

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WOMEN'S & GIRLS' FUND ANNOUNCES 2018 GRANT CYCLE  
WITH A REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT**

***Up to \$50,000 to be awarded to Kern County education and training programs in 2018.***

(Bakersfield, Calif., September 11, 2017) – The Women's & Girls' Fund (WGF), a leadership initiative of Kern Community Foundation, today announced up to \$50,000 in grant allocations in its ninth cycle of competitive grantmaking to Kern County nonprofit organizations that serve local women or girls within the focus area of *education and training*. WGF values social change grantmaking that emphasizes finding long-term solutions to societal problems facing women and girls in all parts of Kern County.

“Since its inception, the Women's and Girls' Fund has granted local nonprofits close to \$300,000 to serve women and girls, primarily in the area of education,” said WGF Vision Committee Chair Cathy Bennett, who is also the Facilitator of the Fund's Grants Allocation Committee. “Every year there are compelling grants, and I struggle to identify one or two above the others. But two examples that really touched me are last year's grant to Wind Wolves Preserve, to allow disadvantaged, inner-city girls to learn about science and the world around them through camping at the preserve; and a grant in 2016 to Kern River Valley Revitalization, to teach STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) to girls in a way that fosters competitiveness and self-sufficiency—and this program rallied to great success even after the Erskine Fire!”

She continued: “Kern County is blessed with scores of nonprofits that work diligently and think outside the box to improve educational and training outcomes for women and girls. I hope to see grant applications from many such agencies again this year.”

The first step in this competitive grant cycle is to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) through [Kern Community Foundation's Online Grants Platform](#) by 5 p.m. Thursday, November 9, 2017.

Organizations interested in applying should have a 501(c)(3) nonprofit designation or fiscal sponsor. All organizations seeking funds must have a presence in Kern County and all programs must benefit women and/or girls within Kern County.

Funding is typically for one year only; and while multi-year grant requests may be considered, applicants should also be prepared to accept one year's funding only. All requested follow-up reports for previous grants received from Kern Community Foundation, including The Women's and Girls' Fund, must be on file before an agency can apply for additional funding. Agencies must also comply with Kern Community Foundation's grant-making guidelines, which include: a) being registered with Kern Community Foundation through the same Online Grants Platform that can be accessed via the hyperlink above; and b) having a Silver or higher transparency rating on [GuideStar.org](http://www.guidestar.org), the world's largest database on nonprofits. Please refer to the [WGF's Grantmaking Policy and Focus Area Document for the 2017-2018 Grant Cycle](#) for more details.

Following evaluation of LOIs by the WGF's Grants Allocation Committee, a number of agencies will be invited in early December to submit full grant applications. The maximum individual award is \$25,000, and the total moneys to be awarded are \$50,000.

### **About The Women's and Girls' Fund**

The Women's and Girls' Fund was launched in 2005 as a leadership initiative of Kern Community Foundation. It is primarily a volunteer effort guided by the leadership of the Vision Committee and Community Advisors. The assets of the Fund are professionally managed and invested by Kern Community Foundation, which also provides oversight of Fund grant decisions.

Through grantmaking, members of The Women's and Girls' Fund become philanthropists and advocates of positive social change. They rely on community research, data and the participation of community members to identify an area of focus each year. Issues of focus can range from women's and girls' health and economic concerns to safety and domestic violence, education, and more.

Since its first grantmaking in 2008, The Women's and Girls' Fund has awarded 32 competitive grants, totaling \$274,686, to Kern County nonprofits.

### **About Kern Community Foundation**

Kern Community Foundation is a vibrant nonprofit enterprise with the powerfully simple mission of "Growing community. Growing philanthropy." The Foundation is in business to serve as a charitable resource for local donors and corporations, and to generate capital that provides philanthropic solutions to help make Kern County a better place to live, to work and to visit. Since its establishment in 1999, the Foundation has grown to hold close to 140 charitable funds with assets of approximately \$20 million, and has awarded more than \$15 million to improve Kern County's quality of life.

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