



**WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION**
OF MISSISSIPPI

2019 Annual Report



At the Women's Foundation of Mississippi, our mission is economic security for women. With your support we have made a positive impact on the lives of women and girls throughout Mississippi, and we are pleased to share some of our 2019 accomplishments in this annual report.

In 2017, our Board of Directors adopted a three-year strategic plan and in 2019 we achieved our year-two goals as outlined in that plan. We conducted our annual grant making program including new grants and evaluation of existing grantee projects and relationships. In 2019, we awarded \$200,000 in grants to nine Mississippi-based nonprofits directly serving the state's women and girls.

We continue to hold community education and engagement events like the "Consider This" program we held in December focused on gender lens investing and the power of women in philanthropy. 2019 saw successful versions of Thrive @ Work, She's On Board, and Women of Vision. Additionally, we supported our first-ever class of the Mississippi Women's Policy Institute and recruited and trained sixteen fellows in legislative policy advocacy.

When Women Thrive, Mississippi Thrives

Tracy DeVries
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Susan Phillips
2019 BOARD CHAIR



How Do We Make An Impact?

We advance economic security for women through:

- *grant making*
- *community engagement and education*
- *research*

Because when women are economically secure, safe, and healthy, so are Mississippi's families and communities.

Grantmaking

We continue to manage a robust grants program and awarded funds to nine new grantee partners in December 2019. As you can see from our map of grantees further down in this report, we invest in every region and corner of the state in three focus areas:

- *Access to Opportunity: Community Colleges*
- *Better Futures: Two Generation*
- *Healthy Women*

We continue to do work on community college campuses in the state to identify programs that link quality early childhood development with moms seeking their degrees or certificates and in need of childcare - specifically quality, age-appropriate childhood development - to help them graduate.

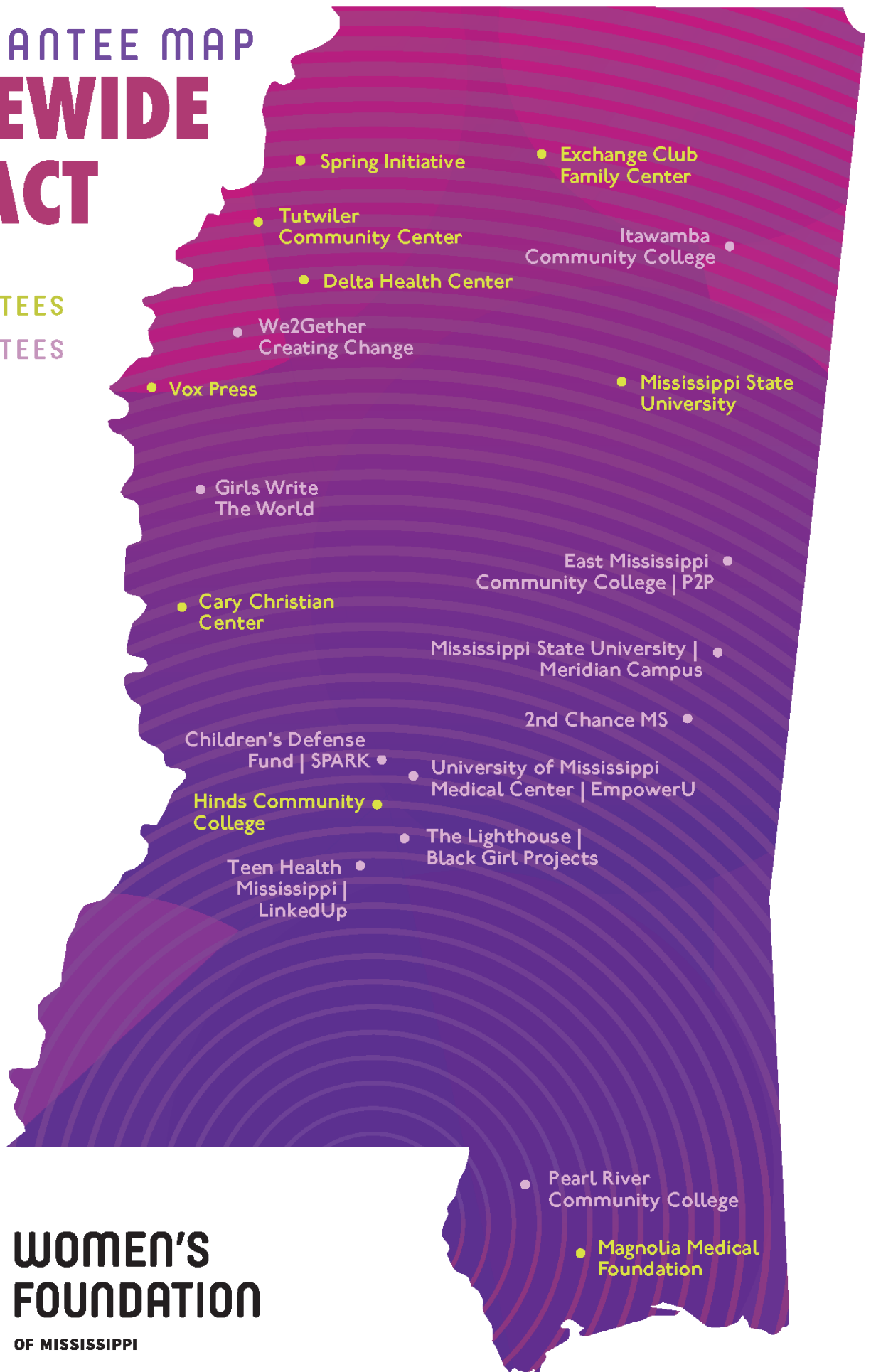
We were also able to bring together all of our grantee partners from across the state during two full-day, convening sessions to learn about their accomplishments, hear about challenges, and to share best practices across organizations working in similar areas.



