



2026 GWLN Sister Society Impact Grant

Applicant Instructions

Please read these instructions carefully before completing your application.

About the Grant

Purpose: Support locally driven initiatives that help Sister Societies strengthen women's leadership capacity, expand access to opportunity, amplify underrepresented voices, and create measurable impact for women, credit unions/financial cooperatives, members, and communities.

Grant amount: Up to USD 5,000 per award and are intended to support project-related expenses that directly contribute to the implementation and impact of the proposed initiative.

Who can apply: Active Sister Societies globally.

Eligibility Criteria

- Do all Sister Society co-leaders hold active GWLN membership at the time of application?
- Has your Sister Society hosted a minimum of two meetings (virtual, in-person, or hybrid) since January 2024?
- Is the Sister Society able to identify one primary point of contact for the grant application and related communications with GWLN?
- If selected, is the Sister Society willing to provide project updates and share available impact materials, such as stories, photos, data, testimonials, or other relevant documentation?
- Does the Sister Society have the support, capacity, and local coordination needed to carry out the proposed activity within the grant period?

What We Fund (Women-focused Project Areas)

Projects may include, but are not limited to, initiatives focused on the following areas that primarily benefit women. Please select all that apply:

- Leadership Development and Mentorship:** Initiatives that support women's leadership growth through mentorship, skills training, professional development, coaching, or other leadership-building activities.
- Financial Inclusion:** Initiatives that expand access to financial education, credit, savings, loans, or other financial products and services.
- Community Empowerment and Social Responsibility:** Initiatives that respond to local needs, amplify underrepresented voices, reduce barriers to participation, and strengthen community impact.
- Women's Entrepreneurship and Business Growth:** Initiatives that support women entrepreneurs, small business owners, or income-generating activities by helping them grow and sustain their businesses.



- E. **Other Mission-Aligned Project:** Applicants may also propose other project areas that align with GWLN's mission to uplift, connect, and advance women in the global credit union movement and demonstrate clear potential for meaningful impact within their communities.

How to Complete the Application

This guide is intended to help applicants prepare before completing the online form. It is not a separate application template. Applicants should use it to think through their project, gather relevant information, and ensure their responses are clear, realistic, and aligned with GWLN's mission. They should also support their responses with numbers, local data, examples, or community context

The online application is organized in the following sections. Work through each in order:

A	Eligibility Criteria Please review the eligibility criteria before applying. If the answer is 'no' for any of the Sister Society co-leads, the group is not eligible to apply
B	Sister Society Information General data about the Sister Society, including the country/region, date established, approximate number of individuals engaged in activities, and affiliated credit unions/financial coops and Credit Union League (if applicable). Applicants must also add mandatory contact information for the Point-Of-Contact and name and e-mail for all Co-Leaders listed in the application.
C - H	Co-Leaders Information General information about the Sister Society co-leaders, beginning with the individual who will serve as Project Point of Contact. If your Sister Society has more than 5 co-leaders, you may add the information required on Sections C-G in Section H.
I	Project Overview General information about the project. You may find additional guidelines about some of the key questions below. • Executive Summary: Provide a summary of two to three paragraphs highlighting the purpose of the project. Briefly explain the local need or opportunity the project addresses, who the project will serve, and the expected outcomes or impact. This section should give reviewers a clear overview of the project before they read the full application. (Think of it as the 'big picture' of the project). • Grant Amount Requested (USD): Grant awards will go up to USD 5,000 • Project Start Date: Must be on or after the grant disbursement by 17 December 2026 (you can provide an estimated date) • Project End Date: Projects must be completed by May 20272026 (you can provide an estimated date)



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Project Narrative

This section should give reviewers a clear understanding of the project's purpose, local relevance, expected value, and potential impact. Applicants should use this section to explain in general terms why the project is needed, how it supports the work of the Sister Society, and what change the project is expected to create.

