



**FY26 Grantmaking  
Program Info  
Session**



# WOMEN'S FUND SOUTHCOAST

## Welcome!

**Icebreaker:** In the chat, please tell us your name, your pronouns, your organization and title, and your favorite SouthCoast restaurant!





**Welcome from  
Executive Director  
Christine Monska**



# WOMEN'S FUND SOUTHCOAST

## Ground Rules

- To limit distractions, all participants should remain muted and off-camera during today's session.
- Please place questions in the chat and we will answer them at the end of the session.
- Please be respectful of others and reach out to Women's Fund SouthCoast staff with any issues.
- In order to create a safe and welcoming environment for all, Women's Fund SouthCoast staff reserve the right to remove individuals from the session today if these Ground Rules are not met.



# Agenda

Welcome & Review of FY25 Grant Partners

Overview of FY26 Program Edits

Overview of FY26 Priority Funding Areas

Overview of FY26 Eligibility & Application

Overview of FY26 Grant Timeline

Q&A and Closing



**WOMEN'S  
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**Review of FY25  
Grant Partners**



In FY25, the Women's Fund SouthCoast allocated over \$100,000 to the following 10 organizations to help expand their work and our mission across the SouthCoast.

- **Bristol Community College Foundation**
- **Community Economic Development Center (CEDC)**
  - **ELECT SouthCoast**
  - **Fishing Heritage Center**
- **Girls on the Run Rhode Island**
- **Health Imperatives**
- **Mujeres Victoriosas**
- **Our Sisters' School (OSS)**
- **Sacred Birthing Village**
- **YWCA SEMA**

We are very proud of all of our grantees, past and present, for their work in our communities as well as allowing the Women's Fund SouthCoast to be a part of it. Visit our website if you would like to learn more about our organization and their individual projects!



# Overview of FY26 Program Edits





Our goal is to **foster an innovative environment to further our mission while reducing administrative burden on our grantees**. We heard your feedback and have incorporated it into this year's program in the following ways:

- Removal of Letter of Intent (LOI) requirement to expedite and ease application submission.
- Award requests can range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Grants typically range between \$10,000 to \$12,000.
- Creation of a separate social innovation fund to support organizational events, workshops, and other mission-aligned activities that are smaller in scope than a 12-month grant.
- Elimination of Grant Liaison role and hiring of additional staff at the Women's Fund SouthCoast to support your organizations with technical assistance, grant evaluation, and other issues
- Creation of a budgeting tool to help organizations track spending, create more accountability, and pivot when necessary.





# Overview of FY26 Funding Priority Areas



In a rapidly changing non-profit space, we are working hard to allocate grant funding to the areas with the largest identified gaps and needs. These updated priority areas reflect that intent and help further our mission in a more expansive funding environment. **Please note you may apply for projects that satisfy multiple priority areas.**

- **Sexual & Reproductive Health** – funding for programs that promote high-quality, low-threshold access to sexual and reproductive health services on the SouthCoast as well as needed supplemental funding due to reductions from other sources.
- **Early Childhood Education & Childcare** – funding for programs that create or expand meaningful pathways to access high-quality, low-cost early childhood education and/or childcare on the SouthCoast.
- **Economic Empowerment & Justice** – funding for programs that better position women, girls, and gender expansive individuals to control and achieve their own financial goals.
- **DEIA Programming** – funding for programs that seek to empower, inform, and support individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, persons with disabilities, and/or Non-US born.
- **Civic Education & Engagement** – funding for programs that empower women, girls, and gender expansive individuals to engage in political activism, community organizing, storytelling and other ways of mobilizing collective power.



