



For Immediate Release

March 6, 2012

Media Contact: Heather Arnet

412-720-4280 (mobile), heather@wgfpa.org

Women and Girls Foundation Announces \$100,000 Available to Regional Non-Profits to Increase Jobs and Protect Women's Rights

The Women and Girls Foundation (WGF) publicly announced this week grant opportunities totaling \$100,000 for area non-profits. The call for proposals outlines three time-sensitive goals designed to work toward equity for women and girls in challenging times. Deadlines for letters of inquiry begin this month and continue through the summer.

“WGF’s active mission is to achieve gender equity by investing in public policy initiatives that will result in long-term systemic change impacting women and girls lives for generations to come,” said Board Chair, Heidi Bartholomew. She continued, “Our priorities are focused on awarding grants to groups whose efforts are aligned with our goals and show an understanding of the challenges facing our region both now and in the future.”

There are three categories to which non-profit agencies can apply:

- **Funding Opportunity One: Engaging Women Voters**

One award of \$25,000 will be made.

Letter of Inquiry receipt deadline: March 21, 2012

Projects submitted in this category should be a non-partisan coalition effort to increase female voter turnout and education on issues related to women in Pennsylvania in 2012.

- **Funding Opportunity Two: Strengthening Women’s Rights**

\$25,000 will be awarded, in amounts between \$5,000 and \$25,000.

Letter of Inquiry receipt deadline: May 15, 2012

Non-Profits based in SWPA can apply in this category to support legislative advocacy efforts at the state level to protect and strengthen women’s economic and civil rights.

- **Funding Opportunity Three: Creating Jobs for Women**

\$50,000 will be awarded, in two \$25,000 grants or one \$50,000 grant.

Letter of Inquiry receipt deadline: July 15, 2012

To support a coalition effort of non-profit, corporate, and governmental agencies working together to create jobs and increase contracting opportunities for women in SWPA.

More details on eligibility requirements, the grantmaking process, deadlines, and application forms can be found at the Foundation’s website, www.wgfpa.org.

“In 2011, bolstered by the generosity of philanthropist Ritchie Scaife, who established a matching challenge gift, WGF awarded \$100,000 in grants to organizations throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania.” Explained CEO Heather Arnet, “With these grants, and through all

of our work, we are developing the female leaders of tomorrow while investing in better public policy today."

2011 Grantees included: ACHIEVA; ACLU of Greater Pittsburgh; ACLU of PA - Duvall Project; ACTION United; CivicsLab, LLC (through CORO); Fashion Africana at The Kelly Strayhorn Theatre; Fair Housing Partnership; Fayette County Business & Professional Women; Institute for Women's Policy Research; Just Harvest; Leadership Pittsburgh; Leadership Washington County; New Voices Pittsburgh; Planned Parenthood of Western PA; PROGRESS Center at CMU; Shaler Area High School; The ToonSeum Brenda Starr Collection; The Ukrainian Community of Western Pennsylvania; Women's Law Project; World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh. Previous grantees are listed on the grantmaking section of the WGF website found at www.wgfpa.org

The Women and Girls Foundation (WGF) is an independent, community-based foundation serving Southwest Pennsylvania. The organization's active mission is to achieve gender equity by investing in public policy initiatives that will result in long-term systemic change impacting women and girls lives for generations to come.

###