

Women for Women Grant History **2006 – 2025**

Total Grants \$5,557,775

2025 Women for Women Grant Recipients
Total Awarded: \$258,974

NUTRITION

Dig In! Yancey Community Garden - \$25,000 - will help restore a local food supply devastated by Hurricane Helene and increase the supply of fresh food in Yancey County all while building skills, relationships, and resources to foster a more vibrant and resilient local food system. This program supports growing organic vegetables for the community and teaching 75+ women and children the skills to grow food.

Equal Plates Project - \$25,000 – to provide nourishing meals for single parent families with ingredients sourced from women-run farms. Equal Plates Project will provide 25,000 meals shared with women, children, and families in after school programs, Latinx families in mobile home communities, and meals for women and children in Helpmate’s domestic safety support group.

Region served: Buncombe, Madison, McDowell and Henderson Counties.

Food Connection - \$25,000 – to provide nutritious meals through direct service, partnerships, and community-driven initiatives. The Mobile Meals program rescues surplus chef-prepared food from restaurants, hospitals, and event venues, repackaging it into heat-and-serve meals provided to women, girls, the elderly and those affected by Hurricane Helene who face ongoing food insecurity.

Region served: Buncombe, Henderson and McDowell Counties.

HOUSING

Rutherford Housing Partnership - \$25,000 – to assure safe, affordable housing for low-income, women-led households in Rutherford County. Rutherford Housing Partnership will provide critical home repairs to women-led households with damaged homes/rental units caused by Hurricane Helene. This grant prioritizes single mothers, elderly women,

and women with disabilities, addressing current needs and offering education to reduce future financial risk and housing insecurity.

Thrive - \$25,000 – to empower individuals with mental health and housing needs to thrive in a supportive community. Thrive’s Housing Case Management Program provides individualized support to find, secure and maintain housing. Assistance may include negotiation with landlords, payment of rental and moving costs, help with utilities, application for benefits, provision of household goods and connection to other resources in the community.

Region served: Henderson, Polk, Rutherford and Transylvania counties.

The International Friendship Center of Highlands - \$25,000 - will serve 50 low-income Hispanic women-led households and their children through their Mujeres Seguras, Hogares Seguros (Safe Women, Safe Homes) program by providing critically-needed home repairs resulting from Hurricane Helene. Multi-pronged advocacy efforts and tenant’s-rights education will benefit hundreds more low-income renters.

Region served: Macon and Jackson counties.

Pisgah Legal Services(PLS) - \$16,987 - to help low-income women to keep decent, safe and affordable housing services. PLS’s Homelessness Prevention Program will provide legal representation and consultation to avoid homelessness by preventing or delaying unnecessary evictions or foreclosures; stabilizing housing for families by obtaining or protecting affordable housing, such as Federally-subsidized housing or rent reductions due to unfit conditions; and preserving or improving the quality of housing conditions.

Region served: 18 counties in WNC.

Thrive Asheville - \$16,987 - through the Landlord-Tenant Partnership Program (LTP), Thrive Asheville will assist low-income, women-led families in Buncombe County to obtain safe, affordable permanent housing by recruiting, educating, and incentivizing landlords to accept federally-funded Housing Choice Vouchers. Thrive Asheville will provide landlords and tenants with one year follow-up support for long-term success. Post-Helene housing displacement and instability have heightened demand for LTP’s critical services.

CHILDCARE

Children First/Communities In Schools - \$25,000 - to provide region-wide support for child care programs post Helene through the Western North Carolina Early Childhood Coalition. The Network is a central hub for ensuring that the childcare sector has the information, multi-level coordination and personal relationships necessary for recovery.

Region served: 18 counties in WNC.

Verner Center for Early Learning - \$25,000 - to support high-quality educational and relationship-based learning environments in Buncombe County from prenatal to pre-kindergarten where every individual is valued and respected. Operating support helps ensure Verner can be a resource for free- and low-cost childcare in the community for the long term.

Woodson Branch Nature School - \$25,000 - to support their after-school program and plans to add two programs that will serve girls from low-income families: Global Girls (learning about women and girls in other cultures) and Girls on the Run (a running activity) for girls' grades K-8. Woodson Branch Nature After School Program transitioned to a free/donation-based program after Hurricane Helene.

2024 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$288,000

Grant Focus Area – help economically disadvantaged women become more self-sufficient

Aura Home Women Vets – \$36,000 to provide safe, stable housing to help women Veterans readjust to civilian life. Funding will support administrative, marketing and office expenses, and the procurement of a new donor management software program. It will also provide direct assistance to female Veterans in Buncombe, Henderson, Haywood, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, and Transylvania counties.

Just Economics – \$20,000 to educate, advocate, and organize for a just and sustainable local economy that works for all in WNC. Funding will support general operations, primarily staff expenses, and the expansion of its living wage and paid family leave advocacy work in Buncombe County, Transylvania County and other rural WNC counties.

Mountain BizWorks – \$30,000 over two years to serve 80 aspiring and existing Latina small business owners in actively growing their business skills and knowledge through Spanish language business courses, one on one coaching, and access to technology. The project will serve 18 counties in the WNC region, with a specific focus on expanding reach into rural communities.

Mountain Housing Opportunities – \$125,000 to expand its Down Payment Assistance program. Leveraged with matched funds, individual household support will range from \$5,000-\$40,000. This project will support up to 100 low-income households, 60-70% of which will be women-headed households, in Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Madison counties.

