

## Executive Summaries of 2026 Women United Applicants

1. **A Woman's Concern:** Foundations for Healthy Families: AWC Maternal Health and Safety Program provides an eight-class series led by highly credentialed nurses and trained professionals, offered in both English and Spanish. This program covers pregnancy, postpartum recovery, breastfeeding, newborn care and CPR, and car seat safety, equipping women with practical skills and confidence to care for themselves and their babies. By offering accessible, evidence-informed education at no cost, A Woman's Concern directly strengthens maternal health, promotes infant safety, and reduces preventable emergencies. Funding will support nurse educators and program delivery, measurably improving maternal health outcomes for Lancaster County women and their families.
2. **Bench Mark Program:** Bench Mark Program's Women's Assembly provides trauma-informed mentorship, life skills training, and community connection for young women experiencing instability, including those residing in the Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center shelter. Many of these young women face significant barriers such as disrupted education, housing instability, and limited access to consistent adult support. Women's Assembly creates a safe and empowering environment where participants build confidence, develop practical skills, and connect to long-term resources. By pairing structured programming with sustained mentorship, the program helps young women navigate challenges, strengthen their independence, and build pathways toward stable, healthy, and self-determined futures.
3. **Clare House:** Clare House has over 40 years' experience serving women and children experiencing homelessness. During this time, we have seen an integral connection between health and housing. Many women and children have experienced trauma because of their housing instability and precipitating events like domestic violence. The toxic stress of financial insecurity can have a corrosive effect on physical and mental health that impacts both generations in a household. In response to these challenges, our transitional housing provides a safe, nurturing environment where women can focus on healing and planning for the future. The program sets women up for mental health care, sustained employment, affordable housing, and high-quality childcare. After exiting the residential component, they continue to receive sustained support through our Aftercare program. Our program seeks Women United's support to enhance our model in two ways: 1) expand our current mental health offering for residents, by growing the network of partner providers and subsidizing access to care for any un-or-underinsured women; and 2) providing a ten percent rental subsidy for up-to-one year to facilitate continued progress towards savings, credit, and debt reduction goals during the aftercare period. Part of the funds would also cover a proportional percentage of staff time for the Director of Family Services and Program Director.

4. **Core Community Blueprint:** CC Blueprint Women’s Roadmap to Recovery is a Lancaster County women’s health initiative that helps women and teen girls access recovery support, behavioral health care, and family stabilization through trusted community relationships. The program uses trained Trusted Messengers, Warm Handoff Navigation, transportation assistance, and family support to reduce delays between help-seeking and care. In Lancaster County, where barriers include stigma, transportation, and limited trusted referral pathways, this model creates a practical and compassionate entry point into support. The initiative will improve women’s health by increasing early connection to services, reducing barriers to care, and strengthening family stability.
5. **Church World Service- CWS:** CWS Lancaster seeks Women United funding to expand our Healing Pathways pilot program, an early-intervention emotional-wellness program for refugee and immigrant women experiencing trauma, chronic stress, and barriers to care. Using the World Health Organization’s Problem Management+ model, Healing Pathways provides 5–6 culturally responsive, trauma-informed sessions that reduce stress, build coping skills, and strengthen daily functioning. Women United funding will allow CWS to serve 12–15 additional women between July 2026 and June 2027, providing a trusted entry point to healing, stability, and improved women’s health. Amid rising fear, isolation, and reduced federal support for newcomer services, accessible mental-health care is increasingly urgent.
6. **GiGi’s Playhouse:** GiGi’s Playhouse was created to change the way the world views a Down syndrome diagnosis and send a global message of acceptance for all. We understand that many families are first-time parents, and they need us. Many young parents do not expect, or know in advance of their child’s diagnosis, and they need renewed hope and genuine acceptance from day one. At GiGi’s Playhouse families are never alone. From a prenatal diagnosis to career skills, we make a lifetime commitment to remain by their side. Families are empowered with all the tools their child needs to succeed! Back in the summer of 2002, Nancy Gianni gave birth to her beautiful daughter, GiGi. She quickly realized that GiGi could do the very same things that her other children do! What began as a mother's vision to change perception, and maximize her daughter's successes, has evolved into a global movement of acceptance. Nancy needed to get GiGi, and her other children, ready for the world ahead – and get the world ready for GiGi! The very first Playhouse was created to be an inspirational and dedicated place for families to celebrate their child and benefit from free, purposeful programs that unleash joy, confidence and continuous improvement. More than 61 Playhouses empower children and adults to achieve their “Best of All” and to pursue their dreams.