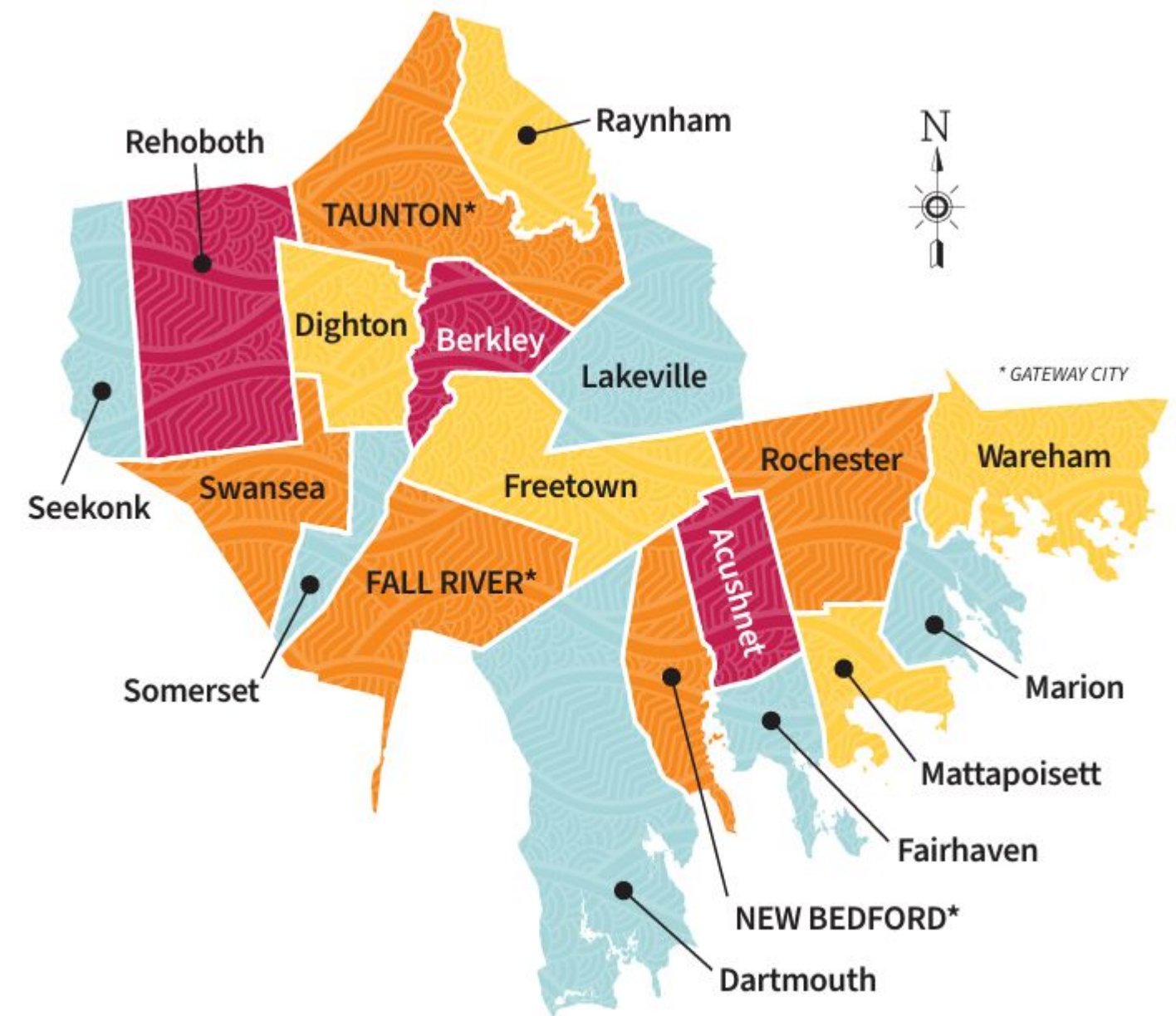


**Overview of FY26  
Eligibility &  
Application  
Process**



Eligibility for the Women's Fund SouthCoast grant program has not changed significantly from prior years, but please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have questions about your specific organization's eligibility. All applicants must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Provide programming in communities covered by our service area
  - Have 501(c)(3) certification OR be fiscally-sponsored by another 501(c)(3) organization operating on the SouthCoast.
  - Have demonstrated organizational and programmatic mission-alignment. Our mission is to advance gender, racial and economic justice.
- Have at least ONE identified project lead for the entirety of the grant cycle (July 1st, 2025 - June 30th, 2026) OR demonstrated plans to recruit and retain one during the grant cycle.



Applications and/or organizations that discriminate in either policy or practice against people because of their age, race, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, cultural beliefs, disability or sex, including sexual orientation or gender identity and expression are ineligible. Similarly, programs that promote specific religious doctrine, scholarships or direct financial awards to individuals ,and/or lobbying or political elections are also ineligible for grants from the WFSC.

