

WOMEN UNITED GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Organization Information

Organization Name

Friends of Donegal

EIN

87-2310723

Address

267 Park Ave
Mount Joy, Pennsylvania 17552
United States

Contact Name

Andi Riefenstahl

Contact Phone

7175727301

Contact Email

andi@friendsofdonegal.org

Executive Director / President (If different)

Andi Riefenstahl

Eligibility Criteria

Is your organization a registered nonprofit organization with an official letter of determination of 501c3 status from the Internal Revenue Service?

Yes

Has your organization operated in Lancaster County for at least one year (operating in Lancaster before July 1, 2024?)

Yes

Does your organization or program you are requesting funding for in this application serve primarily women over the age of 18?

Yes

Does your organization provide services to families at or below the ALICE threshold in Lancaster County?

Yes

Is your organization delinquent on any state or federal debt?

No

Does your organization share United Way's view of collaborative and inclusive service to the entire community, without excluding anyone on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or any other factor not relevant to a person's eligibility for service or ability to contribute?

Yes

Has your organization update your listing with PA 211 in the last 12 months?

Yes

Application Elements

Organization Description

Friends of Donegal was formed in 2021 by a group of community members to address the needs of families in the Donegal Community. We currently have three thriving programs that serve our community. Our board of directors is comprised of lifelong residents of Lancaster county who want to give back in any way that they can. Our combined passion is allowing us to building a better place to live, work, and play for all members of the Donegal Community. We believe everyone should be seen, heard, valued, and empowered to succeed. We are committed to the economic security of all people. We build connections between people and organizations, founded in mutual respect, to work together to bring about change. We work with others to create the circumstances for members of our community to thrive. Friends of Donegal would love to partner with United Way to grow our community support, particularly our Getting Ahead Program. The Getting Ahead program is a 14-16 week program where individuals explore the theory of change while investigating their lives and their community. Participants develop a plan to build a path out of poverty, after exploring the mental models of economic class.

Commitment to Equity

In Mount Joy, PA, the largest racial groups are White (Non-Hispanic) at 83%, followed by Two+ (Hispanic) at 6.53%, Other (Hispanic) at 5.16%, Two+ (Non-Hispanic) at 1.64%, and Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) at 1.05 as of the 2022 census. Our organization serves the entire Donegal community, with an emphasis on those with financial need. Our Getting Ahead Program focuses on getting community members out of poverty and the majority of our participants since the inception of the program have been women.

Proposal Details

Main Priority Area

Women's Financial Stability

Grant Dollar Amount Requested

\$15,000.00

What percent of the overall project budget is covered by the Women United grant?

100

Project Description

Currently our Getting Ahead Program has two sessions in a year, each 14-16 weeks long. We would like to expand that to include a 3rd annual session. This means we can serve more members of the community. A national study from 2015 has validated the effectiveness of the Getting Ahead program across the United States for participants from poverty. The study found that as a result of the program, participants felt empowered to overcome the obstacles that kept them from moving out of poverty. With the majority of our participants being women, we believe we are a good fit for this funding opportunity, however it should be noted that we are committed to the economic security of all people.

Collaboration

We build connections between people and organizations, founded in mutual respect, to work together to bring about change. In the past we have collaborated with Giant Food Stores, Donegal School District, the Borough of Mount Joy, the Donegal Basketball Team, Milliron Goodman Firm, and many other organizations across our community. We supply transportation, meals, and gift cards at every session of our Getting Ahead Program so we will continue to collaborate with our community to provide those services as locally as possible to build up Mount Joy/Donegal and Lancaster County.

Implementation Plan

The Getting Ahead program is a 14 week program where individuals explore the theory of change while investigating their lives and their community. Participants develop a plan to build a path out of poverty, after exploring the mental models of economic class. Individuals must commit to attending the 2-hour classes and are provided with a \$25 gift certificate for each class as a way to recognize participants for their engagement and work in their individual and community investigation. For each class transportation, dinner, and child care are provided. The class is free. We would like support to run our program for three sessions. Each session is approximately \$4,200 for gift cards for all participants, plus \$350 for learning materials, meals, transportation costs, and finally training for those who lead the course. Total for each session we approximate to be \$15,000, which is what we are requesting. By expanding to an additional session, we will be able to accommodate 12 more participants from our community annually.

Outcomes & Evaluation

- a. We hope to expand our program and strengthen our current Getting Ahead Program
 - i. Increased participation and the addition of a third session
 - ii. tangible outcomes would include the number of individuals who graduate our program
 - iii. participants feel empowered to overcome financial obstacles to escape poverty, as well as improve their mental health, social support, general hope, and goal directed behavior to improve all aspects of their lives
- b. We will evaluate this by monitoring the additional participants supported as well as the graduation rate across all three semesters
 - i. participant count, funding costs, graduation rate, future check ins after leaving the program

Documents

Required Documents

- [Proposed-Budget-for-UW-Womens-Grant.xlsx](#)
- [Annual-Audit.docx](#)
- [Board-of-Directors-2025.pdf](#)
- [IRS-Letter.pdf](#)