

FAQs – The Model

Revised January 17, 2020

Who is Impact 100 WF?

Impact 100 WICHITA FALLS, Inc. (hereafter, Impact 100 WF) is a 501(c)(3) organization that awards grants in increments of \$100,000 or greater to nonprofit organizations that provide services in the Greater Wichita Falls community (Wichita, Archer, Clay and Wilbarger counties). Impact 100 WF is a group of women who each contribute \$1,000 to become a member for a designated year. One hundred percent of each member's \$1,000 contribution is pooled and awarded to a nonprofit organization, the result of an organization-wide decision-making process.

What is the Impact 100 WF Mission?

The mission of Impact 100 WF is to empower women to transform our community through collective philanthropic investment.

What are the core values of Impact 100 WF?

We value:

- **Women:** We believe women have the power to effect change.
- **Transformational Impact:** We recognize the value of leveraging smaller gifts to collectively achieve the greatest impact.
- **Philanthropy:** We facilitate women's financial capacity and confidence to proactively and practically invest resources in high-powered and meaningful ways to effect lasting community change.
- **Community:** We believe participation in grantmaking efforts develops an increased awareness of and service to our community.
- **Inclusivity:** Membership is open to all women age 18 or older who live in, or who wish to help, Wichita Falls and surrounding communities.
- **Diversity:** We have varied backgrounds, ages, professions, interests, races, and financial status and work to effectively integrate the talents, expertise, and energies of all members.
- **Equal voice:** One woman, one gift, one vote.
- **Engagement:** There are no requirements beyond the donation and casting a vote for the annual grant recipient. Service opportunities will be available, as members drive their own participation.

How long has Impact 100 WF been in existence?

The Founding Board of Directors began collaborations in June 2018. Our Certificate of Formation with the state of Texas became effective August 28, 2018. Our 501c3 status was received August 28, 2018. 2019-20 is the inaugural year for Impact 100 WF.

What is the Impact 100 model?

Impact 100 WF is derived from a concept developed by Wendy Steele in 2001 that was first implemented by Impact 100 Cincinnati. Impact 100 is now a world-class, strategic philanthropy model used to transform communities through significant grants guided by effective philanthropists who amplify their success for positive change. Case and point: 80 Million – The projected dollar amount Impact 100 organizations around the globe had given by the end of 2019.

What is the Impact 100 WF leadership model?

Board and Committee Members serve 2 or 3-year terms. It is important that leadership changes regularly to ensure creativity in employing best practices, all while preventing mission drift.

What are your organizational goals?

For the 2020-2021 year, our goal is to have at least 100 women giving \$1,000. For every additional increment of 100 members, we are able to give an additional grant. The longer-term goal is to have at least 500 women give at this level so the organization can give one grant in each of the five Focus Areas: Arts & Culture, Environment, Recreation & Preservation, Education, Family, and Health & Wellness.

Why \$1,000?

For most people, a gift of \$1,000 is a “stop & think” gift. For many of our members, it represents sacrifice and intentional budgeting to make a charitable gift of this size. That is by design. The goal is that each member feels connected to her giving and to the transformational grant that is a result of her gift.

How can 100% of a member’s donations be given directly to charity?

Each woman’s \$1,000 donation goes directly into the grantmaking pool without any administrative costs taken from it. We ask (but do not require) women to give “110%.” When this occurs, the first \$1,000 goes to the grant. The additional \$100 (10%) assists in covering administrative expenses.

How does Impact 100 WF pay for its administrative costs?

In addition to 110% giving, other ways to cover administrative expenses include gifts from foundations, corporate matching gifts, sponsorships, in-kind donations, and donations from Friends of Impact 100 WF. Friends of Impact 100 WF can be men, women, or companies. These are non-voting supporters who give in any dollar amount.

Does Impact 100 WF have employees?

No. Impact 100 WF is an all volunteer organization. Specific duties are assumed by the working Board of Directors and associated Committees. The mission of the organization is carried out via the Board and Impact 100 WF members.

Why does Impact 100 WF award \$100,000 to a single organization?

The grant size is projected to be \$100,000. By funding a large grant, we can make an extraordinary impact. Our goal is to connect each member to a transformational experience as a catalyst for positive change in our community.

How does membership recruitment play into the grantmaking process?

There is an established period where member recruitment occurs for the annual period. Once the deadline has passed, the group announces the amount of funds available, based on the number of members during that fiscal year. As an example, 57 women committed to Impact 100 WF membership during 2019-2020. This means one grant will be given for \$57,000 at the Grant Award Night in Spring 2020.

What types of grants are awarded?