THRIVE Appalachia – \$17,000 to create opportunities, connections, and hands-on learning experiences for youth who will benefit from a welcoming community. Funding will support micro-enterprise ventures that teach financial literacy, small business skills, and provide apprenticeship opportunities to young women in Yancey, Mitchell and Avery counties.

YWCA of Asheville – \$60,000 to support four key programs – Empowerment Childcare, MotherLove, Getting Ahead and Light a Path – that provide the practical assistance women in Buncombe County need to pursue economic or educational opportunities that enhance their access to socioeconomic mobility.

2023 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$278,950

Grant Focus Area – Improving the lives of women and girls in Western North Carolina

All Souls Counseling Center – \$64,650 over two years to expand individual and group trauma-informed mental health services to 240 women who are survivors of crime. Community partners, including Our VOICE, Helpmate and Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM), will refer survivors to All Souls. Funds will cover therapist fees and will support outreach efforts. This grant will primarily serve women in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Haywood and Transylvania counties.

International Friendship Center – \$15,000 over two years to support the salaries of two staff members to facilitate Grupos de Mujeres (Women’s Groups) meetings in the community and provide funding for supplies. The groups create a safe place for 20 to 30 Latinx immigrant women living in the Highlands/Cashiers area to share their struggles and resources so they may learn from and support each other and their communities. Grupo members discuss topics including marriage, family, mental health, and child development.

KARE, Inc. (The KARE House) – \$49,350 to hire a part-time victim advocate and a part-time forensic interviewer. KARE provides evidence-based, community-coordinated response to child abuse, neglect and exploitation in Haywood County through outreach, advocacy, and specialized interventions. This support will help prevent burnout for KARE’s full-time team members, and it will allow KARE to serve an additional 75 child survivors age 3 years to 18, with the majority of children identifying as female.

NAMI Western Carolina – \$35,000 to hire and support a part-time staff person with lived experience to develop partnerships and initiate mental health and family support programming in partnership with community organizations serving the Latinx community. This dedicated staff person will recruit and train bilingual support group facilitators, offer Connection Peer Support and Family Support groups at least once a month in Spanish, and serve up to 300 Spanish-speaking individuals, primarily in Henderson and Buncombe counties.

OnTrack Financial Education & Counseling – \$65,000 over two years to expand the Women’s Financial Empowerment Center’s programming to BIPOC communities. Funding will compensate staff with lived experience to co-create programs with community partners to provide financial education, counseling and coaching that meets diverse women’s needs and schedules. This project will primarily support women in Buncombe and Henderson counties.

Sistas Caring 4 Sistas – \$49,950 over two years to support the organization’s move into an accessible, welcoming and functional office space. Sistas Caring 4 Sistas’ mission is to reduce adverse birth-related outcomes among individuals of color by providing doula services, advocacy and education to women across Western North Carolina. Funds will allow them to train 10 new doulas, secure office space and technology needed to grow services, seek reimbursement from health insurance companies for services, improve client satisfaction, and increase the number of mothers served.

2022 Women for Women grants totaling \$294,513

Grant Focus Area – Improving the lives of women and girls in Western North Carolina

Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC – \$20,000 to transition the current Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI) specialist from part-time to full-time. The JEDI program will train both ‘Bigs’ (mentors) and ‘Littles’ (mentees) to recognize and deal with challenges facing girls, particularly those of color including Native Americans, Latinx and African American. The JEDI specialist will be responsible for training and matching at least 175 female mentors with at-risk girls, establishing a JEDI Girls’ Regional Council, educating program participants about issues affecting Black, Indigenous and other girls of color, and monitoring girls’ progress toward their personal goals. The JEDI program will serve women and girls across the Western NC region.

Bountiful Cities Project – \$40,000 over two years to launch and support The Collaborative Urban Agriculture Apprenticeship Program that provides apprentices with 850 hours of educational workshops, onsite job experience, cohort learning, and mentee support while earning a living wage. Targeted at people of color and those with low generational wealth, the program culminates in a certification that will recognize participants’ comprehensive preparation for employment in urban agriculture, food security organizing, nonprofit management, and other areas within the local food system. WFW funding supports three apprentices in 2022 (the pilot year) and 15 by the end of the grant period. The program is based in Buncombe County.

Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital – \$100,000 over two years to launch and support the “Ladies Day In” Saturday Women’s Clinic in partnership with the Cherokee County Health Department. WFW funds will provide 50 scholarships per year for low-income and/or under-insured women from Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties to access comprehensive medical evaluation including bloodwork, mammogram and full physical exam in 90 minutes at one location. The clinic will serve breakfast to participants and schedule follow-up appointment and referrals for women needing additional care. Funding will also publicize the program and support staff overtime pay for hours spent at the Saturday clinics.

Horizons Summer Program at Carolina Day School – \$50,000 over two years to support the participation of economically disadvantaged girls, predominately from African American and Latinx communities, in the Horizons Summer program. The Horizons Summer program at Carolina Day is a 6-week summer academic program hosted on the Carolina Day campus. All Horizons students qualify for free or reduced lunch, and at least ⅔ of program students start off reading below grade level. Horizons Summer provides all-day STEM-centered curriculum that improves literacy and math proficiency and inspires the joy of learning. The program serves students in Buncombe County.

OpenDoors of Asheville – \$50,000 over two years to support the combined part-time salaries of two women employed as Transportation Associates at a living wage with benefits. The Transportation Associates drive an agency-owned van and coordinate transportation for women and girls engaged in OpenDoors programming to attend school and employment and access enrichment and community resources. OpenDoors works in 22 schools (public, charter, and private) in Buncombe County.