7. **Girls on the Run:** Girls on the Run (GOTR) Lancaster–Lebanon requests \$20,000 to support Women Leading Well, an initiative strengthening the health, safety, and wellbeing of the women who mentor and lead girls across Lancaster County. Each year, 500+ women volunteer as GOTR coaches, role models, and trusted leaders in the lives of young girls. While these women dedicate their time to supporting others, they often have limited opportunities to prioritize their own health and wellbeing. This program expands training and wellness opportunities, equipping volunteers with life-saving safety skills, peer networks, and mental health resources. Through certifications, a mentorship program, and a Wellness and Leadership Retreat, GOTR creates vital spaces for women to grow. This investment strengthens not only the coaches, but the girls and communities they lead, aligning with 2026 women’s health and safety priorities.
8. **Good Samaritan Services:** Funding from the 2026 Women United Grant from United Way of Lancaster County will support the Good Samaritan Services Counseling Program at our Lancaster County Women’s Shelter. This program provides trauma-informed mental health counseling for women experiencing homelessness, housing instability, domestic violence, and other traumatic life events. Counseling services help women heal from trauma, develop coping skills, and build the emotional stability necessary to maintain safe housing and move forward in their lives. In the most recent fiscal year, Good Samaritan Services provided 602 hours of therapy to 98 participants, demonstrating the critical demand for accessible mental health services for women rebuilding their lives after crisis.
9. **Hope Inspire Love:** Hope Inspire Love’s Restorative Care Program supports teen girls and women survivors of trafficking, exploitation, and those at risk in Lancaster County through a holistic, trauma-informed approach. The program integrates mentorship, life-skills development, counseling referrals, community support, and social enterprise employment opportunities to promote healing and long-term stability. Participants are equipped with the tools needed to rebuild their lives, including emotional support, workforce readiness, and pathways to economic independence. By addressing both immediate needs and root causes of vulnerability, the program helps prevent re-exploitation, strengthen families, and empower women/teens to achieve lasting independence, dignity, and meaningful participation in their communities.

10. **Lancaster Rec:** Lancaster Rec will launch “Every Girl Invite a Girl,” an initiative supporting women’s and girls’ health through physical activity, connection, and healthy lifestyles in the City of Lancaster. The program will recruit women as youth sports coaches and reduce financial barriers for pre-teen and teen girls. When a girl invites a friend to join softball, soccer, dance, tennis, cheer, basketball, volleyball or rugby, both receive a 50% discount. During challenging economic times, families often forgo recreation activities. With support from United Way of Lancaster, this initiative will keep more than 225 girls engaged in sports, building friendships and lifelong healthy habits
11. **Lancaster EMS:** Women’s health care has made strides over the years but maternal and postpartum care remains an issue, especially for women of color. Postpartum hemorrhage affects millions of women every year and often requires treatment in the prehospital environment. Blood administration can improve recovery outcomes and save lives during such a medical emergency, but blood is not commonly available with emergency medical services agencies in Lancaster County. To support women’s health and safety, Lancaster EMS is seeking funding to create a blood program, making blood available on three of our emergency response vehicles.
12. **LGH-NFP:** Nurse Family Partnership of Lancaster County seeks \$19,702 to support the Moving Beyond Depression program, an initiative addressing maternal depression with first-time parents who have limited financial resources and face multiple adversities.
13. **Lititz Public Library:** Lititz Public Library will host a Mobile Mammography Initiative to increase access to preventative breast cancer screenings for Lancaster County women. In partnership with WellSpan Health, the library will bring a mobile mammography unit onsite, offering screenings in a trusted and accessible location. Outreach will prioritize uninsured women, with assistance provided for appointment scheduling and follow-up care. Reducing barriers such as cost, transportation, and awareness will promote early detection and improve community health outcomes
14. **North Star Initiative:** North Star Initiative seeks funding to support a trauma-informed sexual health and healing group for women survivors of trafficking and exploitation. Through licensed sex therapy services, participants engage in structured group sessions and individualized consultations that address trauma recovery, healthy relationships, and bodily autonomy. This program directly supports women’s mental and physical health by reducing the lasting impacts of trauma and increasing participants’ confidence, self-worth, and ability to make healthy choices. Funding will cover critical therapy costs, ensuring consistent access to specialized care that is essential to long-term healing, stability, and overall wellbeing.

