SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

Community Grant Application

Since 1930, Soroptimist International of Chico's mission is to improve the lives of women and girls by providing them with resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams. We are a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve social and economic empowerment. To learn more, go to SoroptimistChico.org.

Please tell us about your nonprofit organization

- Nonprofit Name: Full Circle of Living and Dying
- Website Address: https://www.fullcirclelivingdyingcollective.com/
- Facebook Address:
- Mailing Address: 21 Pheasant Run Ct. Chico, CA 95973
- Contact Name & Title: Akhila Murphy, Founding Director
- Contact Email: akhila@fullcirclelivingdyingcollective.com
- Preferred Phone: 916-397-5443
- EIN/Tax ID 83-1909460

What is the mission of your nonprofit organization?

To educate and serve our community in understanding options and rights for end-of-life care and post-death care.
To empower families and communities in bringing back the tradition of home-based death care through conversation, guidance and local resources.

We are trained End-of-Life Doulas whose passion is to encourage conversation and help families and caring circles co-create an end-of-life plan of care. Documenting personal wishes helps bring about peace of mind.

How does your nonprofit organization benefit women and girls?

Full Circle of Living and Dying (FCLD) has been addressing the cultural fear of death in America since 2013. Currently, there is widespread silence surrounding the topic of death and dying. Meaningful conversations about dying and death are rare. Even in the professional setting, this absence of open conversation may contribute to anxiety, deep grief, and trauma when families and caring communities face the unfamiliar tasks involved with end-of-life care. Our trained end-of-life doulas provide options in death care, offer guidance step-by-step through dying stages and with home-based after-death care. FCLD is based in Grass Valley, but has a team of five volunteer death educators in Chico.

Over the years FCLD has seen a higher percentage of women reach out for death-care services and more women attend FCLD educational presentations and events. Typically, across the country, the majority of end-of-life doulas tend to be women. Our all-volunteer nonprofit has 18 women and one gentleman. FCLD educates and empowers all individuals, families, children, and community groups in bringing back the traditions of family led after-death care through public events, personal conversation, guidance, and local resources. FCLD's trained and experienced end-of-life (EOL) doulas (defined as women who serve) encourage conversation and help families and caring circles co-create an end-of-life and after-death plan of care. Similar to a birth doula whose job is to support and usher in a new life, a death doula supports the ending stage of a life as an equally important time to honor life's passage.

Briefly describe the project or nature of the needs of your nonprofit organization. Is this a new or ongoing expense?

Full Circle of Living and Dying (FCLD) offers ongoing public educational events or personalized individual end-of-life care planning. This includes open discussion of death care and an opportunity for questions with the goal to bring about clear understanding of end-of-life wishes. Most people do not know options and rights for end-of-life and after-death care. FCLD End-of-life (EOL) doulas offer information, resources, and step by step guidance in death and dying care to all members of the household, family, or community groups. See separate email attached Education Calendar for 2025.

FCLD End-of-life doulas provide non-medical, physical, emotional, and spiritual support for those exploring advance end-of-life care planning for themselves or loved ones. We also offer this support for those facing a terminal illness. This person centered approach is based on the values and wishes of the client. As death educators, FCLD EOL doulas appreciate the sacredness of the full circle of life including dying, transition, and after-death care.

FCLD helped support a local project in Chico this year that started with a local group of aging women who have no parents or children. They recognized the need for a caring circle of support with other women in similar situations. With the help of FCLD they created an agreement to ask for support from one another when help is needed. Group members meet monthly, offer social support, help with home projects, transportation, or serve as agents for advance directives and more.

How many people will these funds benefit? What percentage are women and girls?

Our monthly events and presentations to community The estimate is about 20-30 attendees for each public events, including zoom presentations. The percentage of female attendees is 75-80%.

What is the estimated cost of the project or needs of your nonprofit organization?
Estimated ongoing needs are $600-$800 annually for costs associated with rental venues, supplies, advertising, publishing, travel and ongoing training for our volunteers.

How much are you requesting?
$600-$800

How did you hear about Soroptimist?
Our organization received an invitation to speak at Soroptimist International Chico in November.

Have you requested funds from Soroptimist International of Chico or any Soroptimist club in the past?

Yes. Soroptimist International of Sierra Foothills.

Were funds approved? If so, when and how much?
No.

If Soroptimist International of Chico has contributed to your non-profit in the past, how were the funds used and publicly recognized? Please be specific.
No contributions at this time.

Please note that our review and procedural process is about 3-4 months and that our volunteer service organization is not in session during the Summer from July 1 to August 31. Feel free to attach additional information to your application.

Send completed applications to Giving@SoroptimistChico.org