**The GFWC Women’s Club of South County, Grow Hope Grants Program**

 The GFWC Women’s Club of South County brings together women of diverse backgrounds to provide community support through volunteerism, provision of grants to local non-profit agencies, and awards of educational scholarships to women in need. We are proud to be affiliated with both the International General Federation of Women’s Clubs and the statewide General Federation of Women’s Clubs, Rhode Island. Visit our South County Women Club’s [website](https://www.gfwcri.org/events-in-south-county) for more information.

 The Grow Hope Grants program is a major community outreach effort of our local Women's Club. Over the last 20 years, our club has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars via our signature annual fundraiser, the Book & Author Luncheon. The funds raised through these efforts have enabled our club to support numerous new and well-established initiatives of Washington County non-profit organizations and their services/programs aimed at improving the lives of residents of Washington County, particularly its women and children.

 ***In 2022 our Grow Hope Grants will focus on four priority areas:***

 ***Food Insecurity, Housing, Mental Health, and Domestic Violence***

2022 Grow Hope Grants Giving Guidelines

1. All grantees must be an IRS 501(c)(3) and a RI nonprofit entity directly benefitting Washington County communities and residents.
2. Grantees must include an IRS letter of determination or a group exemption letter if your entity is part of a national organization **and** a letter of good standing or other such evidence that your entity is registered in RI. Confirmation of such status can be checked at the IRS and RI Secretary of State websites.
3. In 2022 our grants will focus on those organizations and programs that directly support **food insecurity, housing (permanent or temporary), improving mental health, and reducing domestic violence.**
4. Grants are given for programs or hard goods only, not for general operating costs.
5. Grants are awarded annually and programs that benefit women and children are a priority. The GHG Committee shall determine the amount of individual grants.
6. Our policy prohibits awarding grants for religious or political purposes.  However, programs that directly serve our community, and are physically located in a house of worship will be considered providing they fulfill the requirements as stipulated in the grant application.

***Application Deadline:* Sept 15, 2022.** Notification 11/2022 Distribution 12/ 2022