

Prosperity Together is the collective effort of public U.S. women's foundations to raise awareness of their role in improving the economic security of low-income women and their families. On November 13, 2015, the foundations announced a \$100 million collective commitment over five years to investing in innovative programs and strategies in communities across the United States that create pathways to economic security.

# What are Women's Foundations?

Women's foundations are the voice for women and gender equity in philanthropy. They are place-based focused on their community or state - and are experts in their area and its unique needs. Women's foundations are rooted in their community in another way: they rely on donations and grants. Women's foundations provide support to local nonprofits, conduct much-needed research on the needs of women in the community and the ways policies affect them, advocate for policy change, train female business and elected leaders, and more. The role a women's foundation plays is unique to its community, and most share a focus on economic security for lowincome women.

The effort is comprised of 32 organizations from 26 states and Washington, DC. Prosperity Together envisions a future where women are economically secure and believes that children, families, and communities will thrive when we ensure access to childcare, education, and employment and earnings opportunities that promote pathways to good, stable jobs and leadership advancement.



## TRACKING THE \$100 MILLION COMMITMENT

Prosperity Together partners complete a survey annually on their economic security grantmaking, types of support, policy change efforts, research, and future priorities.

Over the first two years of the commitment, Prosperity Together partners invested a collective \$58,421,499! Each year, partners invested over \$29 million. Prosperity Together partners have reached 58% of their \$100 million commitment over the past two years compared to a forecasted amount of \$40 million. They have exceeded this prediction by 46%.

Year Two's \$29,251,072 supported 1,022 unique nonprofit organizations. In addition, over 137,153 women and girls were directly impacted by women's foundations' dedication to women's economic security this year. It is

important to note that this number a considerable underestimate because 45% of Prosperity Together partners do not track the number of women and girls served.

# WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY: WHAT DOES THE WORK LOOK LIKE?

Women's foundations are experts in their communities. Each Prosperity Together partner works to meet women's needs in unique ways. In Year Two, 69% of the \$29 million went towards grantmaking, 11% to policy change efforts, 9% to community awareness efforts, 7% to research, and 4% to other efforts.

This year, women's foundations supported workforce development programs to help low-income women access high-paying, in demand careers. They provided leadership training for women to become local business leaders or elected officials. Other programs included connecting women to financial literacy courses and paths to degree-earning programs in colleges and community colleges. Young women gained leadership experience and a voice in their communities. They also received STEM training. Women's foundations conducted valuable research into business policies, benefits access, and the status of women across several issues, such as employment, wages, and child care access. Women's foundations are instrumental in policy change in their communities and states. This year, they worked on a variety of bills, including pay equity, paid family and medical leave, and increasing the minimum wage.

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## LOOKING AHEAD TO YEAR THREE

Next year, Prosperity Together partners will continue working in their communities to ensure low-income women and their families are economically secure. Top priorities for partners include:

- 1. Providing access to educational opportunities and increasing women's skills to seek employment
- 2. Ensuring access to affordable, quality early childhood education
- 3. Advocating for pay equity
- 4. Developing supports for emerging female leaders
- 5. Enhancing financial literacy of women
- 6. Promoting paid leave
- 7. Coaching local businesses on family-friendly workplace policies
- 8. Supporting an increase in the minimum wage
- 9. Creating and supporting programs for women and youth of color

#### PROSPERITY TOGETHER PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

A Fund for Women (Madison, Wisconsin)

Chicago Foundation for Women

Dallas Women's Foundation

Iowa Women's Foundation

Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship Fund

Ms. Foundation for Women

The Fund for Women & Girls at Fairfield County's

Community Foundation

The New Hampshire Women's Foundation

The New York Women's Foundation

The Vermont Women's Fund

The Women's Foundation of California

The Women's Foundation of Colorado

The Women's Fund of Central Ohio

The Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham

The Women's Fund of The Greater Cincinnati

Foundation

The Women's Fund of Winston-Salem

Washington Area Women's Foundation

WNY Women's Foundation

Women and Girls Foundation (Pennsylvania)

Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis

Women's Foundation of Greater Saint Louis

Women's Foundation of Minnesota

Women's Foundation of Mississippi

Women's Foundation of Montana

Women's Foundation of Oklahoma

Women's Foundation of Southwest Florida

Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region

Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee

Women's Fund of Omaha

Women's Fund of Rhode Island

Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts

Women's Funding Alliance (Washington)

Women's Funding Network

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