2019 GRANTEE MAP STATEWIDE IMPACT

● 2019 GRANTEES

● 2018 GRANTEES



**WOMEN'S
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OF MISSISSIPPI

Grantmaking

Tutwiler Community Education Center: Quilting for Generations

The Tutwiler Community Education Center provides programs and events in response to the hopes and dreams of the people of Tutwiler and the surrounding areas so that they may be filled with pride and hope for themselves and their community. The Tutwiler Quilters program began in 1988. Quilters keep 80% of profits from their products. Regardless of sales.



Vox Press

Vox Press seeks to improve the fundamental reading and writing skills for 100 female inmate parents and 100 children who have one or both parents serving long-term sentences in the state of Mississippi through the Children with Incarcerated Parents Wellness Program.



Cary Christian Center

The Cary Christian Center, serving Sharkey and Issaquena Counties, gives teenagers and young women and men the interpersonal awareness, communication skills and knowledge necessary to develop a positive self-image and to avoid relationships that lead to unplanned pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and unhealthy relationships.



Grantmaking

Delta Health Center: Project RAD

Delta Health Center partners with community and school-based organizations that serve adolescents, to provide Teen Clinics at their community and school locations. The project facilitates an evidence-based curriculum intended to reduce unplanned teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.



Exchange Club Family Center Raising Mothers to Rise

The Raising Mothers to Rise (RMR) program provides pregnant teens and parenting teen mothers with education and support regarding pregnancy prevention, positive maternal and infant outcomes, and education through a weekly support group.

Hinds Community College

"Back Off Baby: I'm in College" at Hinds Community College utilizes a holistic approach to wrap-around services that address the "whole woman" utilizing a four-topic framework: policy & system change, sexual health services, information and education, and accessibility to affordable reproductive healthcare.



Magnolia Medical Foundation

The Encouraging Responsible and Informed Choices: Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program supports healthy physical and social environments and healthy behaviors through informing and educating adolescents concerning risky sexual behaviors, unplanned pregnancy, and sexually transmitted disease prevention. This program takes place on the MS Gulf Coast.



Mississippi State University: Health and Wellness

EmpowerHER, through The Department of Health Promotion and Wellness at MSU is a sexual health empowerment program that helps meet the needs of college students by providing campaigns, programs, comprehensive education, lunch and learns, workshops, and free and/or reduced-fee STI testing.




