewed or compiled financial statements and your most recent IRS form 990 are acceptable.
2. If your most recent audit is more than 15 months old, provide internally prepared operating results for the most recent fiscal year end.
3. Current fiscal year budget and most recent financial performance year to date.
4. If you operate under a fiscal sponsorship, provide a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding with the sponsor and 2 years of internally prepared fiscal year end statements of your individual organization.
5. If you are an affiliate of a national organization, provide a statement of activities and budget for Philadelphia operations for the last two years. Eligible organizations must have a separate budget, staff and office in Philadelphia.
6. List of your 3 to 5 largest grantors and associated amounts for the last two fiscal years.

C: Impact:

1. An approximation of the following information:

	Prior Fiscal Year	Proposed Fiscal Year
Number of Individuals and/or households Served		
% who reside in Philadelphia		
% at 150% of Poverty Level or below		

2. Recent metrics which you use to measure your success/progress in pursuit of your organizational impact.

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

(Maximum length of 4 pages, single spaced)

This is your opportunity to help us understand why your organization is best suited for receiving our general operating support funds. How does your work align with our 2026 focus on food insecurity? Please respond to the following points:

1. A brief history of your organization and its long-term vision and goals.
2. Describe your primary programs, what problem(s) or need(s) do these programs seek to address in the community and how do these programs help you fulfill your mission? Please address the following:
 - a) How are the women and families identified and recruited for your food insecurity program(s)?
 - b) How do you measure your organization's impact based on your mission/programs?
 - c) How do you assess the outcomes?
3. Recent successes, including any programs for which you are particularly proud; recent challenges, including how you intend to meet those challenges.
4. Additional information which you feel is important to include.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Please provide any other materials which you would like to share in support of your application (i.e. annual report, newsletters, press materials, YouTube links, etc.).

AGREEMENT

*I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that all information included in this proposal is correct. The tax-exempt status of this organization is still in effect and **all child abuse clearances including PA Child Abuse History Clearance, criminal history, and FBI fingerprinting are up to date for all program staff and volunteers working with children and youth.** If a grant is awarded to this organization, the proceeds of that grant will not be distributed or used to benefit any organization or individual supporting or engaged in unlawful activities.*

Signature of Executive Director

Date

DIRECTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

Grant applications must include fully completed:

- Applicant information
- Proposal narrative
- Supporting documentation, if applicable.
- Agreement signed and dated by Executive Director

Deadlines and Important Dates:

- **Friday, February 13, 2026: Completed applications must be received by 5:00 pm.**
- Monday, March 16, 2026: Semi-finalists notified.
- March 30 – April 24, 2026: Site visits conducted.
- Friday, May 1, 2026: Finalists notified.
- Thursday, May 7, 2026, 3-5 Finalists are required to give a Presentation to Giving Circle Donors which will be recorded for distribution to all GC Donors. This will be held at the Philadelphian, 2401 Pennsylvania Avenue.
- Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 5-7 Grant Recipients Announcement Celebration This meeting will be held at Independence Live, 1919 Market Street, Philadelphia and all finalists are required to attend.

Please note that the grant recipients may be asked to speak at a few Giving Circle events throughout the year.

Note: An **Information Session** for potential grant applicants will be held on **Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 11:30 am.** This Zoom session will explain our process, review expectations and present you with an overview of our grant application. We hope you will join us. To register, please **CLICK THE LINK BELOW**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81630846232?pwd=jb9bFEgx9yFFG0aSaJoyLH3bRtS1cq.1>

Questions and completed applications should be directed to:

gc.grants.phl@womenconnecting.org