WNC Superheroes* – \$34,513 for one year to create, in collaboration with partner agencies, a Fund for Survivors who face emergency needs. Funds will provide one-time, flexible small grants to survivors of sexual or domestic violence to support housing or transportation needs, employment or legal assistance. Funds are available through a referral from a caseworker at a partner agency such as Helpmate, Pisgah Legal Services, Our VOICE, Homeward Bound, or the YWCA. Partner agencies pre-screen requests for suitability and complete application paperwork. Grants are available to women in Buncombe, Henderson, Haywood, Transylvania and Madison counties. (*WNC Superheroes only spent \$30,374 upon grant completion).

2021 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$310,000

Grant Focus Area – Improving the lives of women and girls in Western North Carolina

Buncombe Partnership for Children - \$50,000 over two years to fund its Early Childhood Education Workforce Development Project addressing the extreme shortage of qualified early childhood teachers in Buncombe County by providing hands-on training, tuition assistance to obtain state certification, substitute teacher classroom placement, and on-going coaching for participants and alumnae. The program consists of two cohorts per year who receive instruction in English and Spanish.

High Country Caregivers - \$20,000 to expand its Kinship Navigation Program (KNP) that assists grandmothers caring for their grandchildren in Yancey County. Participants connect with a support network that includes healthcare providers, civic organizations, social services, schools, churches, and other resources. Clients receive information about financial assistance, legal support, and other services that provide children with stability and permanency in the home as well as financial support for youth activities, counseling support and essential needs. KNP uses an established model (Relatives as Parents) with Halos in Charleston, SC, serving as a mentoring partner.

Jewish Family Services of WNC (JFS) - \$50,000 over two years to expand its mental health counseling services by Licensed Clinical Social Workers to rural counties in WNC. In response to COVID-19, JFS successfully converted to a telehealth platform, providing an opportunity to expand its counseling program into Henderson, Haywood and Madison counties and potentially Transylvania and Jackson counties. JFS is one of the few counseling agencies accepting Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement and offering sliding scale fees to uninsured or under-insured seniors. JFS has rebranded its program as Healing Solutions Counseling to indicate more clearly that it is open to everyone.

Planned Parenthood South Atlantic (PPSAT) - \$50,000 to provide essential reproductive and sexual health services and comprehensive sexuality education programming in WNC. PPSAT services include access to low-cost birth control, gynecological exams, gender-affirming hormone therapy, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy testing and options counseling, as well as delivery of evidence-based curricula to adolescents and their parents to educate and promote conversations regarding sex and sexuality. PPSAT has launched telehealth services to augment in-person services in response to the pandemic.

Smart Start of Transylvania County (SSTC) - \$50,000 over two years to expand its Family Connects (FC) program, an evidence-based model developed by Duke University that provides medical and parenting support and referral resources to families of newborns in Transylvania County. FC contacts families within the first three weeks of a newborn's life and provides support as well as risk profiling and necessary referrals. FC conducts one to three visits (personal or telehealth) within the first 12 weeks of life. SSTC is part of *Get Set Transylvania*, an early childhood collaborative that addresses the needs of children from birth to age five. Through the collaborative, SSTC's relationships with families begin at infancy and continue as the infant grows into a school-ready child.

Thompson Child & Family Focus (TCFF) - \$40,000 over two years to expand its existing foster care program in WNC through recruitment and licensing of 40 new foster homes (a 67% increase) to support 60 hard-to-place youth. TCFF is a statewide social services agency headquartered in Charlotte, with a WNC-focused team of licensing specialists, recruiters and Foster Care Coordinators supervised by the Director of Statewide Licensing and Training located in McDowell County. TFFC has a 97% placement stability average and a foster parent retention rate of 98%. A large component of TCFF's success is its commitment to the training and support of foster families. An evidence-based model from Duke University provides the basis for the program.

YWCA of Asheville - \$50,000 to support "Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World (GA)", an 8-week, 16-session evidence-based program that helps participants build economic independence and self-sufficiency. Participants share experiences and assess their own and community resources. Their work culminates in the setting of a Specific, Measureable, Realistic and Timely (SMART) goal to work toward during 18 months of case management. Alumnae continue as mentors and facilitators. Moving beyond traditional financial literacy classes, GA lifts women out of poverty and gives them tools to address systemic and environmental causes of poverty.

2020 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$299,988

Grant Focus Area – Promotes the Facilitation of Safe Living and Work Environments for Women and Girls: Addressing issues of violence in Western North Carolina

Delta House Life Development of Asheville - \$40,000 over two years to fund its Girls Thrive for Womanhood program, which offers after-school activities and field trips designed to build self-esteem, leadership, appreciation for education and work skills, and a sense of community among girls of color in Asheville. Grant funds will be used to purchase Girls Circle, an evidence-based curriculum to create and maintain positive relationships, and to pay for associated program expenses, including personnel, supplies and materials, field trips, and transportation. Girls Thrive for Womanhood equips girls with the tools necessary to combat common forms of bullying, including access to resources such as mental health counselors, activities to promote positive self-esteem, and a safe facility that encourages respect and inclusion.

Helpmate - \$50,000 over two years to enable expansion and support of its volunteer program. Volunteers are critical to the functioning of the organization, which works to eliminate abuse and fear by providing safety, shelter, and support for victims/survivors of intimate partner violence. Volunteers provide direct services (answering the hotline, providing shelter support, etc.) and serve as advocates by providing prevention education and community outreach. Grant funds will be used to pay a substantial portion of the salary, benefits and office supplies for a part-time Volunteer Manager. This additional staff person will augment the work of the Director of Outreach and Volunteer Programming, enabling both a larger volunteer pool and the ongoing educational support and engagement of all volunteers.

