

# Member Sponsorship Program

Impact Grants Chicago offers a Member Sponsorship Program (the “Program”) intended to support women who would like to be involved with Impact Grants Chicago but who may not be able to fully fund a membership on their own. The Program supports our commitment to having a diversity of perspectives in our membership and in our support of the nonprofit community.

This Program is funded by members and donors with the goal of supporting women so they can experience the full benefits of membership and the power of collective giving. In addition, funds raised to support the Program go directly towards grants issued to selected Chicago nonprofit organizations, just as do all membership fees. Impact Grants Chicago pools all membership donations to make multiple \$100,000 grants each year.

Applicants may make a donation to the Program or apply for a full sponsorship. For example, an applicant may contribute \$300 towards their annual membership and the Program will cover the \$700 needed for a full membership donation.

The Program requires each sponsored member to:

- Submit a Member Sponsorship Application by the stated deadline (see below),
- Specify whether they will donate towards the Program and the donation amount,
- Complete a Conflict of Interest form, and,
- Commit to being an active member of Impact Grants Chicago, including participating on a Grant Review or Financial Review Committee, or volunteering in another capacity, voting for grant finalists, and providing feedback on their experience as requested by Impact Grants Chicago.

## Timeline

The application will be available on the Impact Grants Chicago website early in the grant year and remain open as long as funds are available. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, but must be submitted by December 31st. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance through email. Donations to the Fund must be received by May 1st of the grant year.

Sign-up for the Grant Review and Financial Review Committees occurs in early January. The Committees meet several times January to May to review nonprofit submissions for grants. The voting and the Grant Awards Celebration occurs in late

May. More information about the grant review process and timing can be found on the website.

### **Important Considerations**

- Sponsorships are limited based on funds available each year; all who apply may not receive a sponsorship.
- The Application may be closed before December 31 due to limited funds.
- Sponsored members will enjoy full membership benefits during the grant year, including the ability to volunteer in different capacities and be considered for a leadership role.
- Returning members and new members are eligible to apply for sponsorships under the Program.
- Applicants must complete a Conflict of Interest form. Applicants are not eligible for sponsorship if they have a Conflict of Interest with a Chicago nonprofit that is applying, or intends to apply for a grant from Impact Grants Chicago this year.
- Impact Grant Chicago's Board of Directors reserves the right to amend the Program without notice at any time.