

WOMEN UNITED GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Organization Information

Organization Name

Second Grace, Inc.

EIN

85-0858025

Address

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Rheems, Pennsylvania 17570
United States

Contact Name

Candace Abel

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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

Second Grace is a Lancaster County-based nonprofit dedicated to empowering at-risk single mothers by providing the mentorship, resources, and community support they need to navigate parenting and professional life with confidence.

Founded in 2020 by Candace Abel, Second Grace was created to address the unmet needs of young women involved in the child welfare system—many of whom have experienced foster care themselves. Recognizing the challenges these young mothers face, including limited support networks and systemic barriers, Candace envisioned a program that offers both immediate aid and long-term transformational support.

Through mentorship, emergency assistance, and practical education, Second Grace provides at-risk mothers with access to essential life skills, job training, and a caring support system. Our holistic, two-year pilot program pairs participants (known as "Graces") with dedicated volunteer mentors ("Sages") who offer guidance, emotional support, and emergency assistance when needed. Weekly "Grace Gatherings" provide opportunities for spiritual counseling, self-care, financial literacy, and career preparation.

In addition to founding Second Grace, Candace Abel is also the founder of Brittany's Hope, a nonprofit established in 2004 that supports vulnerable children worldwide.

Commitment to Equity

Second Grace serves at-risk single mothers between the ages of 18 and 25, primarily from Lancaster County, who face socio-economic challenges and have been involved in the child welfare system. Many of these women come from marginalized communities, including low-income, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), and immigrant families, where access to resources and support is often limited. Our participants face a range of obstacles, such as unstable housing, limited education, and lack of reliable childcare and transportation.

Serving this community is crucial for advancing common goals of equity, opportunity, and empowerment. By providing mentorship, life skills training, and job readiness support, we help young mothers break generational cycles of poverty and instability, leading to stronger families and healthier communities. This work aligns with Lancaster County's efforts to foster racial equity, particularly by addressing disparities in access to resources and opportunities for marginalized populations.

Second Grace's leadership and staff reflect the community we serve, with many having lived similar experiences as the women we help. This connection strengthens our programs and helps elevate the voices of our participants, ensuring their needs and aspirations are at the center of our work. By prioritizing the voices and needs of these young mothers, we work to dismantle barriers and create pathways for lasting, positive change.

Proposal Details

Main Priority Area

Women's Financial Stability

Grant Dollar Amount Requested

\$10,000.00

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

5

Project Description

Second Grace is a transformative two-year program dedicated to empowering at-risk single mothers by equipping them with the skills, resources, and confidence needed to achieve financial stability and long-term independence. Our

comprehensive, three-pronged approach—mentorship, education, and employment support—provides young mothers with the tools to build a secure future for themselves and their children.

At the heart of Second Grace are the "Graces," young mothers who join the program to embark on a journey of growth and self-empowerment. Each Grace is paired with a volunteer "Sage" who serves as a mentor, guide, and support system throughout the program. Sages provide practical, compassionate assistance, tailored to each Grace's current and future needs. This personalized support may include home visits, a reliable contact for urgent needs (such as transportation to work), and, most importantly, a consistent and empathetic presence.

Beyond mentorship, routine Grace Gatherings provide structured training in financial literacy, job readiness, and parenting skills, while also offering self-care resources such as yoga, trauma-informed counseling, and peer support. Additionally, career-building resources, like interview coaching and resume assistance, help Graces gain meaningful employment and increase their earning potential.

In partnership with organizations—such as the Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency, Healthy Beginnings, and Nurse-Family Partnership—mental health professionals refer at-risk moms to the Sages and Graces Mentorship Program.

By breaking cycles of economic hardship and providing the tools for self-sufficiency, Second Grace directly supports women's financial stability, leading to stronger families and a more resilient community.

Collaboration

Collaboration is central to the success of Second Grace. We partner with Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency, Healthy Beginnings, and Nurse-Family Partnership, which refer at-risk single mothers to our program. These partnerships ensure we reach young women who can benefit most from our mentorship, education, and employment support.

Through these strategic partnerships, Second Grace strengthens its ability to empower single mothers, prevent child welfare involvement, and build a supportive community that fosters lasting change. As we grow, we are committed to expanding our network of collaborators, adding more organizations and mentors who share our mission, and ensuring that our program continues to meet the evolving needs of the families we serve.

Implementation Plan

Recruitment & Onboarding

1. Work with local community organizations (e.g., Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency, Healthy Beginnings, Nurse-Family Partnership) for referrals as needed.
2. Host informational sessions to introduce potential participants to the program and explain the benefits of mentorship, skills training, and community support.

Mentorship Pairing & Training

1. Match each Grace (participant) with a trained Sage (mentor) based on shared interests, goals, and needs.
3. Provide Sages with initial and ongoing training in key areas, including mentorship techniques, active listening, financial literacy, and crisis management.

Life Skills Workshops & Group Activities

1. Host quarterly workshops focused on various skills such as budgeting, meal planning, stress management, job readiness, and more.
2. Organize quarterly group activities (e.g., art classes, community outings, peer support gatherings) to foster social connectedness and emotional well-being.

Community Building & Expansion

1. Continue to build relationships with local businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations to expand resources

and opportunities for Graces.

Outcomes & Evaluation

Second Grace is committed to achieving measurable, lasting change for at-risk mothers through mentorship, education, and employment support. If awarded this grant, we will strengthen our Sages & Graces Mentorship Program, ensuring that young mothers gain the skills, confidence, and community support necessary to build stable, independent lives.

To evaluate program effectiveness, we will track progress in the following key areas:

Mentor-Mentee Relationship Development

1. Mentor-mentee pairs will engage in regular communication and meetings, with at least two check-ins per month tracked via mentor logs.
2. 80% of mentor-mentee pairs will remain engaged for at least one year, demonstrating consistent participation and support.

Community & Social Support

1. 75% of Graces will attend at least one community event per quarter, fostering peer connections and social engagement.
2. 70% of Graces will establish at least one meaningful peer relationship through participation in group activities, assessed through self-reported feedback.

Milestone & Stability Outcomes

1. 50% of participants will achieve key personal milestones such as obtaining a driver's license, securing stable housing, or completing an educational program (e.g., GED or college courses).
2. 75% of participants will report feeling more confident in their ability to manage day-to-day life compared to when they entered the program, assessed through quarterly surveys.

Documents

Required Documents

- [Second-Grace-Org-Budget.pdf](#)
- [Second-Grace-501c3.pdf](#)
- [Second-Grace-Audit-Note.pdf](#)
- [2025-Second-Grace-Budget.pdf](#)
- [Second-Grace-Org-Budget1.pdf](#)
- [Second-Grace-BOD-2024.pdf](#)
- [Second-Grace-BOD-2024.docx.pdf](#)