Impact 100 WF awards grants in increments of \$100,000 or greater to fund significant projects located in the Greater Wichita Falls community (Wichita, Archer, Clay and Wilbarger counties). Grants may be directed toward an innovative program, the deepening or expansion of an existing program, or may be a collaborative effort among several agencies.

Impact 100 WF will not fund:

- General operating expenses or overhead;
- Debt reduction or operational deficits;
- Grants to individuals;
- Ongoing capital campaigns;
- Endowment funding;
- Interim or bridge funding; nor
- Partisan, legislative, or political activity.

Are there any stipulations for nonprofit organizations?

We do have financial thresholds for applicants. Nonprofit organizations must be large enough to absorb a grant of \$100,000 or more and be able to expend funding within a period of less than 24 months following awarding of the grant. We do not place a revenue ceiling limiting larger nonprofits from applying for our grants.

As a nonprofit, how do we prepare for the application process?

Impact 100 WF will hold information sessions for the area nonprofit organizations where the grant process is explained. If criteria are met, the organization will be invited to apply for a grant. Each nonprofit will begin by selecting the Focus Area they believe most closely aligns with the organization and the project/program for which they are seeking funding. Each nonprofit may only apply to one Focus Area per grant cycle.

What is the grantmaking process?

Focus Area Committees (composed strictly of Impact 100 WF members) are organized to address five areas of community needs: Arts & Culture, Education, Environment, Recreation & Preservation, Family, and Health & Wellness. Committee members learn to vet applications, ask discerning questions, and conduct site visits. At least two committee members visit select nonprofit organizations with the goal of better understanding the written grant application. Ultimately, the Focus Area Committees narrow their applicant pool to a Finalist(s) that is presented in writing to the voting members before the annual Grant Award Night.

All members have the option of participating on one Focus Area Committee.

What happens at the annual Grant Award Night?

All Impact 100 WF members receive an executive summary outlining each Finalist and their grant request prior to the annual Grant Award Night. All members also receive Wish Lists from each Applicant. These lists include in-kind needs and often outline other ways to assist the organization and its mission.

At the annual Grant Award Night, Finalists are asked to present for 10 minutes with only a microphone and a podium. No more than two presenters are allowed per organization. No hand-outs, PowerPoint presentations, or other technology is allowed. We meticulously mandate a level playing field among our Finalists.

After hearing the presentations of all Finalists, Impact 100 WF Members cast a confidential ballot that ranks the Finalists in preferential order. Ballots are immediately counted and validated. The grant recipient(s) are announced that evening.

Members who are not able to attend the annual Grant Award Night may vote by absentee ballot.

How does Impact 100 WF oversee the distribution of grants?

- The nonprofit(s) that receives a grant signs a Grant Agreement to insure the nonprofit agrees to use the funds in accordance with the grant and outlined procedures. Funds must be spent in accordance with the budget, with any substantial changes being approved by the Board of Directors. Impact 100 WF requires invoices and documents to evidence each disbursement of funds under the grant.
- Upon the selection of the grant recipients, a member of the Board of Directors is assigned to be the “liaison” for the project. The liaison remains in continuous contact with the grant recipient.
- As part of agreement with Impact 100 WF, the nonprofit must submit timely quarterly reports until all of the funds are spent to implement the project. The Board of Directors may also request any other information from the nonprofit to monitor the project. The grant recipients are discussed at every Board meeting until the project is completed.

Grant recipients must wait three years from the date of awarding before re-applying for another grant. For example, if awarded in 2020, the organization could not re-apply until Fall 2023 with potential funding in Winter 2024. Finalists who are not selected may re-apply to Impact 100 WF without restriction.

What benefits may be available to non-selected organizations?

By awarding funds to a single organization, this means some Finalists will walk away without grant money. There are, however, potential benefits of being an Impact 100 WF Finalist.

- A nonprofit organization may receive gifts outside of our grant process as a result of increased awareness of its good work.
- Impact 100 WF members may also become actively engaged with an organization's board or begin assisting with special projects beyond the actual grants we award.
- Each organization will gain a network of passionate, connected women able to champion their cause in the community.

What is Impact 100 WF's desired relationship with local nonprofits?

Impact 100 WF seeks a good working relationship with charitable organizations, as our existence is dependent upon their generation of good grant requests. Specifically, Impact 100 WF will seek to prepare the nonprofit community through workshops that provide instructions and suggestions on completing the grant application. Impact 100 WF will also monitor the grant recipient and its progress on the awarded project until completion. Grant recipients will be considered Community Partners.

What affiliations does Impact 100 WF have?

Impact 100 WF is a member of the [Impact 100 Council](#) and an affiliate member of [Catalist](#), the national women's collective giving and grant makers network. We have relied upon counsel from both entities throughout formation, and we will continue to utilize evidence-based strategies promoted by both organizations in future operations.