



Mary's Pence

Funding Women. Changing Lives.

www.maryspence.org

Grants Program Info Session

Founding and Organization Name



Three figures with their arms open represent women supporting and uplifting women.

Mary's Pence

Named for all the women - the Marys - of the Gospel, who embody the example of ministry practiced by the women at the foot of the cross. They dared to remain when other disciples fled.

A play on Peter's Pence, the Pope's annual church collection for the poor. Mary's Pence collects funds specifically for women focused projects.

- Founded in 1987 by Catholic Sisters
 - Founder [Maureen Gallagher's story](#)
- Origin of name *Mary's Pence*
- Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching
- Open to people of all faiths and no faith - All are welcome

Learn More: <https://maryspence.org/about/history/>

MP Programs and Origin of Funding

- Programs:
 - **ESPERA** (Economic Systems Providing Equitable Resources for All) - partner with women's groups in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua
 - **U.S. Grants Program**
- **Mary's Pence is a 501c3 Organization** - no endowment, funds raised annually
- **Funding:** 90% from individual donations, remaining 10% from Women's Religious Organizations and other granting organization.
 - No government grants

ESPERA: <https://maryspence.org/what-we-do/espera/>

Grantees: <https://maryspence.org/grantees/>

Grants Program General Information

- Two Grant Cycles: Spring and Fall
 - First step: Pre-screening Questionnaire
 - Approx. 10 grants awarded per cycle
- Grant amounts: **maximum of \$7,500/year**
 - Range: \$5,000 - \$7,500
- Organizations may be **funded up to 3 times** by submitting a grant application.

Organization Eligibility

1.) Women led and focused

- **Cis women, trans women, nonbinary people)**
- Board and key staff predominantly women

2.) Annual organization **budget under \$250,000**

3.) **Located** in the U.S., **work** takes place in the **U.S.**

4.) A **nonprofit organization** or a **group working with a fiscal sponsor**

Organization Eligibility

Both secular and faith based organizations are eligible for grants. We will consider organizations that are in line with our values and history.

- The organization's work must be **rooted in strong social justice values** - *human dignity, the common good, the right to economic security and dignified work, care for the earth, participation, subsidiarity (decisions are made at the most local possible and involve those most impacted) and nonviolence.*
- The organization's work **must not discriminate** against marginalized populations, including the LGBTQIA+ community.
- The organization's **funded work cannot include proselytizing to convert people or bring people into their faith.**

Other Eligibility Considerations

- We generally do not grant to businesses, LLCs, and organizations who receive majority of funding through a government contract.
- Our funding niche is grassroots, start-up work that is often overlooked by institutional funders

Funding Focus

- 1) Women led organizations
- 2) Women focused work
- 3) Community centered
- 4) Working to enact long-term sustainable change
- 5) Focused on social justice actions

Women Led and Focused

- Centered on issues women face and/or on gender justice issues
- Benefitting and primarily led by women (*cis women, trans women, nonbinary people*)



National Women's Defense League

New York, New York - Nationwide

<https://nationalwomensdefenseleague.org/>

Grantee Example



Atlanta Doula Collective / Georgia Black Doula Network

Atlanta, Georgia - SE Georgia

www.atlantadoulacollective.org

Works to eradicate Black maternal and infant mortalities in Georgia by providing affordable perinatal support services and culturally responsive, community-based education

Community Centered

- Emerging from a need identified within the community, and
- Collaboratively developed by members of the community,
- Flexible enough to meet new, changing or emerging needs.



South Asian Women Project

Queens, NY

<https://www.southasianwomenproject.org/>

Grantee Example



Sacramento Poderosas

Sacramento, California

<https://sacpoderosas.org>

Preserving imperiled
Xicanx/Latinx herstories /
histories and highlighting
culturally responsive,
gender-inclusive narrative

Working to Enact Long-term, Sustainable Change

- shifting public opinion about justice issues;
- forming alliances and collaborations across diverse populations;
- creating change in unjust structures or policies; or
- building capacity by building leadership, organizing or other social justice skills.



Missouri Disability Empowerment

Columbia,, Missouri

<https://www.moempower.org/>

Grantee Example



Aims to address the high rate of women's incarceration in Idaho through collaborative efforts involving public education, policy recommendations, interdisciplinary task forces, and community-based programming.

Idaho Justice Project

Boise, Idaho

<https://www.idahojusticeproject.org/>

Focused on Social Justice Actions

- Human dignity
- The common good
- The right to economic security and dignified work
- Care for the earth
- Participation
- Subsidiarity (decisions are made at the most local level possible and involve those most impacted)
- Nonviolence

Grantee Example



Created by and for hospitality workers in Chicago to advance accountability and end labor abuses so all hospitality workers can lead a “delicious life”

CHAAD Project

Chicago Hospitality Accountability and Advocacy Database

Chicago, Illinois

www.chaadproject.org

Justice and Charity

Justice / Social Change

- Addresses the underlying causes of injustice
- Focuses on improving prospects for a group of people
- Looks for long-term solutions
- Provides help aimed at permanent change
- Involves "haves" and "have-nots" working together and sharing power
- Requires working toward changes in social structures
- Examples: Organizing community based self-help projects; voter registration; advocating about issue; organizing for change, educating the community about an issue, coalition building

Charity

- Addresses the present symptoms of injustice
- Focuses on improving prospects of an individual
- Looks for immediate solutions
- Provides a direct service with temporary results
- Involves "haves" sharing with "have-nots"
- Requires no change in social structures
- Helps people survive their present crisis
- Examples: Hospitality houses, food pantries, job placement, GED classes

Process

Step 1: Complete pre-screening survey to determine eligibility

Step 2: Submit a Grant Application - if invited

Spring Cycle: Feb 1st, Fall Cycle: Aug 1st

Step 3: Grant Application Reviews - by staff, Grants Committee

Step 4: Grant Award Notifications - declines and awards

Step 5: Feedback offered to declined applicants

<https://maryspence.org/what-we-do/grants/grant-process/>

Accompaniment: Beyond the Grant

- Capacity Building Grants
- Mid-cycle Check-in
- Grantee Gathering
- Third Thursday Midday Meet-up
- Additional Resources and support



2024 Grantee Gathering
Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center
Farmington, Minnesota

Grant Cycle Deadlines

- Step 1: Prescreening - ongoing
- Step 2: Grant Application - by invitation, February 1st or August 1st
- Step 3: Award Notification - month of May or month of October

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@MarysPence1987

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<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E126927&id=10>



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