

Focus Grant 2022 – CLOSING THE OPPORTUNITY GAP IN EDUCATION

In April 2021 the Wood River Women's Foundation members selected their first-ever Focus Grant 2022 (FG2022) topic - Closing the Opportunity Gap in Education. The grant is a big first step in piloting a multi-year grant to move the needle on a pressing community need. While the WRWF has a committed history of awarding education-related grants, the investment the organization is making via the FG2022 leans specifically into addressing the learning inequities that exist in Blaine County.

Community Need:

Our Hispanic/Latinx population comprises 43% of enrollment in Blaine County schools. These students score significantly lower than their mainstream peers on achievement measures, beginning with kindergarten entry; drop out of school more often; and attend college at much lower rates. Many students, from all student populations, have been negatively impacted by the COVID crisis and the challenges of remote, technology-driven learning. Many have basically lost a year of schooling that will affect them for years to come. Community educators say that the need for funding for compensatory services will be enormous for several years to get our students back on track.

Possible Goals of Grant Support:

Invest in services that reduce the achievement gaps between subgroups of students, beginning as early as possible, and that improve attendance, graduation rates, and college or career access for minority students and all students at risk for poor outcomes. Provide instruction and support to all students who have experienced COVID learning loss.

A Look Towards the Future:

The Grants Committee will be working to develop the structure of the Focus Grant 2022 over the next few months. The support from and input provided by members during the process of creating this new Grant strategy is greatly appreciated.