

# ERIE WOMEN'S FUND

OF THE ERIE COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

## 2026 ERIE WOMEN'S FUND **MAJOR GRANT**

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Erie Women's Fund is a women-led field of interest fund of The Erie Community Foundation devoted to empowering women and families in Erie County. Through its Major Grant, EWF invests in innovative projects that address critical needs, strengthen systems, and create meaningful, measurable impact for women and families across our community.

EWF seeks proposals from nonprofit organizations working to advance equity, opportunity, and well-being for women and families. Projects may be new or expanded efforts and should demonstrate a clear understanding of community need, strong organizational capacity, and the potential for measurable outcomes within a defined timeframe.

## 2026 MAJOR GRANT: \$100,000

EWF is seeking bold ideas that will produce positive, lasting change in the lives of women and families in Erie County. Funded projects should demonstrate significant, measurable outputs within a 12-month timeframe.

## FOCUS AREAS

Proposed projects should address the needs of women and families in one or more of the following areas:

- Economic Stability
- Education Access and Quality
- Health Care Access and Quality
- Neighborhood and Built Environment
- Social and Community Context



## WHO CAN APPLY

### ELIGIBLE

Erie County–based 501(c)(3) organizations serving women and families. Collaborative projects are welcome but not required. Grant funds must be used for projects implemented in Erie County.

### INELIGIBLE USES

For-profit businesses, sectarian religious activities, fundraising-only efforts, hospitality projects, and third-party grantmaking are not eligible.

Organizations that have received an Erie Women’s Fund Major Grant within the past 12 months are not eligible to apply.

Funding from other Erie Community Foundation grant opportunities does not affect eligibility.

## HOW TO APPLY

**APPLICATION OPENS: FEBRUARY 20, 2026**

**DEADLINE: APRIL 17, 2026**

Applications are submitted online and must include:

- A completed written application
- A 2–5 minute informal video introducing your organization and project



You can apply online [here](#) or by scanning the QR code to the right.

Please note: only complete applications with all required materials will be reviewed.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

### SPRING

Grants Committee reviews applications

### JUNE

Semifinalist and finalist presentations and voting

### JULY

Grant recipient announced at an EWF event

## QUESTIONS?

For additional information, please contact

**Erie Women’s Fund**

**[EWF@ErieCommunityFoundation.org](mailto:EWF@ErieCommunityFoundation.org)**