All applications will all be confidentially and individually evaluated with an internal rubric by Women's Fund SouthCoast staff and Grants Committee members. The following criteria will be used:

- **Mission Alignment** – applicant demonstrates that their project and organization is aligned with the mission of the Women's Fund SouthCoast: to advance gender, racial, and economic justice.
- **Priority Area Alignment** – applicant falls into one or more of the Women's Fund SouthCoast's FY26 priority funding areas.
- **Personnel Capacity & Expertise** – applicant demonstrates that their project will be carried out by an individual(s) with both time and experience to meet proposed grant objectives.
- **Diverse Board & Organization Leadership** – applicant demonstrates that their board and/or organizational leadership is inclusive of diverse perspectives as well as those of persons served.
- **Financial Health** – applicant demonstrates fiscal responsibility and clear operating budget.



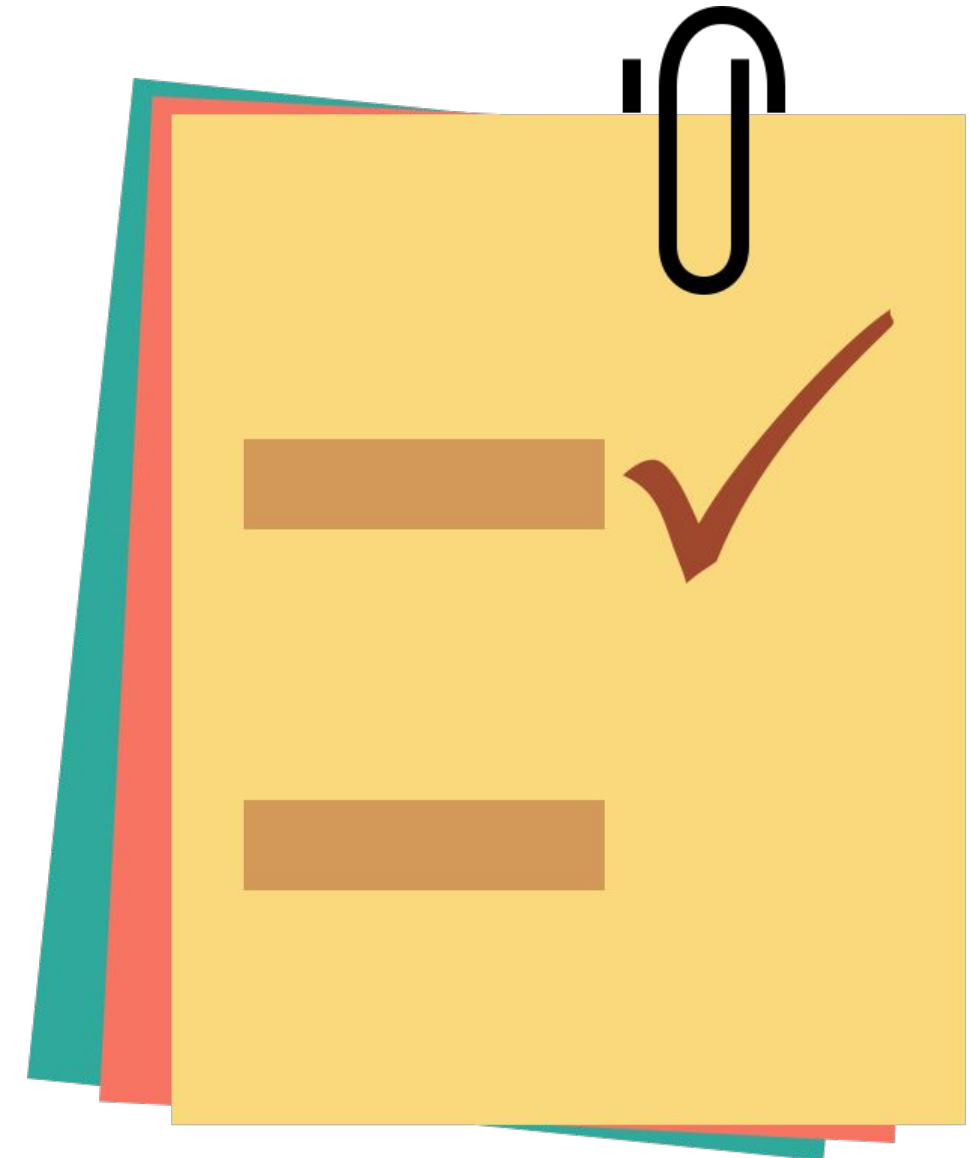
All applications will all be confidentially and individually evaluated with an internal rubric by Women's Fund SouthCoast staff and Grants Committee members. The following criteria will be used:

