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Impact 100 Seattle responds to COVID 19 crisis with expedited process to award \$100,000 to local nonprofits

SEATTLE, Washington (April 20, 2020) -- In response to the pressures of COVID-19, <u>Impact 100 Seattle</u> announced it is expediting and adjusting its initial grantmaking process to distribute funds as quickly as possible. Puget Sound area nonprofits may apply for grants until **April 26** using an <u>online form</u>.

Impact 100 Seattle was launched in November 2019 as a collective giving group for women who want to become more thoughtful, educated philanthropists. The organization planned to award one large grant in November, but the coronavirus pandemic prompted it to pivot. With \$100,000 raised to date, members of the organization voted to expedite the annual grantmaking process and instead award several smaller grants by early June.

"From the start, Impact 100 Seattle wanted to be flexible and responsive -- and challenge conventional platforms in philanthropy," said Anne Janda, co-founder. "COVID-19 has shown us the need to act on our values of empathy, empowerment and community in response to urgent community needs." She also noted 100% of each member's \$1,000 donation is used for grants.

In keeping with its guiding principles, Impact 100's grant process uses streamlined applications based on trust-based philanthropy. Applicants must conduct 100% of their work in the Puget Sound area, have under \$10 million in annual expenses and work to reduce inequities. Nonprofits in the categories of Health & Wellness, Family, Education, Arts & Culture, and the Environment are invited to apply.

"Our membership came together quickly in a time of unprecedented need," said Anna Graves, co-founder. "Although we have accelerated our timeline for awarding grants, we will still rely on members to nominate under-resourced nonprofits for grants, and we are adhering to our "one woman, one vote" method for selecting recipients."

Impact 100 Seattle has quickly grown its membership – reaching 100 members and over \$100,000 in funds in less than five months. Members of the volunteer-run, 501(c)3 organization pay an annual membership fee of \$1,000 and are encouraged to consider other support to help defray operating expenses. From the beginning, the organization has pledged to practice trust-based philanthropy, an increasingly popular concept that incorporates unrestricted funding, simplified paperwork and reporting requirements, being transparent and responsive, and offering support beyond a check.

Women interested in joining the Seattle chapter of this philanthropic organization are invited to visit the Impact 100 Seattle <u>website</u>.

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About Impact 100 Seattle:

Impact 100 Seattle is a women's collective giving group that supports positive change in Puget Sound communities through transformational grants presented to local nonprofit organizations. Its vision is to create a community-centric platform that connects women to each other as well as local nonprofits, enabling learning, partnership, and transformative change in the Puget Sound area.

About Impact 100:

Impact 100 is a nationally recognized giving model, started in 2001. Currently there are more than 50 chapters around the country that have granted close to \$70 million to nonprofit organizations in their communities. Each chapter operates as an autonomous entity.

Impact 100 founder Wendy Steele, a banking industry executive, believed women's roles in philanthropy needed a new way to be expanded and encouraged. She describes the model as being "a place for women who care deeply, who dream wildly, and who believe that together, they are an unstoppable force for good."

Impact 100 Seattle is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization under 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Tags: #Impact100; #Impact100Seattle; #COVID-19; #coronavirus; #philanthropy