

COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM AWARDS

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND GRANTS

2026-2028 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 members.

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 Unity Projects highlighted in each of the Special Program Areas and/or Community Service Programs. These Unity Projects can be found in each of their respective sections in the Club Manual under their respective sections.

- **Signature Program:** GFWC Pledge to Stand with Survivors
- **Juniors' Special Program:** Being a Unified Force for Children
- **Arts and Culture:** The Octopus Challenge
- **Civic Engagement and Outreach:** Save the Beat!
- **Education and Libraries:** Unity through Reading: Every Story Matters
- **Environment:** The Right Plant in the Right Place
- **Health and Wellness:** Move for a Healthier You



GFWC
est. 1890
GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

2026-2028 COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM AWARDS

Linda F Babeuf, Chairman
GFWC Middle Atlantic Region
915 Zimmy Drive
Middletown, DE 19709
GFWCCIP@gmail.com



AWARD PERIOD

January 1, 2026, to
December 31, 2027

AWARD CATEGORIES

State/District of Columbia Federations are sorted into 1 of 5 Awards Categories based on membership numbers reported beginning each administration. Find your level in the Awards Categories Document in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECT

ORGANIZE AND IDENTIFY A COMMUNITY NEED

- Identify a project that would appeal to members of your community in addition to your club members. A successful project requires the collaboration of community organizations, funding sources, media, and community volunteers.
- It is essential that club members are all on board for undertaking a CIP Project. Not all members need to be active members of the steering committee, but all should be included in the initial discussions.
- If a project is not easily identified, a valuable resource is a Unity Project from Special Program Areas and/or the Community Service Programs listed in the GFWC Club Manual.
- Solicit input from community organizations (schools, churches, business leaders and local officials). The more support you garner from the beginning, the more successful your project will be.

CREATE A PLAN OF ACTION

It would be helpful to have the members of the committee become familiar with the Community Impact Program Award Entry Form. Knowing what will be expected and how the project will be judged will keep everyone focused as they make plans and form timelines.

- Set clear, realistic goals.
- Form definitive committees to avoid duplication of effort.
- Create a workable timeline

REMEMBER this is a project for your community. DO NOT compare your project to any you have read about in the past. Even if you have a similar focus, how you implement the project will be uniquely yours. When the project is done and the reporting begins, PLEASE make sure you enter the contest. Do not be judge and jury of your project, let the judges decide how well you executed your project. Once you have done the work, let everyone share in your accomplishment.

CONTEST DESCRIPTION

Each Community Impact Program Award Entry Form can feature one project based on community need or a Unity Project 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, 2026, to December 31, 2027.**

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 Program.
- Award entries of national winners will be kept in the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center.

CALENDAR**JANUARY 2026 through FEBRUARY 2028**

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

MARCH 1, 2028

Club entries must be sent to the State/District of Columbia Federation CIP Chairman via email no later than this date. A fillable version of this form can be found in the Digital Library on the Member Portal.

MARCH 5-15, 2028

Club entries are judged at the state level.

MARCH 20, 2028

State/District of Columbia Federation Community Impact Program Chairman – The Award Entry of the **first-place winner only** must be emailed by 11:59 p.m. Eastern, to GFWC CIP Chairman AND to Second Vice President.

There can be no "ties" submitted; only one winning club is accepted by GFWC for the award process from each State/District of Columbia Federation.

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

Email to:
Linda F Babeuf
GFWCCIP@gmail.com

AND

Email to:
Dr. Susan Gettys
sgettys@gfwc.org

SPRING 2028

State/District of Columbia Federation Community Impact Program Awards are presented at State/District of Columbia Federation Conventions.

APRIL 2028

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

JUNE 2028

National and International Community Impact Program Awards will be presented at the 2028 GFWC Annual Convention in Detroit, Michigan. GFWC will issue checks to winning clubs after the GFWC Annual Convention.

SUGGESTED CRITERIA FOR STATE/DC FEDERATION 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 \$18,600 to winners of the GFWC Community Impact Program Award. Nationally, only first place winners are given monetary awards within the five membership categories.

GFWC STATE FEDERATION AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FEDERATION AWARDS:

First Place \$100

Total for 50 State/District of Columbia Federations \$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 BY MARCH 1, 2028
TO YOUR STATE/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FEDERATION CHAIRMAN**

Submit digitally to your GFWC Community Impact Program Award State/District of Columbia Federation Chairman.

1. CLUB AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Submission Date

GFWC Club Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

Email

District

State/DC Federation

Region

Number of Members in Club

Number of Members Involved in Project

2. COMMUNITY

Project City

County

Type of Community Served ☐ Rural ☐ Urban ☐ Suburban ☐ Other _____

Population Served

3. UNITY PROJECTS OR OTHER SELECTION

Indicate the project being submitted

- ☐ **Other:** Any grassroots project that meets contest descriptions and guidelines

Title: _____

- ☐ **Signature Program:** GFWC Pledge to Stand with Survivors

- ☐ **Juniors' Special Program:** Being a Unified Force for Children

- ☐ **Arts and Culture:** The Octopus Challenge

- ☐ **Civic Engagement and Outreach:** Save the Beat!

- ☐ **Education and Libraries:** Unity through Reading: Every Story Matters

- ☐ **Environment:** The Right Plant in the Right Place

- ☐ **Health and Wellness:** Move for a Healthier You



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.

8. CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

Club CIP Chairman

Phone

Email

Club President

Phone

Email

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

 Club President's Signature

 Date



COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM AWARD WINNING PROJECT FORM

2026-2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

(SUBMITTED BY STATE/DC FEDERATION CHAIRMAN ONLY)

Only one winner can be submitted to GFWC, no ties accepted.

*Submit digitally to your **GFWC Community Impact Program Award Chairman**.*

1. STATE/DC FEDERATION WINNER INFORMATION

State/DC Federation

State/DC CIP Chairman Name

Email

Winning Club Official Name

Winning Club Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

Email

2. STATE/DC FEDERATION WINNER - CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION

Winning Club Contact

Phone

Email

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Note: The Community Impact Program State/DC Federation Chairman is responsible for digitally sending the first place winning Community Impact Project documentation to BOTH GFWC CIP Chairman Linda Babeuf, GFWCCIP@gmail.com, and GFWC Second Vice President Dr. Susan Gettys, sgettys@gfwc.org, with this form.

