



AAUW PROGRAM IN A BOX

FOCUS ON THE FELLOWS AND GRANTEES

AT A GLANCE

FOCUS ON THE FELLOWS AND GRANTEES

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Use this Program in a Box to build support for fellows and grantees and AAUW's education-funding efforts.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

AAUW members, branches, and states

PROGRAM FORMAT

Presentation, luncheon, forum, or fundraising event

TIME CONSIDERATIONS

Time frame: Any time or season

Estimated planning time: Two months

Estimated presentation time: Two hours

RESOURCES NEEDED

Space: A meeting room

Speakers or consultants: A fellow or grantee

Equipment: Possibly a computer and data projector

Supplies: Pens, pencils, paper, badges, notepads, extension cords, literature tables, registration table, chairs

Handouts: Fellowships and grants brochures, AAUW membership brochures (for presentations to the general public)

Budget considerations: Possible reimbursement of speaker's travel expenses

BENEFITS TO YOUR STATE, BRANCH, OR COMMUNITY

- Educate donors and others about the value of giving to AAUW
- Establish academic, business, and professional partnerships in your community
- Inspire and recruit prospective applicants for AAUW's fellowships and grants programs
- Recruit new members
- Enhance AAUW research- and advocacy-related programming
- Improve visibility for AAUW as a community leader and advocate for women
- Raise funds from the local business community

PROGRAM DETAILS

FOCUS ON THE FELLOWS AND GRANTEES

OVERVIEW

This Program in a Box engages some of AAUW's most valuable resources—our exceptional fellows and grantees. With firsthand knowledge of the benefits of AAUW programs, fellowship and grant recipients serve as eloquent spokespeople for the value of giving to AAUW. AAUW has tremendous influence on so many women—and on society—by supporting women who are breaking through educational and institutional barriers not just in academia but also in the workplace.

AAUW can trace our fellowship history back more than a century to when we awarded the first fellowship ever given to a U.S. graduate woman scholar. In 1888 AAUW awarded Vassar graduate Ida Street, a pioneer in the field of early American Indian history, \$350 to pursue a graduate degree in education at the University of Michigan. Since then, AAUW has given educational support to more than 11,000 women in excess of \$80 million dollars. Each year, AAUW provides more than \$3.2 million for women scholars to pursue research, prepare for the tenure process, or implement community projects for girls and women. These efforts ensure that women continue to succeed in a broad and diverse range of academic and professional fields.

AAUW offers different fellowships and grants to fulfill varying student needs. These awards are targeted to certain types of projects and programs, so familiarize yourself with the different awards before planning events and outreach.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS PROGRAMS

- **American Fellowships** target women scholars completing doctoral dissertations or conducting postdoctoral research across the spectrum of the sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities. This program also provides small grants to women scholars who are preparing completed research for publication.
- **International Fellowships** foster cultural exchange and global outreach to expand the community of women who have access to advanced study. Of the more than 800 million illiterate adults in the world, two-thirds are women. An opportunity to earn a graduate degree transforms a woman's future in ways most of us can only imagine. This life-changing fellowship program supports women from other countries in full-time study or research in the United States. AAUW funds both graduate and postgraduate studies for women who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. These fellowships have made it possible for women from more than 130 countries to meet their academic and professional goals.
- **Selected Professions Fellowships** give all women a better chance at realizing economic and educational success in professions in which they are underrepresented. This fellowship grew out of the American Fellowships program in 1970. AAUW targets fields such as engineering, where women's participation has traditionally been lowest, for special outreach and funding.
- **Career Development Grants** help meet the practical needs of women who are advancing, changing careers, or re-entering the workforce. Forward-thinking AAUW leaders saw the changing nature of women's roles in society and conceived the idea for this program. These members anticipated the growing ranks of "nontraditional" female students juggling home lives, careers, and school. This is even more relevant today as women balance multiple roles and responsibilities in the workplace and within their families.

- **Community Action Grants** provide seed money to individuals, AAUW branches, AAUW state organizations, educational institutions, and local community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs or nondegree research projects that promote education and equity for women and girls. Preference is given to projects promoting increased participation of girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. One- and two-year grants are available.

PLANNING YOUR EVENT

The [Programs-in-a-Box](#) tool kit includes program-management forms, checklists, and templates that may help you host this program.

Be sure to have a supply of fellowships and grants brochures to hand out at the event. If a fellow or grantee is speaking at a meeting for the general public, have a supply of AAUW membership brochures as well. You can order both brochures from [ShopAAUW](#).

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS PROGRAM CYCLE

Recipients can play an important role in state and branch activities. This time line can help you plan your program.

- June: New brochures are available via [ShopAAUW](#)
- August 1: [Applications](#) available online
- August: Current fellows are added to the online [directory of fellowship and grant recipients](#)
- December–January: Application deadlines for all fellowships, grants, and special awards
- March: Online selection panel meetings
- April: Notification of fellows and grantees selected for each program
- May–June: Acceptance deadlines
- July 1: Fellowship year begins for new awardees

CONTACTING FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT RECIPIENTS

For this Program in a Box, you will need a speaker, so you must locate a fellowship or grant recipient. The AAUW national office provides state and branch leaders with a list of recipients in late August. The online [directory of fellowship and grant recipients](#) is available in early fall and announced through leader e-mail lists. The directory allows you to search for recipients and learn about their programs of study, research, and institutions. You can also locate a fellow or grantee assigned to an endowed fellowship or grant. If you need help, contact fellowships@aauw.org.