Light a Path - \$20,000* over two years to continue its program of providing yoga, meditation, and strength-building classes to incarcerated women as well as teen girls in the Juvenile Misdemeanor Diversion Program. In today's women's correctional facilities, most inmates have experienced trauma, sexual violence, and domestic violence. Research shows that yoga and meditation have positive effects on inmates' well-being and on risk factors associated with recidivism. Grant funds will be used for operating expenses, including salary for a new part-time Volunteer Outreach and Onboarding Coordinator. Light a Path volunteers teach program participants self-regulation strategies, so women can make healthier choices in every moment. These wise choices can prevent violence in the highly stressful incarceration environment and for the whole of their future lives.

Options - \$42,988 over two years to expand its historically successful anti-domestic/sexual violence programs and treatment capacity to children and adults in Burke County's Latinx community, a currently underserved immigrant community. Options will test and refine a targeted, culturally appropriate outreach to this community, led by a dedicated Latinx Liaison. The Liaison will work to increase trust with the Latinx community in Burke County, resulting in more Latinx clients feeling comfortable seeking the services of Options. Grant funds will be used to pay the salary, benefits, and office equipment for the part-time Latinx Liaison, as well as printing costs for Spanish language brochures and posters. Targeted outreach can provide clients with the resources and support they need to be empowered to live without violence.

Pisgah Legal Services - \$100,000 over two years to sustain and expand free civil legal aid to underserved, low-income victims of crime, primarily victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and elder abuse in 11 counties in WNC (an expansion of 3 counties). Unlike criminal cases, the courts do not provide free legal representation to the poor in civil cases. In domestic abuse and assault cases, research has shown that access to legal counsel significantly reduces further abuse and increases the chances for obtaining a protective order by 50%. Grant funds will be used to partially pay the salaries, benefits, and office costs for two new attorneys and a new social worker who will primarily serve rural victims. Utilizing a robust network of partnerships, this project will strengthen efforts to create systemic change, stop and prevent violence, and better serve victims.

Safelight - \$50,000 over two years to create the Safe Works program, a collaboration with the Life Works Program of Community Action Opportunities (CAO). Under Safe Works, women graduating from Safelight's Job Training program will receive three additional years of job and life skills training and case management. The goals are to help survivors of domestic violence secure and sustain employment, attain educational/vocational goals, learn to make better use of available income, obtain and maintain safe housing, and build self-esteem and a strong work ethic. Grant funds will be divided equally between Safelight and CAO and used to pay salary and benefits for the Job Training and Life Works program staff. The addition of a dedicated life coach to help develop, monitor, and support individualized action plans over a 3-year period significantly increases each woman's odds for success.

Western North Carolina Workers' Center (WNCWC) - \$7,000 to assist with one year's general operating support. Immigrant women in WNC face unique challenges and struggles to meet their own and their families' needs, while at the same time feeling obligated to tolerate situations of sexual aggression, domestic violence, and abuse in their workplaces, communities, and homes. WNCWC is one of the only immigrant-led organizations in the region that engages immigrant women in safe and inclusive spaces for them to advocate for themselves and others about issues of sexual violence.

*Light a Path grant ended after one year of funding (\$10,000).

2019 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$341,800

Grant Focus Area – Promotes the Facilitation of Safe Living and Work Environments for Women and Girls: Addressing issues of violence in Western North Carolina

Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM) - \$44,800 over two years to expand the current “Steps to Success” model to include homeless or unsafely housed women affected by intimate partner or sexual violence who are actively engaged in Buncombe County’s Drug Treatment Court. This program offers a “Recovery Living Program,” at their Steadfast House women’s shelter with wraparound services including case management, life skills training, peer support, housing, job training and transportation. The grant will fund the first 4 months of lodging and services at Steadfast House as well as provide staff support. ABCCM is committed to providing services for this population and WFW’s seed funding will allow them to slowly expand the provision of these services from 2 women who are currently in the program to a total of 16 women over the next two years. Women in the program are empowered to establish healthy interpersonal relationships and meaningful employment that leads to living wages and permanent homes.

Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County - \$32,000 over two years to provide staff and supplies for year-round, out-of-school care/programming for youth ages 6-18 who are living in domestic violence situations. Specifically, youth referred by Safelight of Henderson County will be guaranteed admission immediately into the program at no cost and ahead of a current wait list of over 100 children. For victims of domestic abuse, being able to secure steady employment is critical in achieving financial independence and parents say that after-school and summer programs help them keep their jobs. The grant funds will cover the costs for 15 of these referred youth to be admitted into the program each year, though the Club will allow up to 25 spaces for Safelight referrals. By creating direct access for these victims to out-of-school care for their children in a safe and nurturing environment, the program removes a significant barrier to leaving an abusive relationship and gaining financial independence.

Council on Aging of Buncombe County - \$100,000 over two years to provide elder justice support, education, direct service and advocacy for older adults in situations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The grant will fund a full-time Elder Justice Navigator who will provide direct support and services to 100 older adults each year who are experiencing elder abuse. The project’s focus will be on moving seniors who are in an unsafe setting into a place of safety and support by providing them with assistance navigating the criminal justice system, financial assistance programs, and housing assistance applications. This project fills a significant gap in services for the elderly by providing broad public outreach, education, and more specifically, coordination of the range of services available to seniors.

