



The Women's Funding Network: A Global Force to Dismantle Poverty

Wherever you are in the world, women and children make up the majority of those living in poverty. The Women's Funding Network believes that creating economic stability for women and families is critical to ensuring equity and safety in our world. We and our members are at the forefront of social investment in women with a focus on harnessing women's solutions and leadership to create lasting impacts on poverty.

About the Women's Funding Network

The Women's Funding Network is a global catalyst for women's philanthropy, transforming the lives of women worldwide. By championing investment in women, the Women's Funding Network is achieving equality for women and girls and strengthening entire communities. We lead a vibrant network of over a hundred women's foundations (or 'women's funds') on six continents, offering them the tools, clout and connections to develop and thrive.

Women's funds are grant-making organizations that spearhead social change through strategic investments in women's leadership and organizations. These funds are leading the way on tackling issues ranging from poverty, violence against women, and human trafficking to inequities in health care and education. Women's funds are often first to uncover the hidden barriers that stop women and girls from reaching their full potential. Just as importantly, they tackle these barriers with innovative and systematic women-led solutions. The combined annual grant-making of women's funds is over \$50 million a year, and poised for dramatic exponential growth.

A Global Force to Tackle Women's Poverty

Women's funds empower women, catalyzing women's voices, solutions and leadership to break the cycle of poverty. Across the US and across the globe, the top collective funding priority of women's funds is poverty alleviation and economic equity. Now we are poised to take the next step to convert that collective grant-making focus into a unified force for change on poverty, tackled through the agency and solutions of women.

Strategies for Poverty Alleviation:

The network has engaged in a careful analysis of strategies that have already been used by women's funds to eradicate poverty. Our analysis revealed five primary strategies:

- Building on the **Entrepreneurship** of women by supporting their efforts to start and grow businesses.
 - Targeted support for women who want to start or expand business.
 - From micro enterprise on up.
 - Not only small loans to women micro entrepreneurs, but increasingly, broad array of financial services – e.g. savings, accounts, health and life insurance, pensions, money transfers.

- Developing long-term financial security by **Building Assets and Financial Literacy**.
 - Targeted support for women who want to start or expand business.
 - From micro enterprise on up.
 - Not only small loans to women micro entrepreneurs, but increasingly, broad array of financial services – e.g. savings, accounts, health and life insurance, pensions, money transfers.
- Creating the opportunity for women to provide for their families and contribute to their communities through **Better Jobs for All**.
 - Raising the minimum wage
 - Increasing access to health insurance
 - Targeting industry sectors for job training and systemic change
 - Organizing for better working conditions, benefits, and wages.
 - Women's influence on national and international labor laws and trade agreements.
 - Training in literacy, political empowerment, and non-traditional skills.
- **Investing in Our Children**, ensuring that girls and boys have the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to the growth of the world economy and enabling women with children to work productively.
 - Increasing the availability, affordability & quality of early care & education through
 - Policy advocacy
 - Upgrading the training and compensation of child care workers
 - Enabling child care professionals to assert more control over the quality of their jobs through business ownership & working organizing
 - Significantly increasing the number of girls who complete primary and secondary education.
 - Improving the education system to better serve girls.
- Improving the environment in those areas where it is exacerbating poverty issues. Providing **Solutions to Climate Change** to help avert associated increases in poverty.

To learn more about the Women Funding Network's Dismantling Poverty Initiative Contact:

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As a global catalyst for women's philanthropy, the **Women's Funding Network** is transforming the lives of women worldwide. By championing investment in women, we are achieving equality for women and girls and strengthening entire communities. We lead a vibrant global network of over 128 women's foundations on six continents, offering them tools, clout and connections to develop and thrive. Our network is united by a belief in the power of bold action and ideas. We believe in harnessing women's financial power, influence and voices to create a global impact, fixing systems, not symptoms—we go beyond mere service to focus resources on programs that will create lasting change for women and girls, and the power of a network to accelerate progress by rapidly sharing ideas that work.