

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMAN'S CLUBS PENNSYLVANIA
Lois Richards, President

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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The time has come, the time is now! Is there room for improvement in your community? Your Club can create a Community Improvement Program! And let's face it, doesn't just about everything we do in our communities qualify as a Community Improvement Program? The time has come, the time is now, to put your Community Improvement Program into action!

Here are the Community Improvement Program essentials for your Club to follow:

- ✓ Identify and define a community need.
- ✓ Describe the project selection process.
- ✓ Explain how your Club engaged community support.
- ✓ Define how the project is financed.
- ✓ Identify media support and the process in which it was obtained.
- ✓ Recount how your Club overcame obstacles.
- ✓ Provide a list of collaborating partners, including government agencies, other service groups, and professional organizations.
- ✓ Describe your Club's continuing role in the project.
- ✓ Explain the project's long-term effect on the Community.
- ✓ Identify results and successes.
- ✓ Describe how the project influenced changes in your Community, i.e., increased awareness, willingness to work together, impact, etc.
- ✓ Focus on content.

Please document your Community Improvement Project using a Project Notebook. All Entries must include current, completed Community Improvement Contest Entry Form. Project Notebooks containing narrative description(s) and supporting materials Must not exceed 7 lbs., or measure larger than 15"x20". The project notebook can be submitted with the Community Improvement Program Award Entry Form/Cover Sheet 2016-2018, which is found in the 2016-2018 GFWC Club Manual (<http://www.gfwc.org/membership/club-manual/>).

Projects involving two to six GFWC Clubs qualify as joint entries and must adhere to the following:

- Only one, single entry form shall be submitted. All club Presidents must sign the single form.
- Clubs submitting a joint entry are not eligible to separately submit individual Club entries.
- Joint entries selected as national winners may send one representative to the GFWC Annual Convention.
- Clubs that have previously won this national award must submit an entirely different project entry for consideration in 2018. Previous, winning project entries that have been expanded will not be considered.

Your Community Improvement Program submissions will be judged on the following criteria:

Project Selection (25 points):

Community Need Assessment
Selection Process

Project Development (50 points):

Community Collaboration
Plan of Action
Persistence of Effort

Project Evaluation (25 points):

Degree of Success
Permanence of Achievement
Changed Attitudes & Practices

GFWC State Awards:

- First Place: \$50
- Second Place: \$35
- Third Place: \$25

GFWC National Awards:

- First Place: \$5,000
- Second Place: \$3,500
- Third Place: \$2,500
- Fourth Place \$1,500
- Fifth Place: \$500
- International Affiliate Award: \$250

Community Improvement Projects must be accomplished during the program period of January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017 and all entries must be postmarked to me no later than **March 1, 2018**.

Please contact me if you have any questions!