Spring Initiative Healthy Girls, Powerful Women, Strong Communities

Spring Initiative is a transformational education nonprofit that empowers girls, boys, young women, and young men in the Mississippi Delta to beat the odds, access the opportunities they deserve, and build successful and happy lives for themselves. At Spring, each of the 80 long-term students (42 girls and young women) receives the personalized and relentless support they need to overcome and thrive.



Real impact for women and girls



Sha'Tierra is a single, 24-year-old mother with a small child. She relies on a neighbor to care for her child while working full-time for a temp-agency. Although employed full-time, she only made \$16,000 annually and was receiving SNAP benefits. She was enrolled at Itawamba Community College to become an RN but had to drop out when she became pregnant. Sha'Tierra desired to enroll in C.N.A. classes with an end-goal of going back to school to become an RN. Not only did the W.A.G.E.S. grant assist with tuition, scrubs, and fuel to get to class, but it also provided Sha'Tierra with much needed eyeglasses.

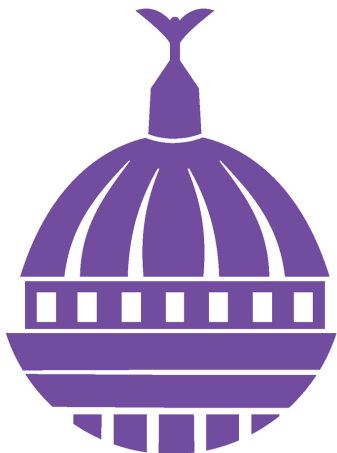
- Itawamba Community College, W.A.G.E.S. grant participant

"The course was an eye-opener for me and encouraged me to do things safely and in a way that is right for me."

- Karleka, 17 - Girls Write The World grant participant

Developing new leaders

The Women's Foundation of Mississippi, through a partnership with Millsaps College, sent four young women to the Mississippi State Capitol to serve as legislative interns during the 2019 session. They tracked legislation, worked with political caucuses to better understand the lawmaking process, and developed key skills that will be helpful in their future endeavors. Fellows included: Myra Cunningham, Sara Sabbagh, Kayleigh Aicklen, and A.K. Singleton



Women's Voices at the Table

We supported existing and added new original programming in 2019 to ensure that women's voices are at ALL of the tables.

A woman's place is in the boardroom

On June 21, 2019, we hosted our second annual "She's on Board" seminar with more than 125 women in attendance focused on the role of Board governance. Through this program we partnered with the Junior League of Jackson in the training and were so glad to have Balch & Bingham back as the presenting sponsor of the event. We added this programming because we know that in order to make positive change for women and families, we need to have more women at the table - AND in the board room. Plans for a "She's On Board 201" are in progress for 2020.



Community Education & Engagement

We held our second annual Thrive @ Work luncheon on May 7, 2019. Alongside our corporate partners, we had a dialogue about positive workplace policies for women and their families. The luncheon was attended by nearly 250 people and has created a new space for us to engage in a robust conversation about workplace development. We received a policy overview from Sara Miller from Hope Policy Institute. Our panel, comprised of Monica Harrigill of Sunray Companies, Robin Robinson of Sanderson Farms, and Willie Jones of Dependable Source Corp., presented information about employee-centered work culture, women thriving in leadership roles, and encouraging more women to pursue non-traditional professional paths.

Thrive @ Work



Above (L to R): Tracy DeVries, WFM; Monica Harrigill, Sunray Companies; Robin Robinson, Sanderson Farms; Willie Jones, Dependable Source Corp.
Below: Sara Miller from HOPE Policy Institute



Thrive @ Work 2019 Memories

Thank You 2019 Thrive @ Work Sponsors!



Community Education & Engagement



CONSIDER THIS

Through our 'Consider This' initiative, we host community engagement and education events shedding light on topics and issues that matter to Mississippi women.

December 2019: Gender Lens Investing and the Power of Women in Philanthropy - Presented by Bradley

We gathered supporters for lunch to discuss gender-lens investing and the power of women in philanthropy. We heard from expert presenters about investing in ways that will have a greater impact for women.

