



RAINMAKERS GIVING CIRCLE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Proposals are due no later than Monday, December 3, 2018 at 5 p.m.

Rainmakers Giving Circle ("**Rainmakers**") is pleased to issue a request for proposals for its 2018-19 grant-making cycle from nonprofit organizations serving economically vulnerable girls and young women age 24 or - younger living in the District of Columbia, Prince George's County, Maryland or Arlington County, Virginia (the "**Targeted Population**").

The Rainmakers' mission is to improve the lives of the Targeted Population by supporting programs that help them develop useful life skills, improve their self-esteem and achieve their full potential. More specifically, Rainmakers will award grants to programs (each, an "**Eligible Program**") that make a compelling case that they will achieve one or more of the following impacts (collectively, the "**Desired Program Impacts**"):

- Encourage the development of confidence and self-esteem, healthy behaviors and the reduction of risk factors among members of the Targeted Population;
- Increase the competence of members of the Targeted Population in the areas of education, health, interpersonal relations, financial management, employment readiness and prospects, and/or other important life skills; and/or

Provide legal services for the purpose of preventing incarceration or loss of housing or to enhance employment or housing prospects;

All grant funds must exclusively benefit economically vulnerable girls and young women age 24 and younger who reside in the District of Columbia, Prince George's County, Maryland, or Arlington County, Virginia. Grant funds may not be used for co-educational programs.

Criteria for 2018-2019 Proposals

To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must:

- Be a nonprofit organization that is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code;
- Provide services to the Targeted Population;
- Have been in operation for at least two years; and
- Not seek funding for a program that proselytizes for a religion or a faith-based organization.

Rainmakers will not consider requests to fund:

- Individuals;
- Programs that provide services to boys or young men;
- Scientific or medical research;
- Programs that promote religious doctrine;
- Endowments;
- Capital improvements, including construction or renovation projects; and/or
- Debt retirement.

Grant Awards

This year, Rainmakers will award a total of \$65,000 to \$75,000 in grants to four to five organizations that serve the Targeted Population for use for an Eligible Program and/or, as set forth in the following paragraph, for general operating support. Individual grants typically range between \$10,000 and \$15,000. Nonprofits serving economically vulnerable girls and women age 24 or younger who reside in neighboring jurisdictions will not be eligible for funding during this grant cycle. Awards may vary from the amounts requested in the applications, depending on the number of grants that Rainmakers decide to make.

Rainmakers will consider requests for general operating support made by a nonprofit whose mission is fully consistent with the Rainmakers' mission (*i.e.*, an organization that **exclusively** serves economically vulnerable girls and women age 24 or younger living in an eligible jurisdiction). Organizations that do not qualify for a grant exclusively covering general operating support must apply for funding for a specific Eligible Program and such requests may include funding for general operating support **up to a maximum of 20 percent of the grant.**

For information about the Rainmakers' grant-making history, please visit the Rainmakers' page on the Washington Area Women's Foundation website: <http://thewomensfoundation.org/rainmakers-giving-circle/>

How to Apply

Proposals due: Monday, December 3, 2018 at 5 p.m.

Proposal format:

- Include (1) the grant application cover sheet (located at the end of this document); (2) a proposal narrative (as specified below); and (3) the required documents.
- Submissions must be electronically in a Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and/or PDF format. **Other electronic formats will not be accepted.** Submit two files: one for the cover sheet, proposal narrative and all non-financial information; and the second, for all financial information.
- Include your organization's name at the beginning of each file's name (e.g., [Organization Name] – Proposal and Non-Financial Information; [Organization Name] – Financial Information).
- Type and **double-space** the proposal, using standard typeface no smaller than 12-point type.
- Have 1" margins on all sides of each page and number each page of the proposal narrative.
- Include your organization's name at the top of each page of the proposal narrative.
- Re-type the question before each response in the proposal narrative. Questions, but not answers, may be single-spaced.
- Do not exceed 3 pages for the proposal narrative and one page for the timeline.
- Send the proposal via email to (1) rainmakersgivingcircle@gmail.com **and** (2) mjohnson@wawf.org.

Applications received after 5 pm on Monday, December 3, 2018, or applications that are faxed, mailed, handwritten or incomplete will not be accepted.

Proposal Narrative Outline

The narrative responding to the questions set forth below should be no longer than three pages. Please re-type the question before each response. It is anticipated that your work will be carried out during the period from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, but if this time frame does not meet your needs, you may so note in your proposal and ask for an exception to be made. On a separate page, clearly outline when the intended activities for the entire grant cycle will occur and the anticipated outputs and/or outcomes, preferably in chart format in three columns, indicating the month and year of each activity, the anticipated output, and the anticipated outcomes.