Homeward Bound of WNC - \$100,000 over two years to transition chronically homeless women with a history of intimate partner violence and/or sexual violence into safe, permanent housing. Permanent Supportive Housing is an evidence-based housing intervention program proven to be the most effective at ending chronic, long-term homelessness. The grant will fund a new case management position, exclusively dedicated to this population. Case management services will provide program participants with the extra support needed in order to remain housed. This case manager would serve up to 22 women at a time, building up to this capacity for a total of 25-30 over the two-year period. This grant directly addresses the fact that case management is now the critical barrier in moving homeless individuals into housing and will accelerate the housing opportunity for these women by about 2 years. Once basic housing needs are met, survivors can begin to heal.

Working Wheels - \$45,000 over two years to increase their capacity to repair donated vehicles and expand their program to meet 100% of Helpmate's need for 18 dependable cars per year for their clients who are survivors of intimate partner violence. All recipients are screened by Helpmate's case managers and live primarily in Buncombe and Henderson counties. Recipients must be employed and able to pay \$500 for their car, which includes a 6-month warranty. Grant funds will be used to hire a part-time automotive technician and purchase much-needed auto parts and mechanic tools. The program includes long term involvement with the women, providing continued training and safeguards in vehicular self-sufficiency. An affordable, dependable vehicle can provide survivors with increased access to employment and an improved quality of life.

Youth OUTright WNC - \$20,000 over two years to fund operating costs, youth leadership stipends, and training materials/ resources for delivery to schools and youth-serving organizations. Their plan is to expand their services to the more rural counties of WNC to provide outreach, education, and advocacy for LGBTQIA+ youth. By providing targeted, age-appropriate consent education, they can equip youth with the necessary tools to break patterns of abuse and prevent the cycle from continuing. Aiming to serve 100+ youth as well as service providers, they have established close relationships with Gay/Straight Alliances (GSAs) and schools across 4 counties and have strategic plans to continue to grow their reach to include more of the rural counties of WNC. Their mission is to equip youth with the knowledge, confidence, critical thinking and proper communication skills to cultivate healthy relationships, advocate for themselves, and establish appropriate boundaries.

2018 *Women for Women* Collaborative High Impact Grant totaling \$450,000
Grant Focus Area – Promotes the Facilitation of Safe Living Environments for Women and Girls: Addressing issues of violence in Western North Carolina

Buncombe Partners in Prevention: Helpmate, Mountain Child Advocacy Center, Our VOICE and Pisgah Legal Services - \$450,000 over three years to implement their prevention project. The goal of the project is to promote healthy relationships where people live, learn, work, play and worship, which will ultimately reduce the perpetration of sexual violence, domestic violence and child abuse in Buncombe County.

With the funds, Our VOICE, Helpmate and Mountain Child Advocacy Center will each employ Prevention Educators who will provide educational presentations, policy consultations and public information promoting healthy relationships and parenting norms. Helpmate and Our VOICE will provide intake services at the Buncombe County Family Justice Center, as demand for services is expected to increase as prevention messaging becomes more widespread. Pisgah Legal Services will designate a staff member as a Public Policy Advocate to research best practices for violence prevention policies, draft sample legislation and policies and disseminate information to support advocacy for appropriate public policy changes.

On average, every 2 hours in Buncombe County, the Department of Health and Human Services receives a report of child abuse. Weekly, 50 survivors of domestic violence contact Helpmate for assistance. To address the staggering rates of violence, service providers banded together to overhaul victim services and launch facilities such as the Buncombe County Family Justice Center and the Mountain Child Advocacy Center. These efforts intervene after violence has occurred. Prevention is necessary and an effective strategy. Using proven public health strategies and consistent messaging, the Buncombe Partners in Prevention project will work to change social norms and create a community free from abuse.

2017 Women for Women grants totaling \$270,000

Grant Focus Area – Promotes the Facilitation of Safe Living Environments for Women and Girls: Addressing issues of violence in Western North Carolina

Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County - \$31,772 over two years to fund staff, supplies and field trips for participants in a program for high-need/high-risk girls and boys. The Club uses SMART Moves, a national program with a research-based curriculum aimed at the prevention of Bullying and Domestic Violence, as well as healthy relationship building. Delivered through gender-specific and co-ed classes, participants learn to avoid risky behaviors, combat attitudes leading to dating violence/sexual assault and techniques for solving conflict, all of which can shift norms regarding violence.

Mitchell County SafePlace - \$41,428 over two years to continue funding for a staff person who provides a primary Domestic and Sexual Violence prevention education program **“Love = Respect”** at Mitchell High School, Bowman Middle School and Harris Middle School for the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 school terms. **“Love = Respect”** uses the Safe Dates curriculum that is proven to help young people recognize the difference between caring, supportive relationships and those that are controlling, manipulative or abusive. This program has resulted in increased student knowledge about the laws and consequences of dating violence, sexual harassment and sexting and has the potential to reduce violent behavior.

Park Ridge Health - \$70,000 over two years to create a Henderson County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), an organized group of professionals who support victims through the medical, emotional and legal issues and procedures that result. PRH is partnering with Safelight and The Free Clinics to implement this project. Funds will renovate a specialized forensic exam room, purchase vital forensic equipment, conduct specialized training for SART partners and increase community awareness about the available services for victims. The SART is a nationally recognized and proven model that leads to the prosecution of perpetrators.

SAFE, Inc. of Transylvania County - \$100,000 over two years to develop a Family Justice Collaborative and hire a Victim Navigator who will be the point person for the coordinated efforts of the partnering organizations. The Collaborative is based on the Family Justice Center model and involves the cooperation of law enforcement, the court system, governmental service agencies and other nonprofits. The Victim Navigator will improve the delivery of services to victims including those who may have been isolated from services due to geography or culture as well as those overwhelmed by the complex service matrix.

