

CWIP Membership

Chicago Women in Philanthropy is comprised of individuals in the philanthropic, corporate giving and nonprofit sectors; as well as consultants, public sector professionals, students and other individuals who are interested in our mission.

CWIP's membership year begins September 1 and ends August 31.

Please see the enclosed membership application for the Membership Dues Schedule.

CWIP is a nonprofit public charity recognized under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

Membership Includes

- Networking opportunities
- Technical assistance for nonprofits
- Educational forums and panel discussions
- Access to research, CWIP publications and our Member Directory*
- Member discounts to special events and workshops
- Newsletters, the annual report and e-mail communications
- The opportunity to participate on a CWIP committee
- The opportunity to apply to participate as a mentor in the Women's Leadership Mentoring Program
- Voting rights

* Sent via e-mail to current members

Contact Us

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Chicago Women in Philanthropy...
Influencing the Future of Women and Girls

Join a Committee Today!

CWIP is only as strong and dynamic as our membership. Your leadership and active participation are vital to our organization's continued success.

Each one of CWIP's committees provides the opportunity for you to share your expertise, and to develop or sharpen the skills you need to be effective and thrive in the nonprofit sector. In addition, you will meet intelligent and inspiring colleagues from organizations throughout Chicago who are dedicated to philanthropy and ensuring that women and girls have equitable opportunities for success.

To become involved, simply mark your committee selection on the back of the enclosed membership application.

Annual Luncheon Committee

Plans and executes the Annual Luncheon that occurs in the autumn each year. Recommends who will receive the annual *Making a Difference Award*.

Communications Committee

Promotes CWIP's mission through an array of publications that are designed to increase gender-sensitive funding to women and girls. Also produces CWIP's annual report, oversees the Web site, and supports events and programs by preparing press releases and e-mail announcements and invitations.

Membership & Resource Development Committee

Provides professional networking and information-sharing opportunities for members by planning a continuum of events throughout the year. Also seeks ways to generate additional support for the organization.

Program Committee

Plans and executes educational programs that improve the grantmaking process as it pertains to women's and girl's issues, as well as advance the professional development of women in philanthropy.

Technical Assistance Committee

Conducts workshops that seek to strengthen the long-term viability of nonprofit organizations by improving their fundraising, management and programming capabilities.



Chicago Women in Philanthropy (CWIP) is a membership organization for professional and philanthropic nonprofit leaders. An advocate promoting programs and influencing issues facing women and girls, CWIP creates public dialogue through relationship building, education and research. Our mission is to increase funding to organizations serving women and girls.

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About Us

Chicago Women in Philanthropy (CWIP) was founded in 1981 to create a network of support and opportunity for women in the nonprofit community, and to bring focus to funding issues related to women and girls.

While sensitivity to these issues has increased, there is still much more work to be done. Gender inequities continue and women and girls are still affected by funding imbalances in programs and organizations. CWIP strives to reverse these trends by illuminating the needs and confronting the challenges that face women and girls in the Chicago area.

CWIP is unique in that we provide programs for both funders and nonprofits, while offering a forum for collaboration and communication between groups which are often kept at opposite ends of the philanthropic spectrum. Through technical assistance programs and timely panel discussions, we create meaningful professional development opportunities for emerging and established philanthropic leaders to help them work effectively and network with colleagues.

CWIP...

- Promotes collaboration between philanthropic and nonprofit leaders by offering opportunities to share ideas and insights and network.
- Gives a voice to the gender lens by encouraging philanthropic and nonprofit leaders to evaluate organizations on the basis of whether or not they successfully address the needs of women and girls.
- Builds stronger philanthropic and nonprofit communities through technical assistance workshops, mentoring opportunities, panel discussions and networking events.

Major Accomplishments

- Researched and published ***ClearSighted***, a tool to help funders and nonprofits improve grantmaking and services to women and girls. Thousands of copies have been distributed nationally.
- Developed ***Judgment Day***, a program where nonprofit leaders meet individually with foundation staff to receive feedback and technical assistance on grant proposals.
- Created the ***Women's Leadership Mentoring Program***, which unites experienced nonprofit professionals from CWIP with up-and-coming, career-oriented women from the Chicago chapter of the Younger Women's Task Force who are committed to contributing to the nonprofit sector.
- Published and nationally distributed ***ShortSighted: How Chicago Area Grantmakers Can Apply a Gender Lens to See the Connections Between Social Problems and Women's Needs***.
- Produced a series of photography exhibitions, ***Celebrating Women's Leadership***, previously on loan to the Peace Museum.
- Created ***Girls and Gold*** to introduce girls to finance, philanthropy and community service.
- Published and nationally distributed ***Short-Changed: A Look at Funding for Chicago-Area Women's Organizations***.
- Commissioned research and published ***Fostering Effective Funding for Women and Girls: A Next Stage Strategy***.

"When I moved to Chicago, I was looking for an organization to meet other philanthropy professionals. I found an ever-expanding network of colleagues in CWIP, plus quality technical assistance workshops and the opportunity to volunteer for an organization that supports the advancement of women and girls. I encourage any woman or student to join CWIP. You will meet amazing people and enhance your skills, too."

~ Genet Soule, longtime CWIP member

Activities and Programs

CWIP conducts regular activities and undertakes special programs each year. Among these are:

- Technical assistance workshops that seek to improve the capabilities of nonprofit organizations
- Panel discussions and forums that explore issues of interest to philanthropic and nonprofit leaders
- The Annual Luncheon, featuring a keynote speaker and presentation of the *Making a Difference Award* to a Chicago area philanthropic leader. Past award recipients include Desiree G. Rogers, Anne Roosevelt and Gigi Pritzker.
- Networking events for philanthropic and nonprofit leaders
- The Women's Leadership Mentoring Program
- The Annual Members' Meeting
- Publications that address and promote issues of importance to women and girls

All of CWIP's activities are funded by membership dues, workshop and program fees, donations, grants and in-kind contributions.

"One of the best things about being a member of CWIP is the opportunity to meet and work with extraordinary women—women who have become trusted colleagues, mentors and friends. It is gratifying to be part of an extremely diverse group of women that has come together with a common purpose: to raise awareness about the needs of women and girls and to increase funding and programs to address them. This is why CWIP was established more than 25 years ago, and our work is far from done."

~ Kim Riordan Van Horn, former CWIP Board member