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The Rochester Women's Giving Circle (RWGC) has awarded \$183,250 to 8 recipients through its 2025 grant cycle.

(<https://rbj.net/files/2023/06/womens-giving-circle.png>)The grants are made to organizations in [Monroe County \(https://rbj.net/tag/monroe-county/\)](https://rbj.net/tag/monroe-county/) that help women and girls living in poverty gain the education, training, skills and jobs necessary to achieve economic independence.



This is the Rochester Women's Giving Circle's 18th year awarding grants.

In that time, more than \$2.6 million has been distributed to **nonprofit** (<https://rbj.net/tag/nonprofit/>) organizations aligned with the Giving Circle's mission, which is to strengthen our community by enabling women and girls living in poverty to transition to a lifetime of economic self-sufficiency.

Grant applications are on the rise as nonprofits seek to meet increasing demands. The circle received 38 applications this year, which is a 40% increase over the last 10-year average.

Many applicants indicated that they are trying to expand services based on increased demand in the community, and several cited concerns about federal funding uncertainty.

The programs and services receiving the 2025 grants are:

- Agape Haven of Abundance: \$25,000 for its Youth Empowerment Program, an out of school community-based program in the Edgerton neighborhood that equips at-risk youth with the tools for academic success through educational enrichment, mentorship, life-skills development and mental health resources.
- Center for Teen Empowerment: \$25,000 for The Young Women's Leadership and Employment Project, which prepares and places young women in high-profile and role-model positions as they seek to address social change in the community while gaining career-based skills and meaningful employment.
- Center for Youth: \$25,000 for Flower City Change Makers – Young Women at Promise, which is a pilot program for leadership development at the Bridge to Peace site, where young women of color receive mentoring, training in youth development, workforce skills, and job responsibilities preparing them to achieve academic and employment goals.
- Flower City Noire Collective: \$25,000 for Petals Mentoring Program, which provides arts, cultural and educational experiences for girls in Rochester's Southwest Quadrant, using mentorship and family involvement to help historically excluded youth develop self-confidence and pathways to success.
- Foundation for Women's Financial Education: \$8,250 for Financial Coaching for Social Service Organizations, which is a program to provide financial classes and coaching for low-income women employees of selected social service organizations to improve financial literacy and employee performance and retention.
- Goodwill of the Finger Lakes: \$25,000 for the Goodwill Learning Academy, which addresses the issues of working-age adults without a high school diploma by providing education success coaching and barrier removal that leads to graduation or puts women on track to complete their academic or career training program within 12 months of starting.
- Unity Hospital of Rochester: \$25,000 for Project Independence at Healthy Moms, which is a job training and placement program customized for each participant that leads directly to employment and increased self-sufficiency by tackling the obstacles that keep employment out of reach for low-income mothers with a child under the age of four, and
- YWCA – Rochester and Monroe County: \$25,000 for Equity Through Development Project, which provides women of color the unique opportunity to receive training, experiential learning, and mentorship to become fundraisers and development officers for local non-profits thereby increasing personal earning potential, BIPoC leadership in the community and funding for underserved populations.

The Rochester Women's Giving Circle is an advised fund at Rochester Area Community Foundation.