

Guiding Principles

Core Values

Guiding Principles: Gender Lens

All awarded grants must be intentionally designed to benefit women, girls and gender expansive people.

Grantmaking with a gender lens does not automatically exclude programs that serve men and/or boys. Instead, organizations and programs must consider how their work addresses the challenges facing women and girls, strategically engaging participants of all genders.

Programming with a gender lens includes:

- Identified needs or systemic barriers faced by women and/or girls and a program designed to meet those needs.
- For more information on using a gender lens check out,
- GrantCraft's Grantmaking with a Gender Lens
- Applying a "Gender Lens" To Your Work, Funding Centre

Guiding Principles: Gender Lens

chicago foundation for women
unite. uplift. unleash.

The purpose of grantmaking with a gender lens is to highlight both systemic inequalities and gender norms that impact women and girls.

As our understanding of gender has evolved, so has our understanding of grantmaking with a gender lens.

Guiding Principles: Reproductive Justice

Reproductive justice is more than access to abortion service. Reproductive justice contends that women's reproductive health is a basic human right.

The most marginalized in our country—including women of color, immigrant women, incarcerated women, women with disabilities, girls, young mothers and low-income women—face worse health outcomes, yet policies and services do not address these disparities.

What is Reproductive Justice?

- "Reproductive Justice is the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities." -***SisterSong***

- "We believe Reproductive Justice exists when all people have the social, political and economic power and resources to make healthy decisions about our gender, bodies, sexuality and families for our selves and our communities." - ***Forward Together***

In 1994, "reproductive justice" was coined by a group of Black women working on intersecting issues of gender justice, reproductive health and rights and international development. This definition then and now is rooted in human rights and four core principles.

- The human right to have a child
- The human right to not have a child
- The human right to parent the children one has
- The human right to bodily autonomy and sexual expression

Guiding Principles: Reproductive Justice

chicago foundation for women
unite. uplift. unleash.

We would like to encourage organizations to take a holistic view of a woman's life—from prenatal options to senior needs—and understand that a woman's health impacts her family and, ultimately, her community.

We do not expect applicants to be a reproductive justice organization, but that they articulate their understanding of the importance of reproductive justice to the population they serve or are working to impact and how their work contributes.

For more information on reproductive justice:

- Forward Together's "A New Vision for Advancing our Movement for Reproductive Health, Reproductive Rights, and Reproductive Justice."

Guiding Principles: Centering Community

- How does your leadership (staff/board) bring their lived experiences and remain accountable to your constituency?

- How is the organization increasing accessibility to persons with disabilities?
  - RespectAbility

- How does your organization provide a respectful environment for LGBTQ people?