Announcement of 2024 Featured Grantees

FAQs

1. **Why are there 15 Featured Grantees this year instead of the usual 12?**

Thanks to the generosity of our members and donors, our board made the decision to award three additional Featured Grants this year. We have done this before, as recently as 2022 when we awarded 13 Featured Grants.

1. **Will we be funding 15 Featured Grantees every year from now on?**

We will continue to fund a minimum of 12 Featured Grantees each year. Our board of directors will determine – each year – whether it is possible to fund more than 12.

1. **Why are you funding past grantees? I thought that past grantees were not eligible.**

As part of the improvements we made last year to our Featured Grants process, past grantees are now eligible to receive a new grant provided they receive no more than one Featured Grant in a four-year period, have completed all the requirements of their previous grant, and meet the rigor and vetting requirements of our current application process.

1. **Are past grantees given special consideration in the Featured Grant selection process?**

No, they must meet the same rigor and vetting requirements as with all of our Featured Grant applicants.

1. **How will you highlight more than one Featured Grantee in a given month? Will there be education materials for all Featured Grantees, even if there are more than one in each month?**

Yes, we will provide educational materials about all 15 of the Featured Grants we are funding in 2024. In some cases, we have combined grantees addressing similar issues or challenges in the same month.

1. **Will our monthly chapter donations be split between two grantees if they are both featured in the same month?**

Your monthly chapter donations are **NOT designated to a specific purpose, i.e., to that month’s grantee.**ALLdonations go into the same fund or “pot” that is used to cover all our grants (not just that month’s Featured Grant), partnerships, member education and engagement opportunities, program and chapter support, and administrative expenses.

1. **Will we continue to have the same educational materials about the monthly grantees?**

We will continue to provide a range of educational materials to suit the varying needs of our chapters and members, including a video, Fact Sheet, PPT presentation, recipes, Customs & Cuisine, as well as book, music or movie recommendations when available. We are continuing our monthly webinars with Featured Grantee speakers, using a more conversational format, and will make the recordings readily available.

We are making other improvements to our education materials based on member feedback. For example, we are offering additional support to our grantees in the production of their videos as we know that video quality has been an issue in the past.

Due to the tremendous burden this has placed on our grantees in the past, speaker lists are now optional for our grantees; when speakers are provided by the grantee, we will share this info with chapters in the same manner that we have in the past.

1. **What does it mean that we are now funding project/program based grants as well as general operations or capacity building grants?**

This was part of the Featured Grant improvements that our board approved last year.  We will now fund all of these types of grants:

* + **Project grants** are awarded to fund a specific project or a particular deliverable for a specific timeframe.
  + **General Operations grants** are given to cover an organization's day-to-day, ongoing expenses, such as salaries, utilities, office supplies and more.
  + **Capacity-building grants** are meant to strengthen an organization's systems and thereby increase its effectiveness.

General operations and capacity building grants are typically not restricted or allocated to a specific purpose. **Unrestricted funding** supports the overall mission of the organization and gives our grantees the ability to plan ahead, to build its infrastructure, increase its effectiveness and impact, and it gives them the flexibility to address emerging needs. For example, during the COVID pandemic, Together Women Rise gave its grantees the flexibility to spend our grant money where it was needed the most for their communities.

1. **Why were the new Featured Grantees announced so late this year?**

Typically, we would have announced our new grantees last October, however we needed to delay our grant selection process this year so that our staff and volunteers could plan and implement improvements to our Featured Grants process. This is a one-time exception, and we will return to our normal timeline for our 2025 Featured Grantees.