Steps to HOPE - \$26,800 to upgrade the security system of its domestic violence shelter, a locked facility that is in service 24 hours. The current system is 14 years old; software no longer supports programming and parts for repair are not available. The upgraded security system will ensure that victims of domestic violence and sexual assault remain safe from their abusers. The need is acute as the Polk County Sheriff's Department is moving from next door to 1.5 miles away.

2016 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$254,181.70

Grant Focus Area – Promotes the Facilitation of Safe Living Environments for Women and Girls: Addressing issues of violence in Western North Carolina

Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM) -- Steadfast House - \$50,000 for one year to support a no-cost residential program which gives each Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault survivor access to resources to become independent emotionally with counseling and parenting classes, physically with medical treatment, and financially with job skills, financial training and saving for the future in order to afford safe housing. Steadfast House has established a beneficial relationship with both Homeward Bound and the Housing Authority to assist these women with housing options, which is important to the stability of their family as well as themselves.

Our VOICE - \$100,000 over two years to build capacity across a 5-county area to identify and respond to victims of human trafficking. Funding will support a new Human Trafficking Coordinator who will facilitate the development of a Rapid Response Team (RRT), identify and disseminate best practices to service providers, ensure coordination with Charlotte and 30th Judicial District Alliance RRTs, and provide both outreach and education to the public, traditional/non-traditional service providers and communities. This project will build a stronger infrastructure for women and girls who have been trafficked and provide them with the tools to escape this ordeal.

REACH of Macon County - \$64,181.70 over two years to enhance and expand current violence prevention efforts for 5th - 9th grade students in Macon and Jackson Counties. The prevention curriculum includes education instruction on how to identify abuse, safe ways to intervene, the development of healthy relationships, and the prevention of violence by working to change previously accepted attitudes and beliefs that create an environment in which violence against women is acceptable. The program over its five-year existence has gained much community and school system support.

Wheels4Hope (March 2017: Grant transferred to W4H Asheville dba Working Wheels) - \$40,000 for one year to assist in the repair of donated cars and to connect them with economically vulnerable females in the counties of Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania and Yancey. In a partnership with Helpmate, the cars will be matched to survivors of domestic violence in order to facilitate the victim's recovery and independence. This access to a dependable car is essential to escape unsafe environments, earn an income, stay independent and break the cycle of violence.

2015 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$258,186

Grant Focus Area – Promotes the Facilitation of Safe Living Environments for Women and Girls: Addressing issues of violence in Western North Carolina

Helpmate, Inc. - \$98,686 over two years to create a new case management position to work with women victims of domestic violence in Buncombe County. They will conduct emergency and long-term safety planning and guide women through the confusing maze of support options. With the anticipated opening of a Family Justice Center in Asheville, a one-stop-shop for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, Helpmate anticipates an increase in the number of domestic violence victims taking advantage of its services.

Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) - \$45,000 toward the planning phase of the Family Justice Center (FJC). FJC is a coalition of public and private agencies that will operate in a centralized location with the goal of providing enhanced services for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and child abuse. Past experience with FJCs has shown that extensive planning is needed to ensure a smooth transition to this “one-stop-shop” for services. Organizational leaders from MAHEC, Helpmate, Pisgah Legal Services, Our Voice, Child Abuse Prevention Services, and Mission Forensic Services will participate in this planning.

Options, Inc. - \$24,500 to purchase a van and begin a transportation program for victims of domestic and sexual violence residing at its shelter. Lack of transportation creates a substantial barrier for victims attempting to leave violent homes. Once they reach the Burke County shelter, only 1 in 8 clients have transportation, limiting their ability to establish independent lives. This program will transport clients to service providers such as Social Services, the Housing Authority, and various other locations needed to help them improve their living situations.

Pisgah Legal Services - \$90,000 over two years to expand free civil legal aid to rural women in 16 WNC counties and thereby protect and stabilize the lives of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. Pisgah Legal Services will promote its services to rural women through its own outreach and through partnerships with domestic violence prevention agencies, law enforcement, DHSS, court officials, churches and civic groups and community colleges.

2014 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$210,000
Grant Focus Area – economic security for financially-disadvantaged
women and girls

Clean Slate Coalition - \$35,000 to launch a new direct service program, called Clean Slate Enterprises, for women residing at the Clean Slate House in Sylva, some of whom have been imprisoned or institutionalized. They will make organic cleaning supplies and offer custodial and cleaning services to businesses and individuals in WNC, primarily in Jackson County. The goal is that after one-year in the program, women will have acquired work experience, possibly a job (at minimum a resume with references), and improved life skills; thereby reducing their risk of recidivism, addiction relapse and homelessness.

Mainstay, Inc. - \$50,000 for the Dandelion Eatery Job Training program, located in Henderson County, which prepares women who are survivors of domestic violence (as well as teen mothers and other at-risk women) for jobs in the food service industry. On-the-job training occurs in all aspects of food service (menu preparation, purchasing, inventory control, sanitation, food preparation, cooking, food service, cashiering, etc.) and each participant will be able to identify her most appropriate job niche. Dandelion interns directly experience how their actions affect other members of the team (most of these women live together as well as work together), learning the importance of cooperative behavior, dependability, financial responsibility and other important life skills.

