

**COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AWARD SUPPLEMENT 2018-2020**

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Introduced in 1949 as the “Build a Better Community Contest,” this program has provided GFWC clubs with a platform for developing and implementing projects that meet the varying and changing needs of their communities. As GFWC’s longest standing project, it benefits clubs by increasing membership opportunities, developing leadership skills, and creating public awareness of club activities and GFWC. Designed to meet the needs of individual communities, the GFWC Community Improvement Program Award also provides a platform for enhancing relationships between GFWC clubs and their communities. Club projects that help make your community a better place to live, by revitalizing distressed communities and improving living conditions, are “community improvement” projects and are eligible for national recognition and reward. Sometimes the smallest things that we can do for our neighborhoods can have the biggest impact.

**IDEAS :**

It is nearly impossible to provide recommendations for project ideas because the project should be tailored to your community’s specific and unique needs.

- Every club is capable of creating a Community Improvement Project.
- Almost any project can be turned into a Community Improvement Project that addresses a specific, unique need within the community.
- Large or small project qualify.

Consider the following suggestions:

- Implement partnerships to address your community’s need, assist with leadership development and raise your club’s and GFWC’s profile with the community, such as:
  - GFWC clubs
  - GFWC partner organizations
  - Professional or other membership organizations
  - Government entities
  - Other nonprofit organizations

**TIME PERIOD:**

The new contest will run from January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2019. Club entries covering the two-year period must be submitted to the NJSFWC State Community Improvement Program Award Chairman by March 1, 2020. Use the Official GFWC Entry Form/Cover Sheet found under the GFWC Club Manual - GFWC Awards, Contests, and Grants, “Community Improvement Program Award” Section.

PROJECT HOURS, MONIES AND SERVICES SHOULD BE REPORTED ON THE GFWC/NJSFWC YEARLY REPORT FORMS UNDER THE APPROPRIATE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (i.e. work performed at schools and libraries would be reported under the EDUCATION REPORT.)

## **PROJECT ESSENTIALS:**

- Establish committee to identify and define community need.
- Describe the project selection process.
- Explain how your club engaged community support.
- Describe how project is financed.
- Identify media support and process in which it was obtained.
- Recount how you overcame obstacles.
- Provide a list of collaborating partners, including government agencies, other service groups, and professional organizations.
- Describes club's continuing role in the project.
- Explain the project's long-term effect on the community.
- Identify results and successes.
- Describe how the project influenced changes in your community, i.e., increased awareness, willingness to work together, impact, etc.
- Focus on content.

## **AWARD RULES**

- Projects must be accomplished during contest period: January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2019.
- Club entries must be postmarked by March 1, 2020 and mailed to the NJSFWC CIP Chairman.
- All entries must include completed Community Improvement Program Award Contest Entry Form/Cover Sheet.
- Project notebooks containing narrative description(s) and supporting materials must not exceed seven pounds in weight nor measure more than 15"x20" in size.
- Clubs and State Federations must adhere to Contest deadlines and important dates.
- All monetary awards must be used to further the community improvement initiative.
- Projects involving two to six GFWC clubs qualify as joint entries. Only one entry form shall be submitted with all club presidents signing the single form. Clubs involved in joint entries are not eligible to submit individual club entries.
- See the 2018-2020 GFWC Club Manual, GFWC Awards, Contests and Grants "Community Improvement Program Award" for further information.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- All NJSFWC of GFWC member clubs may enter. Joint club entries involving two to six clubs qualify as joint entries.
- Projects may arise from any NJSFWC/GFWC Community Service Program or combination of Community Service Program areas.
- Juniorette Clubs are eligible to enter a project. Follow all the same rules. Juniorette entries will be judged separately from other entries. Clubs involved in joint entries are not eligible to submit individual club entries.

## **JUDGING CRITERIA**

PROJECT SELECTION – 25 POINTS

- Community Need - Judges look for clearly identified community issues considered in the project selection and how those issues were addressed.
- Selection Process - Judges look for why and how project was selected.

#### PROJECT DEVELOPMENT – 50 POINTS

- Community Collaboration – Judges look for partners involved in your community improvement project, specifically those organizations and/or government agencies that you created and/or improved working relationships.
- Plan of Action – Judges examine plan details, execution, and efforts, including documentation such as photos, letters, project plans, news clippings, etc.
- Persistence of Effort – Judges consider obstacles encountered and how challenges were addressed.

#### PROJECT EVALUATION – 25 POINTS

- Degree of Success – Judges review specifics of achievements; including how the effort differed from what was originally envisioned; criteria used to measure success, and future plans for the project.
- Permanence of Achievement – Judges look for an explanation of the long-term effects the project will have on the community.
- Changed Attitudes and Practices – Judges consider increased community awareness and impact on community.

#### AWARDS

- Clubs that have reported by March 1, 2019 will receive a participation certificate at District Spring Conferences in 2019.
- DISTRICT: One district certificate for the outstanding project will be presented at District Spring Conferences in 2019.
- STATE: Monetary awards will be provided by GFWC for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place state winners; \$50, \$35, and \$25, respectively.
- NATIONAL:
- First to fifth place national awards will be awarded at the GFWC Convention in June, 2018. Monetary awards will be provided by GFWC for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th places; \$5,000, \$3,500, \$3,500, \$1,500, and \$500 respectively. National Juniorette Community Improvement Program Award club winner will receive \$250.
- One member representative from each GFWC National winning club will have the following expenses covered: Roundtrip transportation to attend the GFWC Annual International Convention in St. Louis, Missouri; one night's lodging at the GFWC Convention hotel; ticket to attend the award ceremony, and GFWC Convention Registration fee.

**Review the 2018-2020 GFWC Club Manual – GFWC Awards, Contest, and Grants “Community Improvement Program Award” for further information.**