

# Resource GUIDE

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## GRANTS FOR GIRLS

■ After six years of grant funding that has dispersed over \$500,000 to some 60-plus organizations, the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts got creative about its grantmaking this year. With only \$77,000 to grant (compared to last year's \$125,000), the organization chose to focus its funding on girls.

"Investing in girl-centered programs today may offer the most promising approach to influence long-term, positive social change for women and girls in the future," says Susan Clopton, interim executive director. "With this funding focus, the Women's Fund sees an opportunity to maximize our grant resources to deepen the collective knowledge about effective programming for girls."

Ten grants ranging from \$4,000-8,000 each were awarded by the Fund last month. The Pioneer Valley grantees are:

Community Music School of Springfield's Renaissance Program for Incarcerated Girls, which teaches court-

the  
W O M E N ' S F U N D  
of western massachusetts



involved, at risk girls to express themselves in an artistic, creative, constructive and non-violent manner.

Elms College's Step Forward/Step Ahead, to make professional, paid internships part of the participants' experiences.

FCAC Youth Programs' Girls N Power, an empowerment group serving girls in the rural towns of Montague, Gill and Erving.

Girls Inc. of Holyoke's Reaching More Girls Initiative, to market the organization's programs to schools in western Mass.

The Care Center's New Directions Program, to help pregnant and parenting Latina teens and their children achieve self-sufficiency.

Young Entrepreneurs Society, Inc.'s GirlVenture!, an entrepreneurship, job-readiness and financial education program for Franklin County girls.

Youth Action Coalition's

GirlsEyeView, which incorporates photography, creative writing, leadership development and social action.

Three Berkshire programs were also funded: Flying Cloud Institute's Young Women in Science; Girls Inc. of the Berkshires' Youth Empowerment Services; the Railroad Street Youth Project's Project Native Redfield House.

A multi-year grant for Voices from Inside was continued. The project offers writing workshops to incarcerated women, giving them a vehicle to tell their stories.

### FYI

■ Forty-four percent of the athletes at this summer's Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, will be women. Only a handful of countries will send all-male delegations, down from some 35 countries 12 years ago.