

COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM AWARDS

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

THE GFWC COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM AWARD OFFERS GFWC CLUBS FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS DESIGNED TO IMPACT A SPECIFIC PROBLEM IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

Introduced in 1949 as the "Build a Better Community Contest," and later known as the "Community Improvement Program Award," 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 has also presented opportunities for growing club membership, enhancing leadership skills, building relationships with individuals and groups, and creating public awareness of club activities and GFWC.

Community Impact Projects should make a visual, physical, or emotional impact at the grassroots level. These projects should raise awareness of GFWC volunteering and the impactful efforts made by clubwomen.

SELECTING THE PROJECT AND PLANNING

Any grassroots project that makes a measurable impact in your local community and fits the criteria will be accepted for judging purposes.

GFWC clubs are encouraged to consider the Community Connection Initiative highlighted in each of the Special Program Areas and/or Community Service Programs. These Community Connection Initiatives can be found in each of their respective sections in the Club Manual under the area of interest.

- **Signature Program: Become a Champion** - Be the Voice for Those That Have No Voice
- **Juniors' Special Program:** Be A Champion in the Lives of Children
- **Arts and Culture:** Developing Community Orientated Art
- **Civic Engagement and Outreach:** Preparation Saves Lives
- **Education and Libraries:** Support High-Quality Early Learning Programs
- **Environment:** National and State Parks Engage in Nature
- **Health and Wellness:** Caregivers' Circle



GFWC
est. 1890
GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2024-2026 COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM AWARDS

Katie Moydell, Chairman
200 Conrad Circle
Columbia, SC 29212
Katiemoydell1020@gmail.com



AWARD PERIOD

January 1, 2024 to
December 31, 2025

DESIGN YOUR OWN GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECT

Here is an example of how a club can design a project eligible for Community Impact Program Awards.

BRAINSTORMING AND RESEARCH

Club members meet to discuss the needs of their local community by looking for grassroots projects that will require community partnerships, additional funds, and planning implementation. Clubs can also select a Community Connection Initiative from one of the Special Program Areas and/or Community Service Programs as noted in the GFWC Club Manual guides.

After brainstorming possible projects, ask club members to narrow the discussion to a couple of possible focus areas. Club members research the grassroots issues of focus with input from the community (schools, churches, local leaders and governments, businesses, etc.) and reconvene to finalize a targeted project.

OUTLINE THE PROJECT TO CREATE A PLAN OF ACTION

The club creates a project plan that may include:

- Project goal statement describing a clear picture view of what is to be accomplished by the project and what benefits will be gained when the project is completed.
- Community connections for collaboration.
- Funding needed and possible sources.
- Media outlets and plan to promote the project in the news, online, and social media.
- Timeline for the project.

CONTEST DESCRIPTION

Each Community Impact Program Award Entry Form can feature one project based on community need or the Community Connection Initiative from one of the Special Program Areas and/or Community Service Programs. The selected project must be undertaken by a club and accomplished during the award period of **January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025**.

Award Entry Form highlights the following:

- Brief description of the project and the issue/problem you are trying to solve.
- Project scope including:
 - the plan of action.
 - costs to implement and how the project was funded.
 - community collaboration, if any.
 - obstacles, if any, you overcame to implement the project.
- Results achieved and the long-term effects of the project on the community.
- Public relations and media (include internet, newspaper articles, social media, television, etc.) including pictures of the project activities.

Total entry cannot exceed 10 pages, including photos, media, etc.

OTHER GUIDELINES

- Clubs that have previously won this award must submit entirely new projects for consideration; expanded projects will not be considered.
- International Affiliates may submit an Award Entry to be judged in conjunction with other International Affiliates.

- All deadlines and other rules must be followed.
- Joint entries of clubs and state-sponsored projects are not allowed.
- All monetary awards must be used to advance the winning Community Impact Project.
- Award entries of national winners will be kept in the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center.

CALENDAR

JANUARY through FEBRUARY 2026

State Community Impact Program Award Chairman must obtain three judges.
Judges may not be members of GFWC.

MARCH 1, 2026

Club entries must be sent to the State CIP Chairman via email (if digitally accepted by State Chairman) or mail, postmarked/timestamped no later than this date, to Community Impact Program Award State Chairman.