Eliada Homes, Inc. - \$50,000 to expand the Eliada School of Trade Arts (ESTA) program to include female students. ESTA is a 1-year culinary arts /vocational, transitional living program that serves financially disadvantaged youth who have been part of the foster care system but will otherwise “age out”. ESTA students spend part of their time working at Eliada Homes and also in paid work-study opportunities off campus in restaurants. These internships may result in permanent job placements upon completion of the program. Students are housed on campus and pay rent. These funds are reserved for the students in a trust savings account available to them when they leave Eliada. Academic studies in the program include business math, business English, computer technology, and self-promotion and etiquette. Character development and life skills training supplement the academic program.

OnTrack Financial Education & Counseling - \$75,000 to support the Women’s Financial Empowerment Center (WFEC) that helps women achieve their money goals through education, group support, counseling, coaching and follow-up with their clients; as well as expand an age appropriate program to serve girls. Counties served by the operational support portion of the grant are Haywood, Jackson, Yancey and Henderson. Counties proposed for the girls program are Buncombe, Transylvania and Madison counties.

2013 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$263,000
Grant Focus Area – economic security for financially-disadvantaged women and girls

Blue Ridge Community Action awarded \$48,000 over two years to support the Burke County Circles Initiative. The local program is a customized version of the national Circle Initiative. Grant funds will expand existing services by offering Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to women who've completed or are participating in the 15-week course. IDAs are savings accounts that can be used only for purchasing a first home, basic transportation, capitalizing a small business, or education or job training expenses. Contributions by participants will be matched 3:1 using grant funds.

Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County awarded \$20,000 for one year to expand its existing educational and character development program, SMART girls, serving all female members. SMART Girls is a nationally-recognized and locally-customized program under the umbrella of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's evidence-based Project Learn. These gender-specific programs have proved effective at helping at-risk girls achieve academic success, avoid premature sexual activity, develop a positive self-image, pursue post-secondary education and practice positive decision-making.

Homeward Bound awarded \$50,000 over two years to create an advocacy campaign to educate the community about how homelessness affects women and children in Buncombe and Henderson counties. With a campaign targeting faith communities and female-owned businesses, Homeward Bound hopes to eradicate the stereotype that the homeless are mostly adult men and to shed light on the often unseen homeless population of women and children.

Mayland Community College Foundation awarded \$75,000 over two years to offer women in the Avery-Mitchell-Yancey area a one-stop facility for entrepreneurial success by providing a health-certified, equipped kitchen and technical assistance for processing and selling agricultural products, baked goods, jams, herbs, sauces, catered meals, etc. – products in high demand due to these counties' strong tourism industry.

Our VOICE awarded \$20,000 over two years to develop and present a middle and high school Teen Tech Safety Project to educate Buncombe County teens regarding the short-term and long-term consequences of sexting/posting sexually explicit photos on social media sites. The project also seeks to increase girls' self-esteem so that they can resist peer pressure and avoid risky behavior while discouraging other girls from engaging in similar behavior.

YWCA of Asheville and WNC awarded \$50,000 over two years to support its New Choices Program. New Choices helps hard-to-employ women in Buncombe County, who currently lack the skills and education required to obtain living wage jobs, by providing job-seeking and employment training. The program uses case management to establish rapport, set and track goals that target personal gaps, and link participants to community resources.

2012 Women for Women grants totaling \$252,000
Grant Focus Area – economic security for financially-disadvantaged women and girls

Burke County Public Schools/Family Connections awarded \$47,000 for an 18-month direct service project, ***Step Up for Teens***, to hire an additional staff member to expand an existing program called Family Connections. The proposed project would focus mainly on 12th grade pregnant or parenting students and continue for six months after high school to help these teens to pursue education and/or job placement.

Centro de Enlace awarded \$55,000 for a two-year project entitled ***¡Educate!*** to serve Latina women in Burnsville, Yancey County, a designated Tier 1 (highest need) area. The direct service program is designed to improve economic security for Latina teens and mothers through a multi-generational model. The program will improve economic security for Latina teens and mothers through a multi-generational model including weekly tutoring sessions, mentoring, financial planning, empowerment and relationship coaching, meetings with parents and overnight visits to colleges. *¡Educate!* is a new program that will help young women to move from the cycle of early marriage/motherhood to delaying pregnancy, becoming high school or college graduates and financially secure.

Just Economics awarded \$50,000 for two years to hire a community organizer for an existing advocacy program in Buncombe County and expansion into Transylvania County. ***Voices for Economic Justice*** trains low-income women to become advocates on their own behalf, particularly for "living wage" jobs. These women develop leadership skills and confidence, which impacts their own lives. The goal is for all workers to make at least a living wage. Low-income people are empowered to advocate for themselves and their neighbors.

Mountain Area Child and Family Center awarded \$50,000 for two years for the ***Mothers on the Move*** (MOM's) program, which serves Buncombe County. This project provides comprehensive support, case management and free or low-cost child care to allow low-income mothers to pursue educational goals and to raise their families out of poverty.

Mountain BizWorks awarded \$50,000 for one year to expand ***Empowering Latinas through Business and Credit Building***, its direct service pilot program for low-income Latina entrepreneurs. Participants are drawn from 4 counties: 40% from Buncombe; 40% from Henderson; 20% from Polk & Transylvania. The program will provide customized business coaching and loans to start or grow businesses. It will also help these women to build credit. The businesses will create living wage jobs.

2011 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$270,000
Grant Focus Area – Economic Self-Sufficiency

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College Foundation (AB Tech)

\$100,000 over two years to significantly increase the retention and graduation rates of low income women students. This program would expand an existing program at AB Tech and be replicated at Blue Ridge and Haywood Community Colleges. The project, Building Support and Opportunities (BSO), provides “intensive advising”—ongoing academic and career coaching, as well as limited financial support to scholarship students at each institution.

