



# COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AWARD

AWARDS, CONTESTS, and GRANTS

 Visit [www.GFWC.org/membership/club-manual/](http://www.GFWC.org/membership/club-manual/) for updates and more information.

## THE GFWC COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AWARD OFFERS GFWC CLUBS FINANCIAL INCENTIVE TO IMPLEMENT PROJECTS DESIGNED TO MEET COMMUNITY SPECIFIC NEEDS.

Introduced in 1949 as the “Build a Better Community Contest,” this program has provided GFWC clubs with a platform for developing and implementing projects that meet the varying and changing needs of their communities. As GFWC’s longest standing project, it benefits clubs by increasing membership opportunities, developing leadership skills, and creating public awareness of club activities and GFWC. Designed to meet the needs of individual communities, the GFWC Community Improvement Program Award also provides a platform for enhancing relationships between GFWC clubs and their communities.

Club projects that help make your community a better place to live, by revitalizing distressed communities and improving living conditions, are “community improvement” projects and are eligible for national recognition and reward. Sometimes the smallest things that we can do for our neighborhoods can have the biggest impact.



### 2018-2020 COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AWARD

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The GFWC Community Improvement Program Award aims to enhance the lives of our neighbors around the world by meeting community-specific needs that heighten the community’s awareness of the GFWC organization.

## IDEAS

It is nearly impossible to provide recommendations for project ideas because the project should be tailored to your community’s specific and unique needs.

- Every club is capable of creating a Community Improvement Project.
- Almost any project can be turned into a Community Improvement Project that addresses a specific, unique need within the community.
- Large or small projects qualify.

Consider the following suggestions:

- Implement partnerships to address your community’s need, assist with leadership development, and raise your club’s and GFWC’s profile within the community, such as:
  - GFWC clubs (See Award Rules, joint entries.)
  - GFWC partner organizations
  - Professional or other membership organizations
  - Government entities
  - Other nonprofit organizations

**COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AWARD**

- Establish your Community Improvement project as an ongoing community effort that lasts as long as the community need remains.
- Reference the Advancement Guides (Communications and Public Relations, Fundraising, Leadership, Legislation/Public Policy, Membership, and the Women's History and Resource Center) in the *GFWC Club Manual*.

**PROJECT ESSENTIALS**

- Identify and define community need.
- Describe the project selection process.
- Explain how your club engaged community support.
- Define how the project is financed.
- Identify media support and the process in which it was obtained.
- Recount how you overcame obstacles.
- Provide a list of collaborating partners, including government agencies, other service groups, and professional organizations.
- Describe your club's continuing role in the project.
- Explain the project's long-term effect on the community.
- Identify results and successes.
- Describe how the project influenced changes in your community, i.e., increased awareness, willingness to work together, impact, etc.
- Focus on content.

**AWARD RULES**

Projects MUST be accomplished during the program period: January 1, 2018- December 31, 2019.

Club entries must be sent to your State Community Improvement Program Award Chairman, postmarked no later than March 1, 2020.

All entries must include a current, completed Community Improvement Contest Entry Form. Project notebooks containing narrative description(s) and supporting materials must not exceed seven pounds in weight nor measure more than 15"x 20" in size.

Clubs and State Federations must adhere to deadlines and important dates. (See Calendar)

All monetary awards must be used to further the community improvement initiative.

Each state's first place entry—which is sent to GFWC—becomes the property of GFWC and will not be returned.

The national winners' entries will be housed in the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center.

Projects involving two to six GFWC clubs qualify as joint entries and must adhere to the following:

- Only one, single entry form shall be submitted. All club presidents must sign the single form.
- Clubs involved in joint entries are not eligible to submit individual club entries.
- Joint entries selected as national winners send one representative to the GFWC Annual Convention.

Clubs that have previously won this national award must submit an entirely different project entry for consideration in 2020. Previous winning project entries that have been expanded will not be considered.

**GUIDELINES FOR STATE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AWARDS**

- Rules are determined by your State Federation.
- All club entries are submitted directly to your State Community Improvement Program Award Chairman and must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2020.

**COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AWARD****CALENDAR****JANUARY OR FEBRUARY, 2020**

State Community Improvement Program Award Chairman must obtain three judges. Judges may not be members of GFWC.

**MARCH 1, 2020**

Club entries must be sent via mail, postmarked no later than this date, to State GFWC Community Improvement Program Award Chairman.

**MARCH 5-15, 2020**

Club entries are judged at state level.

**MARCH 20, 2020**

List of first, second, and third place state winners are due to GFWC. GFWC will issue checks to winning state clubs after award winners are announced at their respective State Conventions. Allow a minimum of five business days for processing.

**APRIL 1, 2020**

State Community Improvement Program Award Chairman submits first place entries to GFWC, Attn.: Community Improvement Program Award, 1734 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036-2990.

**SPRING 2020**

State awards are presented at respective State Conventions.

**APRIL 2020**

National judging at GFWC Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

**JUNE 2020**

National Community Improvement Program Awards presented at GFWC Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

**JUDGING CRITERIA**

## PROJECT SELECTION – 25 POINTS

- **Community Needs Assessment:** Community issues that were considered in the project selection phase and how the needs were addressed.
- **Selection Process:** Procedures, plan of action used in choosing the project.

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT – 50 POINTS

- **Community Collaboration:** Partners involved in your community improvement project, specifically those organizations and/or government agencies that you created and/or improved working relationships.
- **Plan of Action:** Plan details, execution, and efforts, including documentation such as photos, letters, project plans, news clippings, etc.
- **Persistence of Effort:** Obstacles encountered and how challenges were addressed.

## PROJECT EVALUATION – 25 POINTS

- **Degree of Success:** Specifics of your achievements, including how the effort differed from what was originally envisioned, criteria used to measure success, and future plans for the project.
- **Permanence of Achievement:** Long-term project effects on the community.
- **Changed Attitudes and Practices:** Increased community awareness and impact on community.

**COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AWARD****AWARDS**

GFWC awards a total of \$18,860 to state and national winners of the GFWC Community Improvement Program Award.

## GFWC NATIONAL AWARDS

First Place	\$5,000
Second Place	\$3,500
Third Place	\$2,500
Fourth Place	\$1,500
Fifth Place	\$500
International Affiliate Award	\$250
<b>Total National Monetary Awards</b>	<b>\$13,250</b>

## GFWC STATE AWARDS

First Place	\$50
Second Place	\$35
Third Place	\$25
Total per state	\$110
<b>Total for 51 State Federations</b>	<b>\$5,610</b>

One member representative from each winning club will have the following expenses covered:

- Roundtrip transportation to attend the 2020 GFWC Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.
- One night's lodging at the 2020 GFWC Annual Convention hotel and ticket to attend the award ceremony.



**GENERAL FEDERATION  
of WOMEN'S CLUBS**

# Community Improvement Program Award

## COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AWARD ENTRY FORM/COVER SHEET 2018-2020

CLUB AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION	
State Federation	Date
GFWC Club Name	District
Number of Members	Number of Members Involved
Type of Entry ( <i>Check one</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Joint   ( <i>If a joint entry, please list all participating clubs with presidents' signatures on a separate sheet attached to this form.</i> )	
Project City	County
Population Served	
Type of Community ( <i>Check one</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban	
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
1. Briefly describe the project.	
2. Describe the reasons for selecting the project. What community issues were considered while selecting this project?	

3. Describe the community collaboraton, plan of action, and the obstacles encountered while working on this project.

4. Outline permanent results achieved, both tangible and intangible. Was the project successful? What are the long-term effects of the project on the community?

**STATISTICS**

Total Monies Raised for the Project	Total Volunteer Hours	
Project Chairman	Phone	- -
Email		
Club President	Phone	- -
Email		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
<b>Club President's Signature</b>		

**OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 1, 2020**

- Make two copies of completed form and accompanying materials. Send one to the GFWC Community Improvement Program Award State Chairman and keep one for the club's files.