MARCH 5-15, 2026

Club entries are judged at the state level.

MARCH 20, 2026

Community Impact Program State Chairman - The Award Entry of the **first-place state winner only** must be emailed, or postmarked/timestamped no later than this date, to GFWC CIP Chairman AND to Second Vice President.

After award winners are announced at their respective State Conventions, GFWC will issue checks to the winning state clubs. **There can be no "ties" submitted; only one winning club is accepted by GFWC for the award process.**

Award Entries at the national level will be judged by a non-GFWC panel of judges and overseen by the Community Impact Program Chairman.

Mail to:
Katie Moydell
200 Conrad Circle
Columbia, SC 29212
katiemoydell1020@gmail.com

AND

Mail to:
Mary Beth Williams
8 Sequoyah Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
MBWilliams@GFWC.org

SPRING 2026

State Community Impact Program Awards are presented at State Conventions.

APRIL 2026

National judging takes place by a judging panel overseen by the CIP Chairman.

JUNE 2026

National and International Community Impact Program Awards will be presented at the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona.

SUGGESTED JUDGING CRITERIA FOR STATE JUDGING

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT - 25 POINTS

- Procedures, plan of action, and input in choosing projects
- Plan details, execution, and effort
- Community collaboration with other groups and/or individuals

PROJECT COMPLETION - 50 POINTS

- Project completed within timeframe
- Financial support obtained
- Obstacles, if any, overcome

PROJECT CHANGE - 25 POINTS

- Increase in community awareness
- Degree of success of project and measurable impacts
- Viability of long-term efforts

AWARDS

GFWC awards up to \$21,100 to winners of the GFWC Community Impact Program Award. Nationally, only first place winners are given monetary awards within the six membership categories.

GFWC STATE AWARDS:

First Place \$100

Total for 50 State Federations and District of Columbia \$5,100

GFWC NATIONAL AWARDS:

Category 1: \$2,500

Category 2: \$2,500

Category 3: \$2,500

Category 4: \$2,500

Category 5: \$2,500

International Affiliate: \$1,000

Total National Awards: \$13,500



OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE EMAILED OR POSTMARKED BY MARCH 1, 2026, TO YOUR STATE CHAIRMAN

Submit to your GFWC Community Impact Program Award **State Chairman**. Digital submission is acceptable if your State chairman can accept a digital version. Otherwise, make two copies of the completed form and accompanying materials, one to submit and one to keep for the club's files.

1. CLUB AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION		
Submission Date		
GFWC Club Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	
District	State Federation	
Region		
Number of Members in Club		
Number of Members Involved in Project		
2. COMMUNITY		
Project City		
County		
Type of Community Served	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Population Served		
3. COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE OR OTHER SELECTION		
Indicate the project being submitted		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: Any grassroots project that meets contest descriptions and guidelines Title: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Signature Program: Become a Champion - Be the Voice for Those That Have No Voice		
<input type="checkbox"/> Juniors' Special Program: Be a Champion in the Lives of Children		
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture: Developing Community Orientated Art		
<input type="checkbox"/> Civic Engagement and Outreach: Preparation Saves Lives		
<input type="checkbox"/> Education and Libraries: Support High-Quality Early Learning Programs		
<input type="checkbox"/> Environment: National and State Parks Engage in Nature		
<input type="checkbox"/> Health and Wellness: Caregivers' Circle		



4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Provide a brief description of the club project by explaining what issue/problem you are attempting to solve.
50 word limit

5. SCOPE OF PROJECT

Describe the scope of the project by explaining the following:

- a) Plan of action
- b) Costs to implement and how project was funded
- c) Community collaboration, if any
- d) Obstacles, if any, you overcame to implement the project

5. PROJECT RESULTS

Explain the results achieved:

- a) Long-term effects of the project on the community
- b) Results within your club (new members, fundraising opportunities, media outlets, community relationships, etc.)

6. PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEDIA

List project public relations and media (includes internet, newspaper articles, social media, television, etc.)

7. PHOTOS

Attach up to 10 pictures of the project activities. Photos can be emailed.

8. CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION		
Club CIP Chairman		
Phone	Email	
Club President		
Phone	Email	
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code

Club President's Signature

Date