If your organization's mission is entirely consistent with the Rainmakers' mission and you are seeking to use 100 percent of the grant for general operating support, these questions are applicable to all your programs. If, however, your proposal is seeking funding for an Eligible Program or an Eligible Program plus general operating support, you may limit your responses to that Eligible Program.

1. Describe the program for which you are requesting funding. What specific problems, needs or issues does this program address? Will the program significantly improve the lives of the Targeted Population by achieving one or more of the Desired Program Impacts? If so, identify the applicable Desired Program Impact(s) and explain how each will be achieved.
2. Does the program focus **exclusively** on the Targeted Population? How do you plan to recruit the Targeted Population to participate in the program and make sure that participants have transportation to the program?
3. How many members of the Targeted Population will the program serve annually? How many hours per day, days per week, and weeks per year will your program provide to the Targeted Population?
4. *If this is a new program:* What positive impact do you expect the program to have on the Targeted Population? What is the basis for expecting these outcomes? How do you plan to measure the program's impact?
5. *If this is an existing program:* What positive impact has the program had on the Targeted Population since its inception? How have you measured these outcomes?
6. What distinguishes this program from other programs designed to help the Targeted Population in your region? *For new programs,* why is it important to launch this program now?
7. Does your organization have the capacity or the funding necessary to successfully carry out this program? Is a Rainmakers' grant crucial to achieving full funding for this program? If so, please explain why.
8. Please tell us how you learned about the RFP.

Required Documents

Organizational and Program Budgets and Financial Statements (to be sent in a single, separate pdf, identified as [Name of Organization] – Financial Information):

- The organization's operating budget vs. actual income and expenses for the current fiscal year. **Note:** If a grant is awarded, the grant period will be July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.
- The organization's operating budget vs. actual income and expenses for the prior fiscal year.
- If, when your application is submitted, the organization is in the last quarter of its current fiscal year, the organization's budget for its next fiscal year.
- If the grant request is for a program that is one of multiple programs operated by the organization, include the budget for the program, including income and expenses as well as the allocation of staff time.
- If the grant request will not cover all expenses of the program, a list of all additional sources of income for the program (including the names of donors and the dollar amounts given or committed to be given). **Note:** It is **not** a requirement that you seek additional funds from other sources.

- The organization’s most recent audited financial statement or 990. If these are not available, please submit financial statements for the last 2 years. **Form 990EZ will not be accepted in lieu of audited financial statements.**
- Include the following documents after the cover sheet and proposal narrative and submit in a single file entitled [Organization Name] – Proposal and Non-Financial Information.
- A list of all sites where the Eligible Program is or will be offered.
- A list of the members of your Board of Directors (with their employer affiliations), staff who will work on the Eligible Program and their credentials, and whether staff are paid or are volunteers.
- A copy of the organization’s IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter.

Proposal Review Process

The Rainmakers Giving Circle will evaluate eligible proposals and select 9 to 12 applicants to receive site visits. Applicants will be notified by March 15, 2019 whether they were selected for site visits. A member of the Site Visit Committee will contact each selected applicant to arrange a mutually convenient date in March or April 2019. Site visits will be conducted by two to four Rainmakers’ members.

Funding decisions will be announced in May or June 2019. Grants will be distributed by the Washington Area Women’s Foundation (“**WAWF**”), the Rainmakers’ sponsor, in late June or early July, depending on how long the grantee takes to complete and return to WAWF the Grant Agreement that spells out the grantee’s obligations.

Please direct any inquiries to the Rainmakers’ email address: rainmakersgivingcircle@gmail.com.



GRANT APPLICATION COVER PAGE

_____		_____
Name of Organization		Website
_____		_____
Street Address		City, State, Zip Code
_____		_____
Federal Tax-Exempt Number		Year Organization Commenced Operations
_____		_____
Contact Person's Name and Title	Email Address	Phone Number

Organization's Mission:

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Name of Program: _____ Total program budget: _____

Grant amount requested: _____ Fiscal year: _____ Total organization budget: _____

Geographic area served: _____ Population served: _____

Summary of Proposal:

CERTIFICATION

The Applicant's President or Executive Director must sign below.

I, the undersigned, certify that all grant funds received by the Applicant will exclusively benefit economically vulnerable girls and young women age 24 and younger who reside in the District of Columbia, Prince George's County, Maryland, or Arlington County, Virginia and attest to the accuracy of the information submitted in this application.

Name (printed) _____ Signature: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____ Email Address: _____ Phone No: _____