- **What problem or gap does this project address?** Please describe the local need your project seeks to respond to and include relevant data or examples where available.
- **How does the project strengthen the work of your local GWLN Sister Society?** Please explain how the project will help your Sister Society advance women's leadership, create opportunities for connection and collaboration, amplify underrepresented voices, or build pathways for leadership, innovation, and impact.
- **What unique service would be lost if this project is NOT funded?** Please describe what your community, credit union/financial cooperative, or target audience would not be able to access without this project.
- **How does this project benefit your credit union/financial cooperative?** Please explain how the project supports the credit union/financial cooperative movement and creates value for women, participants, or the broader community.
- **Describe how you will measure the impact of the project.** Please describe how you will track progress, measure results, and determine whether the project was successful.

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Project Impact Targets

Please identify at least three outcomes your project expects to achieve, which should be realistic, measurable, and directly connected to the proposed project activities. Applicants should be prepared to provide a target number, explain how each outcome will be measured, and indicate when measurement will take place.

Below are some examples that you can use but you will also be able to add those that apply to your project.



Example Outcome	What could this mean?	Example of how it could be measured
# women directly benefiting	Women who participate in or receive direct support through the project.	Beneficiary list, registration form, completion record, or participation log
# workshops / training sessions	Sessions, meetings, trainings, or learning opportunities completed during the project.	Event agenda, attendance records, photos, facilitator reports.
# GWLN members engaged	Individuals who participate in Sister Society activities connected to the project.	Attendance records, sign-in sheets, registration forms.
# individuals reached	People reached through outreach, communications, community activities, or awareness efforts.	Email metrics, social media reach, event attendance, outreach records, attendance records.
# women in new/advanced leadership roles post-project	Women who take on new responsibilities, committee roles, speaking roles, governance roles, or mentorship roles after participating.	Follow-up surveys, participant self-reporting, credit union/financial cooperative updates.
# financial products/services accessed by women	Women who access savings, loans, credit products, financial education activities, microfinance services, referrals, or other financial services as a result of the project.	Credit union/financial cooperative data, referral records, participant follow-up, New user sign-ups.

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Budget Breakdown

Total program budget, the amount requested from WFCU (up to USD 5,000), the amount your organization will self-fund, any other co-funding sources, and a brief description of how WFCU funds will be used.

- Co-funding from other sources is encouraged but not required.
- All costs must be directly related to project implementation during the grant period.
- Be specific about how WFCU funds will be used — vague descriptions may affect your score.
- Provide realistic figures — over-budgeting or under-budgeting may affect your score.

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Sustainability

Please select the option that best describes how the project or activity is expected to continue after the grant period ends. If more than one option applies, select the one that represents the primary plan for sustaining the project or its impact.

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Payment Information

GWLN grant payments must be issued to a legal entity, not directly to an individual. If your Sister Society is selected for a grant, payment may be made to a credit union, association, foundation, nonprofit, or another partner organization that can receive funds on behalf of the Sister Society.

At this stage, applicants only need to provide the name of the legal entity where payment should be made. Full payment details will be collected later from selected grantees.



Reporting Requirements

If awarded, your Sister Society will be required to:

- Present the results of the grant during one of GWLN's events taking place from July to December 2027.
- Provide photographic or video documentation of project activities.
- Respond to any follow-up questions from the WFCU review committee.

Key Dates

Period	Milestone
17 August 2026	Application window open
17 October 2026	Application deadline — no late submissions accepted
17 November 2026	Grant recipients announced
By 17 December 2026	Grant funds disbursed
December 2026 – May 2027	Grant implementation cycle
July - December 2027	Impact showcase at one of GWLN's events

Tips for a Strong Application

- **Lead with numbers.** State how many people you will reach, how many sessions you will run, and how you will measure change.
- **Set ambitious but realistic outcome targets.** Reviewers will assess whether your projected numbers are credible given your budget and timeline.
- **Keep narratives short and factual.** Avoid general statements and focus on your project outcomes.
- **Use your budget description wisely.** The Section G field asking how WFCU funds will be used is your chance to show clear, purposeful allocation — make it count.

Questions?

For questions about eligibility, the application process, or technical issues, please contact:

Aline Guzik Duno, GWLN Membership Coordinator

Email: cuwomen@woccu.org

GWLN may provide general guidance about the application process, eligibility, deadlines, and submission requirements. To ensure a fair process, GWLN cannot review, draft, edit, or provide feedback on specific applications before submission. Neither the WFCU nor GWLN team members will be directly involved in selecting grant recipients.