

FAQs: WRWF March 2021 Vote

The Wood River Women's Foundation will enhance its grant making impact by awarding a "Focus Grant" beginning in 2022. In addition to WRWF's regular grant funding, our new issue-based, two-year, \$100,000 per year Focus Grant 2022 will invest in an area of significant need in our community. This new Focus Grant 2022 complements our traditional grants, which will continue as in past years.

Here is a brief FAQ that provides further detail on the Focus Grant 2022 and how this year's voting process will determine the area of need for this major grant. Should you have additional questions, please let us know! Send your questions to wrvwf1@gmail.com.

1. What are we actually voting on this March and when do we vote?

- This year's vote is two-pronged. Members will vote to rank the individual grants applicants and to rank the three areas of need options for the Focus Grant 2022.
- Ballots will be emailed to members on March 3 and voting will close on March 26. The ballot format is a SurveyMonkey survey as in past years. Results will be announced on April 1.

2. How will the new Focus Grant 2022 affect grants voting this year?

- This year's ballot will be sent via email on March 3 and will consist of two parts. Part A will look the same as it has in previous years with a slate of nonprofits' applications for our 2021 pooled fund.
- Part B of the ballot you will receive on March 3 is to determine the area of need for the new Focus Grant 2022. *This year, you are voting to rank the three areas of need; the vote to award the actual grant will take place on the 2022 ballot.* There are three options for you to review and you are asked to rank them on this year's ballot.

3. How will the new Focus Grant 2022 be awarded?

- Once this year's voting process is complete and the Focus Grant 2022 area of need is identified, the Grants Committee will establish procedures for inviting grant applications and vetting the submissions. The timeline for accepting and vetting Focus Grant 2022 applications will run concurrently with our regular grant evaluation process.
- The Focus Grant 2022 is intended to invest in programs and initiatives over a two-year period (2022 and 2023).

4. Why did WRWF add an issue-based, Focus Grant for 2022?

This exciting initiative is a combination of several key elements from the 2018 WRWF members survey results:

- * 78% support the idea of multi-year grants
- * 60% support large-scale grants (more than \$50,000)
- * 80% support or are open to the idea of making grants to fund a pressing community need
- * 87% support sustainability grants

Responding to this input from membership, our Grants and Education Committees collaborated to develop the issue-based, Focus Grant 2022.

5. How were the Focus Grant 2022 areas of need determined?

Over the past two years, members of our Grants and Education Committees evaluated the issue-based grant process in depth. They received and discussed member input, researched best-practices for collective giving, examined funding impacts, identified community needs and more.

In September 2020, they brought their proposal forward to the Board for review and approval. The Board accepted their recommendation.

Next, a Task Force was formed to initiate a six-month study of potential grant focus areas, recommend an implementation process to include a members' vote, select the three possible focus areas, and determine the

grant award amount. It is now time for the WRWF membership to vote on the three focus areas.

6. What are the three Focus Grant 2022 areas of need?

The three areas of need, in no particular order, are:

- Building an Inclusive and Equitable Community
- Closing the Opportunity Gap in Education
- Bolstering Mental Health Assistance and Addiction Prevention Programs

7. How can I learn more about the three issues?

Detailed information is available on a new section of our website here: <https://woodriverwomensfoundation.org/focus-grant-2022/> . All members are strongly encouraged to review the materials found on this new webpage, open emails from WRWF that include information about the process, and be an educated voter when your ballot arrives.

- The ballot language for the three areas of need can be found ([here](#)).
- The Focus Grant Task Force has recorded an in-depth presentation that is available on the website ([here](#)).
- On February 26, ballot summaries for the 2021 slate of applicants and ballot summaries for the three Focus Grant 2022 areas of need will be emailed to you. They will also be available on the website.
- You are invited to bring your questions to a live Q&A session via Zoom on the following dates. Please register ([here](#)) via the calendar to receive the Zoom link.
 - March 1, 3pm MT
 - March 8, 4pm MT
 - March 15, 4pm MT

8. What can I do to help?

As a member of the WRWF it is critical that you make informed decisions on all our grantees. We ask you to carefully review the options for both the 2021 individual grants and the Focus Grant 2022 area of need.