15. **Parish Resource Center:** Building on United Way Food & Shelter funding, PRC is working with Central Pennsylvania Food Bank to expand our Food Delivery program to meet the increased demand driven by changes to WIC, SNAP, and federal immigration policy. In response to healthcare provider referring partners, deliveries to low-income perinatal clients will increase from 26 to 100/month. A Food Delivery is a week's worth of culturally appropriate shelf-stable foods, meat, dairy, and produce, driven to client homes by trained volunteers. We will concurrently build a sponsorship program that will allow us to sustain this work in the long term.
16. **Patients R Waiting:** Patients R Waiting (PRW) seeks funding to expand its Diversifying Doula Initiative (DDI) in Lancaster County through the pilot of Dadvocates, a partner-inclusive maternal health program. This community-led model trains partners and male support advocates to provide continuous prenatal, birth, and postpartum care to fathers of color in Lancaster County. By addressing social drivers of health and increasing partner engagement, DDI improves maternal health outcomes, strengthens family support systems, and builds a more diverse local workforce. Funding will support curriculum development, training, and community-based support for birthing families, advancing equitable access to care and healthier outcomes for women and families.
17. **SACA:** As the region's only Spanish public radio station, SACA's WLCH Radio Centro provides the Latino population of Lancaster and York Counties with much-needed educational, informational and cultural programming. SACA provides Women's Health Services (in addition to wrap-around human services) by providing free products including menstrual supplies, diapers, pregnancy tests, perinatal support, and more. However, SACA would like to expand its impact by implementing a women's health series on WLCH. Through regular educational segments on women's health, WLCH expects to increase awareness of key health issues, promote healthy habits, and empower women and teenagers to prioritize their physical and mental well-being .
18. **SWAN – Scaling Walls a Note At a Time:** SWAN's Rising Stars program helps to empower girls impacted by parental incarceration through a unique combination of trauma-informed mental health support and music education. The program provides a safe, consistent environment where participants engage in mentorship, counseling, and skill-building through music. Many of these girls face significant emotional challenges, instability, and limited access to supportive resources. Rising Stars fosters resilience, confidence, and leadership while improving emotional regulation and school engagement. Through performances, peer connection, and individualized support, girls develop a strong sense of identity, belonging, and hope for their future.

19. **Second Grace:** Second Grace is a grassroots nonprofit founded in 2020 by Candace Abel to support at-risk single mothers in Lancaster County, particularly those impacted by the child welfare system. Through a two-year pilot program, Second Grace advances mental health and emotional well-being by providing trusted mentorship, consistent relational support, and access to critical community resources. By walking alongside mothers with compassion and accountability, the program reduces isolation, strengthens parenting confidence, and promotes stability for both women and their children. Second Grace helps break cycles of custody loss and foster care involvement, empowering women to build healthy, resilient futures for their families.
20. **Union Community Care:** One of our most urgent needs is ensuring consistent and accessible reproductive healthcare for the women we serve. This includes birth control counseling, emergency contraception, and more—delivered through an integrated care model that meets women where they are. In 2024 alone, we provided care to over 22,000 women, including 6,000+ reproductive health visits. Despite this reach, financial gaps persist. Public insurance programs offer inconsistent reimbursement for reproductive care, and uninsured women too often delay or forgo services that are critical to their health and autonomy. We are increasingly seeing unmet needs in our community.
21. **Utopia- The Equinox Project:** Utopia – The Equinox Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to address housing instability in Lancaster County through a community-based transitional living model. The project aims to create a supportive environment that combines small housing units, community gardens, life-skills training, and wellness-focused programming to help individuals and families regain stability and independence. By collaborating with local shelters, social workers, and community partners, Utopia seeks to provide pathways to long-term housing and self-sufficiency while strengthening community connection and resilience.
22. **YWCA:** YWCA Lancaster requests \$20,000 to support the Sexual Assault Prevention and Counseling Center (SAPCC) in promoting women’s and teen girls’ health initiatives across Lancaster County. SAPCC provides trauma-informed counseling, 24/7 crisis response, and medical and legal advocacy for survivors of sexual assault and violence, directly addressing the physical, emotional, and mental health impacts of trauma. Prevention education in schools and community workshops teaches consent, healthy relationships, and bystander intervention, reducing risk and promoting long-term wellness. This initiative strengthens access to care, supports healing, and advances health, safety, and equity, empowering women and teen girls to lead healthier, safer lives