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**LAGC Granting Criteria and Process for Grantee Selection**

**Alignment with LAGC Mission:**

The Los Angeles Giving Circle is a local grassroots non-profit that supports organizations that help underserved women and girls achieve self-sufficient sustainable lives, so that the vicious cycle of inequity can be broken once and for all.

Our grants go to those organizations that have ***life-changing positive impacts on women and girls served***.  Examples include:

* a young girl receives mentorship that helps her to go to college
* a woman of domestic violence receives support to become financially independent
* an after-school program spikes a young girl’s interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)
* a women is trained in non-traditional work that spring boards her to and past a living wage
* a woman and her family are moved from a homeless shelter to a sustainable, independent and safe living space.

From 2011 to 2021 the LAGC has given over 1 million in grants, ranging from $10,000 - $43,000 and averaging $26,000 per organization.

**Grantee Eligibility**:

While the above are only a few examples, it is important to note that our grants go to those organizations that support self-described underserved women and girls; a majority of women or girls participating in a program does not qualify as meeting the grant qualifications of the LAGC.

An alignment with the LAGC mission and values are the most important thresholds that an organization must meet to be considered. Secondarily, the LAGC is a giving circle with funds accumulated primarily through membership donations. It does not compete with the size of foundation and/or corporate giving. With this in mind the LAGC ***strongly considers those organizations where we can make the most impact with the size of the award***. Other criteria considered are:

* funds that go towards unique and compelling projects or programs (especially in areas of education and training that spring-boards underserved women and girls to financial independence and sustainability).
* funds that go towards providing the basic necessities of safe housing, fundamental training, education and mentoring, and emotional support that allows women and girls a step out and up from difficult and harsh circumstances.
* operational funds (if asked for) that directly impact an organization’s ability to implement and sustain the programs and projects that directly benefit its clients.

**Grantee Selection and Award Timeline:**

October – November, Letter of Interest (LOI):

The LAGC begins its research in September of each year to determine those organizations that will receive a Letter of Interest (LOI). The completed LOI is used as a preliminary tool to determine those organizations that pre-qualify to be sent a full detailed RFP shortly after the New Year.The LOI is sent in mid-October with a due date of November 15th***. The letter is by invitation only***.

Generally we send out letters to 20 to 30 organizations. From those approximately 12 are selected to receive full Request for Proposals (RFP). Of those organizations that submit proposals, five or six are eventually awarded grant funds.

Included in the LOI is a link to an online application form. On the form, we simply ask for a mission summary with a brief description of the program, project or portion of operating costs that supports the organization in the work that it does, an estimated dollar amount for the activities that the potential grant will support, and the uploading of the organization’s latest 990 tax form.

***Please note that the LOI application is not a guaranteed qualification for selection to the RFP process.***

January/February - Request for Proposal

Should the organization pre-qualify, a more detailed response to the RFP will be sent within the last week of February. ***The RFP is by invitation only***.

A PDF form is available for review. This same form will be used as the online RFP application. The online proposal is due by March 15th.

April/May - Site Visits

For those organizations whose proposals are selected, a group of 4 to 5 LAGC members will make a site visit to the organization’s home office. The site visit serves to put a face on the potential grantee organization - its leadership and management, the clients served, answer follow-up questions from the RPP, and be given tours and/or demonstrations of the projects and programs that were described in the RFP.

May - Site Visit Presentations to Determine Finalists

For those organizations that receive a site visit, the organization’s Director will be asked to attend a LAGC meeting (in person or on zoom) to present the organization to the full LAGC membership. Following that presentation, the Lead of the Site Visit Committee will summarize the site visit and take follow up questions.

At the conclusion of the meeting a vote is taken to **determine the finalists** that will receive a grant. The amount of the grant is not determined at this meeting.

June – Final Presentations for Award Amount

The Director of the finalist organization, with invited client guests, will be asked back to make a final presentation that will ultimately **determine the size of the grant award**. This presentation includes a short 3 minute video that emphasizes the impacts of the organization’s work, testimonials from the invited guests, and remaining follow-up questions. Notification of the amount of the grant award will be made shortly after the meeting.

Distribution of awards are made no later than July 15th. A celebratory party with finalists, their guests, and the LAGC membership follows.