Belonging Scholarship

Program Overview & FAQs

Last updated 5/29/2026

Stay tuned for updates this fall as we prepare to open the next round of scholarships for 2027!

Program Overview & FAQs

Why does IWCF have a Belonging Scholarship Program?

In support of IWCF's mission to "foster educated philanthropy through collaboration" and our strategic plan to reach 500 members, we created the Belonging Scholarship Program. This program lowers the financial barriers to membership–especially for women who bring unique perspectives and experiences, such as younger individuals or people working in the nonprofit community. The scholarship program accomplishes two goals: diversifying IWCF's membership and increasing our pooled resources and membership. Diversifying IWCF's membership will add to our group's ideas, expertise, experiences, connections, networks, and more. Lastly, it allows more people to experience the many benefits of being an IWCF member and participate in pooled giving!

What is the Belonging Scholarship Program?

The Belonging Scholarship Program is built to share the gift of membership with anyone passionate about creating impact in their community. We understand that there are current and future philanthropists who are passionate about collective giving, but they are facing a financial barrier of joining IWCF. When participating in the program, the annual $625 membership donation is funded as follows:

- $125 - IWCF Administrative fee donated by the scholarship recipient
- $500 - Funded by donations to IWCF's scholarship fund, which are transferred to the IWCF Pooled-Fund on behalf of the scholarship recipient

How does one receive a Belonging Scholarship?

To be considered for a Belonging Scholarship, interested individuals are asked to complete this brief 2027 Belonging Scholarship Application. For the 2027 Membership season, we plan to offer 20 scholarships. The application will be open until November 1st or until the 20 scholarships have been filled. *Note: Participation in the Scholarship Program is confidential*.

How many years can a Scholarship recipient receive a Scholarship?

Scholarships are a one year commitment. At the end of each year, we invite current recipients to renew at any of IWCF's contribution levels (currently $625 and $1,125).

Scholarships are reserved for those who want to be a member, but are experiencing financial barriers to membership. If a scholarship recipient finds that the current membership contribution is still out of reach, we invite them to apply for another year of scholarship. There is no maximum number of years

a member can receive a scholarship; however, annually they will be first invited to join at the current membership contribution level and second invited to reapply for a scholarship.

When they are ready to pay for their belonging membership they go to this FORM.

How are the Scholarship recipients selected?
All applications are reviewed during IWCF's renewal season, and priority is given to:

1. Current members actively engaged in supporting IWCF's mission, including previous scholarship recipients
2. New members who indicate a commitment to multiple areas of engagement

Who is eligible?
This program is open to all and is geared toward those facing a financial barrier to IWCF membership who are passionate about being current and future leaders in philanthropy. In 2026, we offered 12 scholarships. The number of scholarships for 2027 is anticipated to be 20.

How can I be notified when the Belonging Scholarship Program application opens?
Sign up and we'll let me know when the application opens: Notify me

How is the Belonging Scholarship program funded?
The Belonging Scholarship is funded by the generosity of current members or community members who are passionate about inclusivity of IWCF membership. $500 is needed to fully fund one scholarship recipient; donations can be made in any amount. Contribute to the Belonging Scholarship fund.

How do I support the Belonging Scholarship Program?

- **Donate to the Belonging Scholarship fund** - Share the gift of IWCF membership by making a contribution to the Scholarship fund: Donate now.
- **Share the opportunity** - Invite others to learn more about the Belonging Scholarship Program. The Application will be open until November 1st or until the scholarships are filled.
- **Be a buddy to a new IWCF member** - As part of a new program, all new members will be paired with an IWCF Buddy. The program aims to help welcome and support new members through the beginning phase of questions and introductions. There is no donation required to be a buddy, just an aptitude to assist and be a "buddy." Sign-up to be a Buddy.

What amount does the scholarship recipient pay?
The scholarship recipient pays the $125 administrative fee; however, all recipients are invited to support IWCF by making additional contributions.

What process was taken to create this Belonging Scholarship Program?
The Belonging Scholarship was developed by the DEI and Membership Committees with the goal of growing and expanding IWCF membership. Data was collected around the current membership levels, similar programs at other giving circles were reviewed, and a pilot program for 6 members was hosted for the 2025 membership year. After a successful pilot program, the IWCF Board voted to

implement the Belonging Scholarship program and expand it to 12 members for the 2026 membership year. In 2027 we anticipate 20 Scholarship recipients.

Why grow our membership in this way?
Since IWCF invests in projects serving a broad spectrum of Idahoans, we strive to include a variety of voices at our IWCF table to expand our understanding of community and grantees' needs and widen our sphere of influence as philanthropy advocates. We seek members from the full range of our communities across Southwest Idaho, believing diversity adds strength and purpose to our giving. Expanding our membership adds to our group's ideas, expertise, experiences, connections, networks, and more. Lastly, it allows more people to experience the many benefits of being an IWCF member and participate in pooled giving!

What if I have someone in mind–a family member or friends–and want to pay for their entire IWCF membership. Can I do that?
Absolutely. You can purchase a gift membership for someone else. The purchaser receives the donation receipt, and the gift membership recipient provides their information (email, address, etc.) to set up their IWCF Member Account. The gift membership recipient then receives all member-related communications (e.g., grants ballot, IWCF's Connections email, event invitations) and designates their IGD–if included with their gift membership.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the program?
Please reach out to Evin Bask, DEI Chair, with any questions regarding the IWCF Scholarship Belonging Program: scholarship@iwcfgives.org.