



WGC Emergency Response Network

2024 Partner Guidelines and Application

WGC Emergency Response Network Guidelines

The [WGC's Emergency Response Network](#) was created over 20 years ago in response to the desire of many WGC members to provide direct help to other women in need in our community. WGC members have addressed the specific needs of women clients identified by our nonprofit partner agencies serving women and girls in Howard County.

2024 WGC ERN Partners:

The WGC currently has 14 Howard County nonprofit partners that we work with on a regular basis to support women, girls, and their families who have an immediate need.

1. Bridges to Housing Stability
2. Columbia Community Care
3. Community Action Council
4. Girls on the Run of Central Maryland - Howard County
5. Grassroots
6. HopeWorks
7. Howard County Autism Society
8. Howard County Community College Educational Foundation
9. Howard Hospital Foundation
10. JustLiving Advocacy
11. Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center
12. Luminus
13. Neighbor Ride
14. OhanaHC

It's easy, here's how it works:

- If a WGC ERN partner has a client in need of emergency funds up to \$1,000 they contact the WGC and let us know of the situation.
- If the client's situation falls within our WGC ERN guidelines we highlight the need, how much money we are looking to raise, and we send a WGC ERN request to our email list of over 1,600.
- Those interested in taking action to support the client make an online donation to the WGC.
- We leave the funding request open until we raise the requested amount, and we often leave it open for several days after.
- There are times that we send a WGC ERN request to specially support one of our nonprofit partners in general, or for a specific need like the WGC's Feminine Hygiene Product Drive.
- Sometimes we raise more than the original amount requested, which is sent to our nonprofit partner to support their client. Sometimes the additional donations that come in will be applied to a future WGC ERN need.
- 100% of all donations to the WGC ERN go to our nonprofit partners.

WGC Emergency Response Network Partner Application Information

Qualifications: WGC Emergency Response Network Howard County nonprofit partners must meet the following conditions:

- Are addressing a significant need affecting Howard County women and girls.
- Are determined as charitable under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Deliver services to women and/or girls who are residents of Howard County.
- Provide programs and services to the intended beneficiaries without discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, disability, medical condition, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran or military status, pregnancy, ancestry, age or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, county or local laws, regulations or ordinances.
- Have sound management and administration, including a clearly defined and effective governance structure and financial systems.
- Demonstrates the ability to mobilize resources including financial support, in-kind support and volunteers to sustain programs.
- Are up-to-date on any report requirements for previously funded organizations.
- Does not discriminate against a participant on the basis of religion or religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to actively participate in a religious practice.

ERN Request Requirements:

The Emergency Response Network (“ERN”) allows our partner nonprofits to request up to \$1,000 in emergency funding to assist a female client residing in Howard County. All requests must include a description of the need, a description of why the client is in need, and the amount of funding desired.

Requests for assistance will be considered using the following criteria:

- Will providing assistance allow the person to remain or become economically self-sufficient?
- Is this a sudden and unexpected event that threatens the person’s ability to remain self-sufficient?
- Will this assistance make a significant impact on the person’s life?
- Will this one small investment resolve the situation the person is facing?
- Have all other avenues of funding been considered? And if so what are the obstacles being faced?
- If assistance is needed to cover the initial costs of an ongoing expense, has the person shown they have the ability to cover the subsequent payments?

Examples of requests the WGC considers include:

- A car repair that supports the person’s ability to continue working.
- Medical or dental expenses that are not otherwise covered by insurance, which are left untreated, threaten the wellbeing of the person.
- Moving expenses that support the person’s ability to leave an abusive home.
- Rental security deposit that supports a person’s ability to provide a safe and stable home for themselves and their family.

Application Process:

Howard County nonprofits who meet the requirements above can request to become a WGC ERN partner at any time throughout the year. To become a WGC ERN partner, please send the following information via email to WGCERN@CFHoCo.org:

- A copy of your IRS Letter of Determination
- A description of your organization's Mission and Vision
- Describe how the organization serves women and girls
- Be available for site visit or meeting, as requested
- Questions can be sent to: WGCERN@CFHoCo.org