



For Information:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rochester Women's Giving Circle Awards \$183,250 in Grants to Support Women and Girls

The Rochester Women's Giving Circle (RWGC) has awarded \$183,250 to 8 recipients through its 2025 grant cycle. Grants are made to organizations in Monroe County that help women and girls living in poverty gain the education, training, skills, and jobs necessary to achieve economic independence.

This is the Rochester Women's Giving Circle's 18th year awarding grants. In that time, more than \$2.6 million has been distributed to nonprofit organizations aligned with the Giving Circle's mission, which is to strengthen our community by enabling women and girls living in poverty to transition to a lifetime of economic self-sufficiency.

Grant applications are on the rise as nonprofits seek to meet increasing demands. The circle received 38 applications this year, which is a 40% increase over the last 10-year average. Many applicants indicated that they are trying to expand services based on increased demand in the community, and several cited concerns about federal funding uncertainty.

The programs and services receiving the 2025 grants are:

Agape Haven of Abundance: *Youth Empowerment Program* is an out of school community-based program in the Edgerton neighborhood that equips at-risk youth with the tools for academic success through educational enrichment, mentorship, life-skills development, and mental health resources. \$25,000

Center for Teen Empowerment: The *Young Women's Leadership and Employment Project* prepares and places young women in high-profile and role-model positions as they seek to address social change in the community while gaining career-based skills and meaningful employment. \$25,000

Center for Youth: *Flower City Change Makers – Young Women at Promise* is a pilot program for leadership development at the Bridge to Peace site, where young women of color receive mentoring, training in youth development, workforce skills, and job responsibilities preparing them to achieve academic and employment goals. \$25,000

Flower City Noire Collective: *Petals Mentoring Program* provides arts, cultural, and educational experiences for girls in Rochester's Southwest Quadrant, using mentorship and family involvement to help historically excluded youth develop self-confidence and pathways to success. \$25,000

Foundation for Women's Financial Education: *Financial Coaching for Social Service Organizations* is a program to provide financial classes and coaching for low-income women employees of selected social service organizations to improve financial literacy and employee performance and retention. \$8,250

Goodwill of the Finger Lakes: *Goodwill Learning Academy* addresses the issues of working-age adults without a high school diploma by providing education success coaching and barrier removal that leads to graduation or puts women on track to complete their academic or career training program within 12 months of starting. \$25,000

Unity Hospital of Rochester: *Project Independence at Healthy Moms* is a job training and placement program customized for each participant that leads directly to employment and increased self-sufficiency by tackling the obstacles that keep employment out of reach for low-income mothers with a child under the age of four. \$25,000

YWCA - Rochester and Monroe County: *Equity Through Development Project* provides women of color the unique opportunity to receive training, experiential learning, and mentorship to become fundraisers and development officers for local non-profits thereby increasing personal earning potential, BIPOC leadership in the community, and funding for underserved populations. \$25,000

The Rochester Women's Giving Circle remains committed to partnering with organizations in Monroe County that support girls and women in our community. Agencies interested in applying for a future grant can get more information about criteria and the application process at therwgc.org.

About Rochester Women's Giving Circle

RWGC is a community of women who recognize that they have greater strength and potential for positive community impact when they give together. Every member makes an annual contribution and has the opportunity to participate in the grantmaking process. The money donated each calendar year is granted out the following year. The Rochester Women's Giving Circle is an advised fund at Rochester Area Community Foundation. Women interested in becoming members may contact Melinda Andolina at helpingwomen@therwgc.org.