Center for Participatory Change

\$20,000 for one year for the Immigrant (Latina) Women’s Worker-Owned Business Project to expand and provide intensive support for 3 existing worker-owned cooperative businesses (two housekeeping; one “cut and sew” business). They also plan to support two new businesses. They will also create tools to support replication of the worker-owner model, including a workbook that outlines start-up "how-to's" for new cooperative businesses. Replication of this model has potential to serve a large number of women.

Children First/Communities in Schools in Buncombe County

\$50,000 over two years to support advocacy and community engagement that includes public policy advocacy around issues such as child care, paid sick leave, NC tax modernization and a poverty reduction initiative. In the past 3 years, with help from a WFW grant, Children First has saved key state services in education, health and human services from drastic budget cuts. They have increased the advocacy capacity, support, and networking among local nonprofits and have involved low income families in developing strategies.

Pisgah Legal Services

\$100,000 over two years awarded to establish the Rutherford Women’s Economic Empowerment Project in partnership with Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Rutherford County (CCCS). The grant will provide free legal aid, financial education, and counseling services to remove barriers to economic self-sufficiency for women.

2010 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$235,000
Grant Focus Area – Economic Self-Sufficiency

Children and Family Resource Center of Henderson County

\$15,000 for one year to advocate for an increase in the number of subsidized childcare spaces and the affordability of childcare. Additionally, they aim to raise the quality of early childhood education in Henderson County by promoting an increase in education standards for childcare providers and reducing their turnover rates.

On Track Financial Education and Counseling

\$100,000 over a two year period for the development of a new project, the Women's Financial Empowerment Center (WFEC) to empower women with knowledge and skills to take charge of their finances. The program will use the steps of "Crisis/Stability/Self-Sufficiency/Asset Building" to help women achieve financial literacy.

Task Force on Family Violence: REACH, Inc.

\$100,000 awarded over two years to expand and enhance an existing Women's Resource Center's (WRC) successful part-time program that is presently limited to displaced homemakers. The project targets women who do not fall under the definition of displaced homemakers in 3 of the identified highest need counties in WNC. Partnering with Tri -County Community College (TCCC) and local businesses, the women served will obtain assessment, counseling, educational training and job placements through the efforts of a paid staff person coordinating services with the highly successful Job Now Program at TCCC.

YWCA

\$20,000 for 1 year for a new advocacy program to develop a community strategy to educate and train women for living wage jobs in the merging green economy. YWCA will develop a working group of stakeholders in Buncombe County and a Directory of Green Jobs and career pathways for women.

2009 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$264,000
Grant Focus Area – Economic Self-Sufficiency

Blue Ridge Literacy Council

\$15,000 for one year for operating support to continue providing low-income women the English communication and literacy skills they need to gain employment, better their income, and reach a higher level of independence.

The Center for Participatory Change (CPC)

\$35,000 for one year to continue to provide intensive services to four emerging Latina worker-owned small businesses across WNC.

MANNA FoodBank

\$50,000 for one year to expand the Teach One, Reach One (TORO) food stamp outreach program from five WNC counties into Graham, Haywood and Mitchell counties.

Mountain BizWorks (MBW)

\$50,000 for one year to continue the Women's Business Center (WBC) to provide business planning programs, coaching and support services to assist economically disadvantaged women to start small businesses.

Pisgah Legal Services

\$50,000 for one year to sustain core, critical legal services in Madison, Buncombe, Henderson, Rutherford, Polk, and Transylvania counties at a time when women are more vulnerable than ever to economic crises.

YWCA of Asheville

\$64,000 over two years to continue its Drop-In Child Care service for low-income women participating in the YWCA's New Choices Program. In existence for ten years, the New Choices Program is designed for displaced homemakers who are in financial crisis and desire to become economically self-sufficient.

2008 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$280,321
Grant Focus Area – Basic Needs

Children First

\$95,000 over a two year period to support a full time Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement who will effectively address emerging issues, integrate resources with strategic advocacy campaigns and broaden the voice for change in our community.

Planned Parenthood Health Systems, Inc. (PPHS)

\$96,781 over a two year period to implement a program called Teens Taking Action (TTA).

The Western North Carolina AIDS Project (WNCAP)

\$88,540 over a two year period to hire a full-time Project Coordinator and two more part-time Facilitators for their program Sisters Informing Sisters on Topics about AIDS (SISTA).

2007 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$270,000
Grant Focus Area – Basic Needs

Consumer Credit Counseling Services of WNC (CCCS)

\$35,000 for one year for “Financial Literacy for Women Who Shape Future Generations.”

Henderson County Public Schools/Coalition For Family Literacy (CFL)

\$66,667 over two years for the Coalition for “Family Literacy: Developing Sustainable Service for Women At-Risk.”

Homeward Bound of Asheville (formerly Hospitality House)

\$40,000 over two years for the “New Horizons for RITI Women” Program.

REACH of Macon County

\$54,810 over two years for the “New Choices Program” and “The Empowerment Project” to assist women affected by domestic violence or sexual assault.

Transylvania Christian Ministries (TCM)

\$73,523 over two years for the “Intensive Case Management/Transitional Housing Program.”

2006 *Women for Women* Grants totaling \$213,000
Grant Focus Area – Basic Needs

REACH of Jackson County

\$41,604 for one year for the Employment Life Skills Training Program (ELSTP).

Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice (WCCJ)

\$100,000 over two years for the Women at Risk Intensive Outpatient Program.

Pisgah Legal Services (PLS)

\$71,396 over two years for the Health Education and Legal Support (HEALS) project.