



THE ATLANTA
WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION

Breaking Barriers. Building Women.

ALL GIRLS FORWARD: GIRLS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

The Atlanta Women's Foundation's (AWF) goal is to support organizations that improve the lives of economically vulnerable women and girls in Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett counties. One of the ways we accomplish this is through grantmaking.

For women and girls impacted by poverty, the best pathway to success is a quality program that creates jobs and advancement opportunities. There are a quarter of a million women impacted by poverty in AWF's 5-county service area.

Eligible Requests

- Organizations **must be invited** to apply.
 - Organizations **must** be nonprofit corporations with 501(c)(3) tax status as declared by the IRS.
 - Organizations may apply for program grants. Any overhead cost that is directly related to the administration of the program is allowable.
 - Organizations may apply for general operating grants. Organizations applying for a general operating grant must have a primary client base that is 100% female.
 - Applicants are eligible if at least 75% of the program's primary clients are female and reside in at least one of AWF's 5-county service areas: Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett.
 - AWF's funding for this initiative must support women and their babies.
 - Organizations must demonstrate in their mission, policies and practices a sensitivity to, and inclusivity of, women of any race, sexual orientation, disability, political affiliation, national origin, ethnicity, or religious belief.
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Ineligible Requests

- Debt reduction
- Building funds
- Endowments
- Projects that require compulsory religious participation
- Any statewide or nationwide programs that do not have a local focus within AWF's 5-county service area
- Federal, state, county or city government agencies
- Requests from individuals or private businesses
- Scholarships requested by individuals
- Fundraising projects
- Capital campaigns and expenditures including renovations, equipment, furnishings and construction

AWF's mission is to be a *catalyst for change in the lives of women and girls*. Our vision is to see women and girls prosper in Atlanta. The goal of AWF's ALL GIRLS FORWARD: GIRLS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM is to ensure girls experiencing poverty, including girl-identifying youth, are empowered through education, socio-emotional development, and pregnancy prevention. More girls in low-income households will have access to the resources they need to be on a level-playing field with their peers.

Enrolling girls in high quality education programs aids brain development, starts them on an early path to academic success, and teaches them the value of completing an education. Having a high school or college degree is an important resource in the job market and informal education is also quite important—teaching girls their own self-worth and the life skills they need to succeed, such as financial literacy, life planning, decision-making, and parenting skills. Formal education and training are essential for getting started down the path toward any type of decent job. Programs that enable girls to complete their high school education and that provide opportunities for post-secondary education and/or job skills training will help put them on more solid financial ground.

Health and wellness are also not to be ignored. A December 2021 report from the U.S. Surgeon General shows teenage suicide attempts have skyrocketed since the pandemic began – up 51 percent for adolescent girls compared to a 4 percent jump for adolescent boys. By mid-adolescence girls are more than twice as likely to be diagnosed with a mood disorder as boys, with the prevalence at adult levels, 14 to 20 percent. Individuals impacted by poverty often neglect their own health because of all the other struggles they deal with in their daily lives. Further, many do not have the resources in place to serve as a healthy outlet for the stresses they endure.

Family and children are of course primary issues, especially the age at which a woman or girl has her first child. Having a baby as a teenager is a key event that can set a girl's life—and her family's life—on an entirely different trajectory. Related, the plight of single female-headed households is a difficult one. All the responsibility in the family falls on the mother, who may struggle to be a good provider, role model, and parent. One of the best ways to address these issues is to make the services already in place more effective.

AWF will award \$2,500,000 over 5-years to ten local nonprofit organizations providing girls focused empowerment programs in Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Gwinnett and Fulton counties. All the nonprofits selected for this initiative will provide wrap-around services for their clients, which is a proven and effective strategy to combat multiple interrelated issues, thereby eliminating additional barriers.

Ten nonprofit organizations will receive grants of \$50,000 annually for 5-years (2023-2027) to provide the critical combination of services needed to move girls to economic self-sufficiency. This combination of services includes job readiness programs, financial literacy, educational opportunities, childcare scholarships for teen moms, mentoring, and physical and mental health care services for girls ages 5-18 at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

AWF will also host annual workshops and trainings for the cohort. Through round-table discussions and presentations, participants will explore the challenges facing girls and discuss the best ways to engage groups and individuals to build momentum and best practices on improving the well-being of girls in Georgia. The goal of the convenings is to provide organizational capacity building, training, encourage dialogue, cross-functional partnerships, strategic alliances, and foster collaboration among service providers.

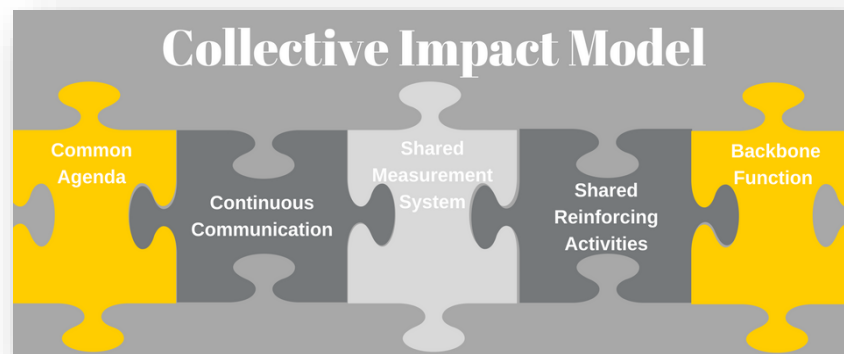
Program components will include:

- Cohort multi-year funding (AWF board will vote annually);
- Facilitated discussions to foster a safe environment for peer sharing;
- Program evaluation technical assistance;
- Individualized one-on-one consultation;
- Workshops and trainings; and
- Interactive convenings that allow nonprofits an opportunity share their work and explore collaboration.

ALL GIRLS FORWARD: GIRLS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- Empowering and educating a minimum of 5,000 girls at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Leveraging and expanding girl focused programs in metro Atlanta with a priority of expanding services in Clayton County.
- Creating new gender-based educational and health-related programs for girls.
- Developing a body of knowledge about the potential causes and solutions and to make these findings available to policymaking entities.

AWF will apply a collective impact approach to the ALL GIRLS FORWARD: GIRLS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM. AWF has applied this model with best practice results in the area of mental health, workforce development and economic empowerment for low income women. The collective impact model involves a structured process leading to a common agenda, shared measurement, and continuous communication among the cohort. The model will bring together a diverse group of nonprofits. All the nonprofits selected for this initiative must provide wrap-around services for their clients, which is a proven and effective strategy to combat multiple interrelated issues, thereby eliminating additional barriers.



The ALL GIRLS FORWARD: GIRLS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM Cohort will meet annually for a facilitated discussion to foster a safe environment for peer sharing, exploration of potential joint approaches and to address any barriers. Collective Impact convenings are powerful vehicles for gathering shared knowledge, building relationships and laying the groundwork for collective action. AWF plays an essential role in creating the space for collaboration and supporting nonprofits as they work together to achieve better results across the entire community. Program components will include:

- Financial Support;
- Facilitated discussions to foster a safe environment for peer sharing;
- Program evaluation technical assistance;
- Individualized one-on-one consultation;
- Workshops and trainings; and
- Interactive convenings that allow nonprofits an opportunity share their work and explore collaboration.