

The Grow Hope Grants program is a major community outreach effort of our local Women's Club. Over the last 20 years, our club has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars via our signature annual fundraiser, the Book & Author Luncheon. The funds raised through these efforts have enabled our club to support numerous new and well-established initiatives of Washington County non-profit organizations and their services/programs aimed at improving the lives of residents of Washington County, particularly its women, children and teens.

In 2023 our Grow Hope Grants will focus on three priority areas:

Food Insecurity; Housing Insecurity & the Unhoused; Mental Health & Personal Safety

2023 Grow Hope Grants Giving Guidelines

1. All grantees must be an IRS 501(c)(3) and a RI nonprofit entity directly benefitting *Washington County communities and residents. *(North Kingstown, Exeter, Narragansett, South Kingstown, Richmond, Charlestown, Hopkinton, Westerly, New Shoreham)
2. Grantees must include an IRS letter of determination or a group exemption letter if your entity is part of a national organization **and** a letter of good standing or other such evidence that your entity is registered in RI. Confirmation of such status can be checked at the IRS and RI Secretary of State websites.
3. In 2023 our grants will focus on those organizations and programs, including educational and arts programs, that **directly alleviate food insecurity, assist the unhoused (permanent or temporarily), and help support mental health and personal safety.** (*Personal safety programs would help to reduce/avoid domestic violence, sexual assault of adults, children and teens, and help foster an understanding of healthy interpersonal relationships*).
4. Grants are given for programs or hard goods only, not for general operating costs.
5. Grants are awarded annually and programs that benefit women, children and teens are a priority. The GHG Committee shall determine the amount of individual grants.
6. Our policy prohibits awarding grants for religious or political purposes. However, programs that directly serve our community, and are physically located in a house of worship will be considered providing they fulfill the requirements as stipulated in the grant application.
7. Grant amounts are dependent on the success of our annual fundraising efforts and on the requests from current applicants. Over the years Grants have ranged from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars. We encourage you to request what your organization feels is necessary for the targeted program.

**Application goes live Aug 25th
November** - Notification of Grant awards

**Application deadline Oct 13th
December** - Grant checks mailed