- **Geographic Area Served** – applicants serve at least one of the cities/towns in our service area. Priority is given to our Gateway Cities on the SouthCoast (e.g. Fall River, New Bedford, Taunton).
- **Target Population Demographics** – applicant demonstrates that grant objectives will support primarily individuals who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, persons with disabilities, and/or Non-US Born.
- **New & Existing Programming** – applicant demonstrates that funding will support new or ongoing programming in the next 12 months.
- **Proof of Need** – applicant demonstrates that the request for funding is based in clear quantitative and qualitative data revealing an obvious need in their community.
- **Evaluation** – applicant demonstrates ability to implement and carry out evaluation of grant programming to meet reporting requirements.



In FY26, the Women's Fund SouthCoast Grantmaking Application will be hosted in SurveyMonkey. We are actively working towards developing a grantmaking portal and will launch this in FY27. You will need the following materials to complete your application:

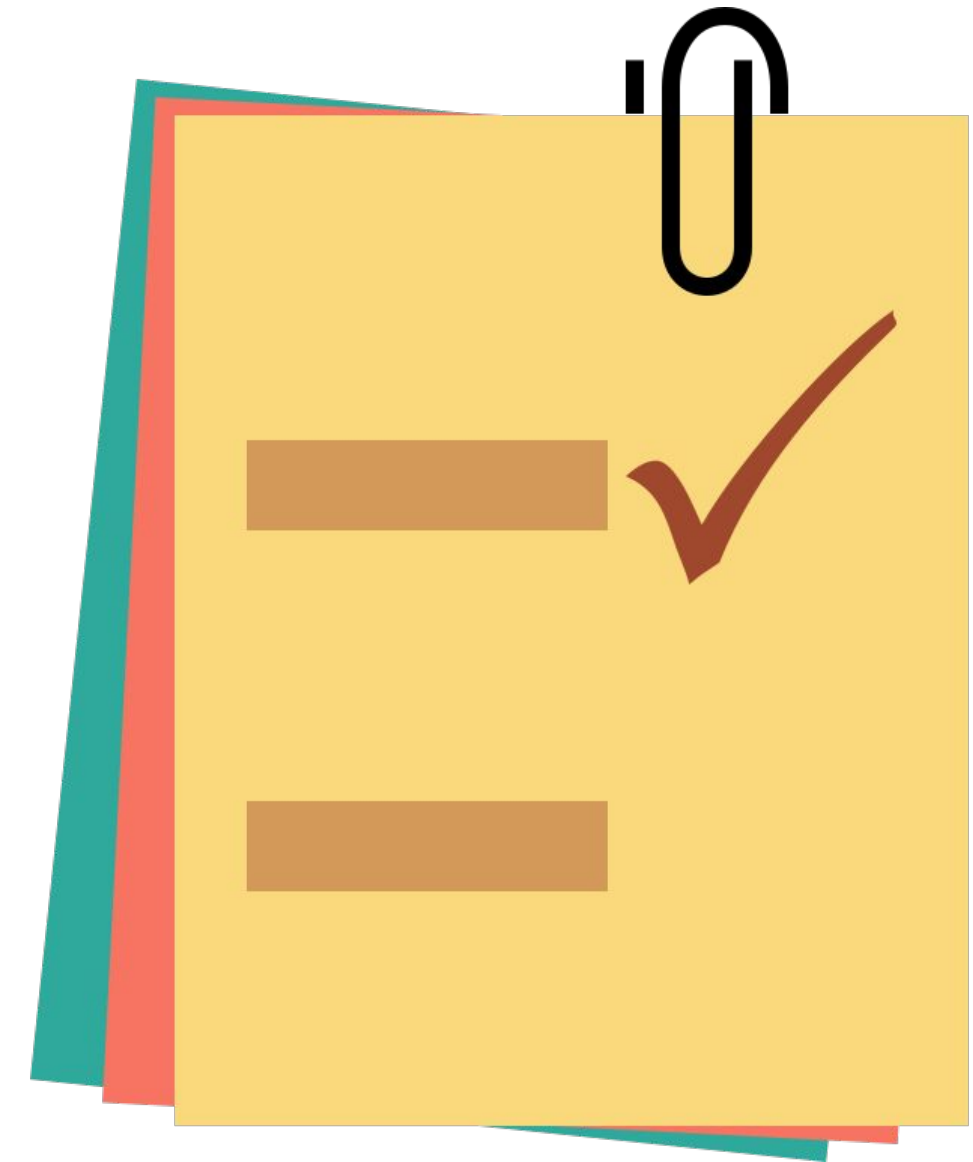
- **Current Staff List & Key Personnel** – current list of all (and proposed) staff at your organization during the grant cycle as well as how long they have worked with your organization; resumes are required ONLY for those individuals who will directly work on this grant (typically your identified grant lead).
- **Submission of Board Leadership** – complete list of all Board members, relevant titles, and demographic breakdown (e.g. race/ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation).
- **Submission of Populations Served** – organization should, to the best of their ability, provide a demographic breakdown (e.g. race/ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age) of the populations they serve.





