

COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM AWARD PROJECT IDEAS 2026-2028

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The GFWC Community Impact Program Award offers clubs FINANCIAL INCENTIVE TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS DESIGNED TO MEET COMMUNITIES' SPECIFIC NEEDS.

This program was introduced in 1949 as a "Build a Better Community Contest". It is GFWC's longest standing project.

The name for this program is now Community Impact Program (CIP). The goals remain the same - finding ways to enhance your community as well as benefit its residents. This program can be beneficial to your club, offering membership opportunities, creating public awareness of your club and GFWC activities. Often the smallest project can result in a substantial impact for your neighborhood.

The CIP Award is designed to highlight the many ways clubs currently function and to provide added flexibility in the implementation of up to three projects that have a meaningful impact of a particular problem, from "done in a day" efforts to those that could require more rigorous planning and implementation.

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:

- 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

IDEAS:

Projects should be tailored to your community's specific needs. Almost any project can become a Community Impact Program if it improves the lives of the members of your community.

Consider partnering with other local organizations to address needs in your community. If your club or community had a successful project in the past that is no longer in existence but would currently be beneficial to your community, reorganize and re-vitalize this project with a new approach.

Implement partnerships to address the needs of your community, assist with leadership development and raise your club's and GFWC's profile in your community, examples:

Other GFWC Clubs
GFWC Partner Organizations
Professional or other membership organizations
Government entities
Other non-profit organizations

TIME PERIOD:

The contest will run from January 1, 2026– December 31, 2027. Club entries covering the two-year period must be received by the NJSFWC State Community Impact Program Chairman by **FEBRUARY 15, 2028**. Use the official GFWC Entry Form/Cover Sheet found under the GFWC Club Manual – GFWC Awards, Contest, and Grants. “Community Impact 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 AND LIBRARIES REPORT.)

PROJECT ESSENTIALS:

- Establish a committee to identify and define a community need.
- Describe the project selection process.
- Explain how your club engaged community support.
- Describe how project was financed.
- Identify media support and process on how it was obtained.
- Explain how you overcame obstacles.
- Provide a list of collaborating partners, including government agencies, other service groups and professional organizations.
- Describe the 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:

Award Period:

Projects must be accomplished between January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2027.

Contest Description:

Each entry can feature one to three local projects undertaken by a club; all having been accomplished during the Award period.

Each entry should include one page of information on each project (maximum 500 words) to highlight:

- Project selection process
- Project goals(s) and Plan of Action, including timelines
- Engagement of members, including total hours
- Financial/funding details, including total contributed
- Collaborating partners or individuals
- Media coverage
- Measurable Impact(s)

Each entry can contain one page of photographs for each project, (maximum of 4 photographs per page)

Each entry can contain one page of publicity highlights for each project (maximum of 4 highlights per page)

Total entry cannot exceed 10 pages: A Community Impact Program Aware Cover Form plus three additional pages for each project (information page, photo page. publicity page)

ENTRY PROCESS:

Club entries are to be received by the State Chairman by **February 15, 2028**.

ELIGIBILITY:

All NJSFWC of GFWC member clubs may enter. Joint club entries involving two to six clubs qualify as joint entries.

Juniorette Clubs are eligible to enter a project following 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 the project was selected.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT – 50 POINTS

Community Collaboration – Judges look for partners involved in your community. impact 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 effort, including documentation such as photos, letters, and 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 achievement, 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 the impact on the community.

AWARDS:

Clubs that have reported by February 15, 2028, will receive a participation certificate at District Spring Conferences of 2028.

DISTRICT – One District certificate for the outstanding project will be presented at District Spring Conferences in 2028.

STATE – Monetary awards will be provided by GFWC for the First-Place state winner.

NATIONAL – GFWC awards First-Place winner's monetary awards in each of the six GFWC membership categories.

REVIEW the 2026-2028 GFWC Club Manual – GFWC Awards, Contest, and Grants “Community Impact Program Award” for further information.