



Spring 2026 Request for Proposals (RFP)

Release Date: January 14, 2026

We believe in the power of women to drive social change. We aim to put resources into the hands of people with bold visions who are working to end gender-based inequity and fundamentally change the systems that perpetuate it. The Women's Catalytic Fund (WCF) offers one-time grants of up to \$15,000 to California organizations with a focus on female identifying, nonbinary and gender non-conforming leaders from BIPOC communities.

Our intention is to give directly to frontline organizations when and where resources are most needed. **To be considered for funding, initiatives, projects, actions or events must:**

- **Address gender-based inequity, gender-based violence, patriarchy, or transphobia.** We define this as responding to the needs, or developing talent and leadership or independence of female-identifying, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming members of targeted communities.
- **Be catalytic.** We define this as having the potential to serve as a model or to have a ripple effect, accelerate change, be inventive or experimental
- **Be intersectional and collaborative.** We define this as crossing boundaries between organizations, issues, and identities in order to create change.
- **Prioritize** low-income women, women of color, or immigrant women, inclusive of all those identifying as female, and led by and representative of the community being served

Eligibility

- Organizations and proposed projects **must be based in California.**
- Organizations must have an **annual budget under \$1,000,000.**
- Applicants must be registered as a 501(c)3, have a designated 501(c)3 willing to accept a grant on their behalf, or have a registered fiscal sponsor.

Funding

- WCF makes **one-time** grants of up to **\$15,000.** **Prior grantees are not eligible.**
- Organizations or projects should utilize one or more of the following strategies:
 - Community organizing
 - Leadership development
 - Media and/or public education
 - Policy advocacy
 - Research
 - Capacity building
 - Convening / event

A grant may support:

- General operating expenses
- Project or initiative support
- Pilot or experimental programs
- Early stage or seed funding that catalyzes additional resources

The WCF does not support:

- Ongoing, regularly scheduled programs
- Previously planned or long-term campaigns
- Budget shortfalls
- Capital Campaigns
- Scholarships

Key Dates and deadlines

- Proposals are due to [JustFund](#) by **5pm February 11, 2026**
- Grant recipients will be notified no later than the week of **April 13, 2026**

Application Instructions

Women's Catalytic Fund accepts applications via [JustFund](#). Before you get started, learn more about how the [JustFund Common Application™](#) works. Begin by registering for a JustFund account at www.justfund.us. Please ensure that all fields in your profile are up to date. As part of your application, your profile information will also be submitted and dated at time of submission. For more information, check out the JustFund [Help Center](#) or email info@justfund.us. In addition to the [Common Proposal](#) questions outlined on JustFund, WCF asks for answers to the following supplemental questions:

1. How does your organization or program address gender-based inequity, gender-based violence, or transphobia? How do you see change affecting your target population as a result of your work? (limit 2000 characters)
2. In what way is your organization or proposed project catalytic? Describe the intersectional and/or collaborative aspects for which you are requesting funding. (limit 2000 characters)
3. How did you hear about WCF?

If you would prefer to respond to the supplemental questions via video submission, please include it in the Attachments section, either by uploading your video file directly or including the link after you have uploaded the video to a streaming site (e.g. YouTube, Vimeo, etc). **Video submission should not exceed 3 minutes.**

Contact Information

Email: wcfgrantinformation@gmail.com

<https://www.ebcf.org/fund/womens-catalytic-fund/>

<https://www.ebcf.org/post/womens-catalytic-fund-a-collective-approach-to-funding-grassroots-gender-justice-movements/>