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- **Tax Documents** – Most current IRS exemption determination letter; most recent IRS Form 990.
- **Submission of Prior Year Financials** – organizations must provide an operating budget for the past fiscal year and the fiscal year in which this grant would be awarded. Our grant awards period begins on July 1 and ends June 30. If applicable, please submit audited financials from the previous year.
- **Budget & Project Narrative** – organizations should provide a detailed, data-driven narrative explaining both the need for their project and the project itself; additionally, organizations should provide an accompanying budget narrative that explains how grant funding will be spent and/or supplemented by other sources.



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**Overview of FY26  
Grant Timeline**



The Women's Fund SouthCoast will adhere to the following timeline for the FY26 Grant Cycle. **Extensions for submissions, including partial or incomplete applications, will not be accepted.** Please reach out to us early and often with questions – *we are here to help!*

- **March 5th & March 7th** - Grantmaking Info Sessions
  - **March 10th** - Info Session slides and application available on Women's Fund SouthCoast website
- **April 11th** – Applications due and submissions close.
- **May 6th & May 9th** – Women's Fund SouthCoast may request to meet with your organization virtually for 30-minutes to answer additional questions about your application.
- **May 19th** – Women's Fund SouthCoast staff and Grants Committee members will meet to review application scores and vote on FY26 grant awards.



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- **June 2nd** – Women's Fund SouthCoast Board of Directors reviews and votes on FY26 grant awards.
- **June 7th** – Women's Fund SouthCoast staff will notify all applicants of decisions and provide grant agreement paperwork.
- **June 20th** – all grantee partner paperwork must be completed and returned to Women's Fund SouthCoast staff.
- **July 2025** – all FY26 Grant Partners attend in-person Grantee Partner Convening at TBD time and location.



The Women's Fund SouthCoast is also working to expand technical assistance (TA) opportunities to all of our grantees in the coming year. Below are just some of the opportunities we are hoping to provide and we welcome your feedback as we develop these!

- **Biannual Grantee Partner Convenings** – following our very successful inaugural Grantee Partner Gathering in February 2025, we are excited to make host these twice a year for organizations to gather in community, share experiences, and identify opportunities for collaboration.
- **Workshop Series** – we exploring additional partnerships with external experts to provide virtual sessions on various topics such as fundraising, digital marketing, or staff recruitment and retention.
- **Increased Staff Capacity & Expertise** – with additional full-time staff experienced in grantmaking and programming, we are happy to offer one-on-one assistance to grantees on topics they identify.





## Q&A and Closing

Please place questions in the chat and will answer them in the order they are received!

You can also email questions to Todd ([tfoy@womensfundsouthcoast.org](mailto:tfoy@womensfundsouthcoast.org)) today or at any time throughout the grant cycle!

Watch for the application and materials to go live on Monday, March 10th!

