

FAQs: WRWF Voting in 2021

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 determined the area of need for this major grant. Should you have additional questions, please let us know! Send your questions to wrrwcf1@gmail.com.

1. What did we vote on this March and when did we vote?

- This year's vote was two-pronged. Members voted to rank the individual grants applicants and to rank the three areas of need options for the Focus Grant 2022.
- Ballots were emailed to members on March 3 and voting closed on March 26. The ballot format was a SurveyMonkey survey as in past years. Results of the individual grants were announced on April 1st. [Click here](#) for the results. The Focus Grant 2022 - Closing the Opportunity Gap in Education - was announced April 14th.

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

- This year's ballot was sent via email on March 3 and consisted of two parts. Part A looked the same as it has in previous years with a slate of nonprofits' applications for our 2021 pooled fund.
- Part B of the ballot listed three pressing community issues. In this section, members were asked to prioritize the area of need for the new Focus Grant 2022.

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

- The Grants Committee is in the process of establishing 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, the Grants and Education Committees 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, recommended an implementation process to include a

members' vote, selected the three possible focus areas, and determined the grant award amount.

Finally, the topic - Closing the Opportunity Gap in Education - was selected.

6. What's next?

The Grants Committee will be working to develop the structure of the Focus Grant 2022 over the next few months. Stay tuned for news!