Keep the following in mind when contacting fellowship and grant recipients:

- Contact all fellows and grant recipients in your area for potential speaking engagements. Be specific about what you want them to do, and describe the expected audience.
- Make requests in writing at least two months before the meeting or event.
- Allow up to three weeks for a response. If you have not received a response within that time, call the recipient.
- Some recipients may be unable to accept an invitation because of the timing of the event, family and academic commitments, distance, or finances.
- If recipients are willing to travel a long distance to attend the event, offer to help defray their costs.
- If recipients agree to participate, call them a week or two before the event and confirm details.

PROGRAM IDEAS

Include fellowship and grant recipients in local or national AAUW program efforts. Recipients working on public policy issues may complement a national AAUW program that tackles issues such as pay equity, social security, economic empowerment, Title IX, or public education.

As AAUW issues research reports, visit the [directory of fellowship and grant recipients](#) to determine if a local recipient could speak on the topic of the report.

Invite recipients to highlight their work and the benefits of their AAUW fellowships or grants at national or local events such as Women's History Month, Equal Pay Day, or International Women's Day.

Host local recipients at a branch meeting to congratulate them on their fellowship or grant and hear about their studies and the benefits of the AAUW fellowships and grants program.

In addition to attending or speaking at AAUW events, recipients may help support AAUW in other ways. Consider involving them in the following:

- Representing AAUW at local conferences that AAUW members cannot attend
- Conducting workshops in their specialties at local schools and universities
- Identifying on-campus opportunities to recruit future recipients and AAUW members
- Speaking to high school audiences about recipients' educational achievements
- Serving as role models to young women interested in entering nontraditional fields such as engineering, computer science, and math

ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION IN AAUW PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Other options for promoting AAUW fellowships and grants and encouraging local participation in AAUW events include the following:

AAUW branches and states

- Add local recipients to branch mailings to keep them abreast of activities.
- Find out when recipients are presenting papers at conferences or participating in events in your community. Show your support by attending these events.
- Mail fellowship and grants brochures to branch members, encouraging them to identify applicants or fellowship selection panel members. You can order brochures from [ShopAAUW](#).
- Highlight a local recipient in your branch newsletter or on your website.
- Attend conferences that would attract potential applicants and distribute brochures or set up an AAUW information table. The greater the number of applicants from your area, the better the chance that a woman from your community will be selected to receive a fellowship or grant.

Local colleges and universities

- Meet with the local college and university representatives and tell them about the fellowships and grants program.
- Distribute AAUW literature at fellowship fairs held by local colleges and universities.
- Encourage faculty to apply for positions on AAUW fellowship and grant [selection panels](#).

The media

- Approach local radio and television news and talk shows about interviewing past or current fellows and highlighting the work of AAUW.

SUPPORTING THE FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS PROGRAM

- Encourage members and guests attending the event to contribute to the fellowships and grants program.
- Use the powerful stories and accomplishments of fellows and grantees to educate members about the power of giving to AAUW.
- Invite local business owners to an event featuring a fellow or grantee and encourage them to sponsor events or fund a fellowship or grant.
- Encourage your branch to establish an endowed fellowship or grant. For information, contact rognrudc@aauw.org.
- Explore opportunities for planned giving through bequests and make a commitment to an equitable future for women and girls by becoming a member of the AAUW Legacy Circle. The Legacy Circle includes women who have remembered AAUW in their estates or trusts or established charitable gift annuities with AAUW. For information, contact Carol Rognrud, director of transformational giving, at 202/728-7627 or rognrudc@aauw.org.
- Consider developing a Giving Circle to support AAUW's educational programming. Giving Circles are an excellent way for you and friends to combine your donor dollars and choose how you wish to make a collective positive difference in the lives of women. Giving Circles fund programs and projects that speak to your interests and values. They can be an incredibly rewarding and fun experience! For information, contact Carol Rognrud, director of transformational giving, at 202/728-7627 or rognrudc@aauw.org.

INCORPORATING MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Membership matters! Help grow the AAUW community by inviting prospective members to your event and encouraging them to join AAUW. Visit the [membership campaign website](#) to learn more.

If your event involves college and university faculty or students or is held on a campus, invite schools that are not yet AAUW college/university partner members to join AAUW and offer their students the benefits that go with AAUW membership. All students attending a C/U partner-member institution are eligible to join AAUW for free as an e-student. For more information, visit the [AAUW college/university partner member recruitment web page](#).

TOOLS

FOCUS ON THE FELLOWS AND GRANTEES

FOCUS ON THE FELLOWS AND GRANTEES TOOLS

- [Directory of fellowship and grant recipients](#)
- [Fellowships and grants applications](#)
- [Fellowships and grants brochures](#)
- [Fellowships and grants selection panels information](#)

PROGRAMS-IN-A-BOX TOOL KIT

Includes forms, checklists, and templates that you can modify and adapt for your program or event

- Attendee sign-in form
- Event evaluation form
- Event planning checklist
- Event registration form
- Photograph release form
- Press release template
- Sample time line

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT TOOLS

- [Individual members](#)
- [AAUW college/university partner members](#)

CONTACTS

- For questions or information about this Program in a Box, contact fellowships@aauw.org or 800/326-2289.