Gender-Lens Investing is the practice of investing for financial return while also considering the benefits to women, both through improving economic opportunities and social well being for girls and women. The term was coined around 2009 and became an increasingly popular practice in the mid-2010s. Gender lens investing can include funding women-owned businesses, businesses with a strong track record of employing women, or companies that improve the lives of women and girls with their products and services.

Presenters Included:



Margaret Oertling Cupples
Bradley Law



Natella Boulton
Merrill Lynch

Women of Vision

The Women's Foundation of Mississippi hosted its **Women of Vision** event and annual meeting on October 18, 2019, at the Mississippi Museum of Art. We honored four visionary Mississippi leaders (L to R below): Holly Lange, Rita Brent, Betsy Bradley, and Oleta Fitzgerald. Women of Vision is an annual event and one of our most successful fundraisers. We celebrate inspirational women who have led visionary lives and careers and help to amplify their voices. More than 200 supporters gathered at the Mississippi Museum of Art to celebrate the 2019 honorees!



Women ^{OF} Vision

Betsy Bradley

Executive Director, Mississippi Museum of Art, Educator

Rita Brent

Comedienne, Musician, Military Veteran, Entrepreneur

Oleta Fitzgerald

Director, Children's Defense Fund-Southern Region, Community Activist

Holly Lange

Executive Director, Mississippi Book Festival, Philanthropist

Thank You 2019 Women of Vision Sponsors!

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Women^{OF} Vision

2019 Memories



2019-2020 Women's Policy Institute

In 2019, we supported the first-ever class of the Mississippi Women's Policy Institute, a policy advocacy and leadership training fellowship for Mississippi women. Through a competitive recruitment process, sixteen women were chosen as fellows. The Women's Policy Institute amplifies the voices of women throughout the state by training them to become policy advocates, increasing their capacity to participate in the policy process, building relationships with policymakers as well as advocates in various social justice movements, and leading progressive policy campaigns in Mississippi. The fellows participated in either the economic justice or healthy women cohort.



Back Row (L-R): Rachel Sprinkle, Pam Bach, Megan Bennett, Jacqueline Hammack, Lynette Suttlar, Martha Allen, Teresa Jones
Front Row (L-R): Madeline Morcelle, Lawren Long, Kimberly Rush, Kimaka Bowens, Shalonda Spencer
Not Pictured: Evonne Kaho, Erin Shirley Orey, Greta Martin, Kia Jones

Throughout the fall, the Women's Policy Institute fellows networked with other advocates and legislators, received multiple, day-long trainings covering various legislative topics and procedures, and researched and developed policy proposals. In 2020, the fellows will follow their proposals through the halls of the Mississippi Capitol.

Special Thanks To:

Nathan Shrader, Camille Young, Nancy Loomer, Wengora Thompson, Jamie Bardwell, Danielle Lampton, Felicia Brown Williams, Natalie Collier, April Grayson, Jackie Martin, Jake McGraw, the William Winter Institute, Carol Burnett, MLICCI, Adam Ganucheau, Mary Margaret White, Mississippi Today, Teresa Collier, Melanie Christopher, Erica Hensley, Sen. Sally Doty, Sen. David Blount, Jackie Amos



FACT NOT FICTION

FactNotFiction.com offers teens and their parents an easy way to stay informed about sexual health and is aimed at lowering Mississippi's teen pregnancy rate and sexually-transmitted infections (STIs).



617,850
Likes



2,466
Followers



2,373
Followers



4,416 web sessions
695 Mississippi-based sessions

*The medical information located at FactNotFiction.com is provided in association with health professionals at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the Mississippi State Department of Health.

FactNotFiction is a safe place to ask questions and find answers about sexual health.

WE OFFER INFORMATION ON:



STDs / STIs

Browse questions from Mississippi teens with answers from Mississippi medical experts, and submit your own.



BIRTH CONTROL

What is an IUD? Does Mountain Dew kill sperm? We've got comprehensive guides to answer these questions and more.



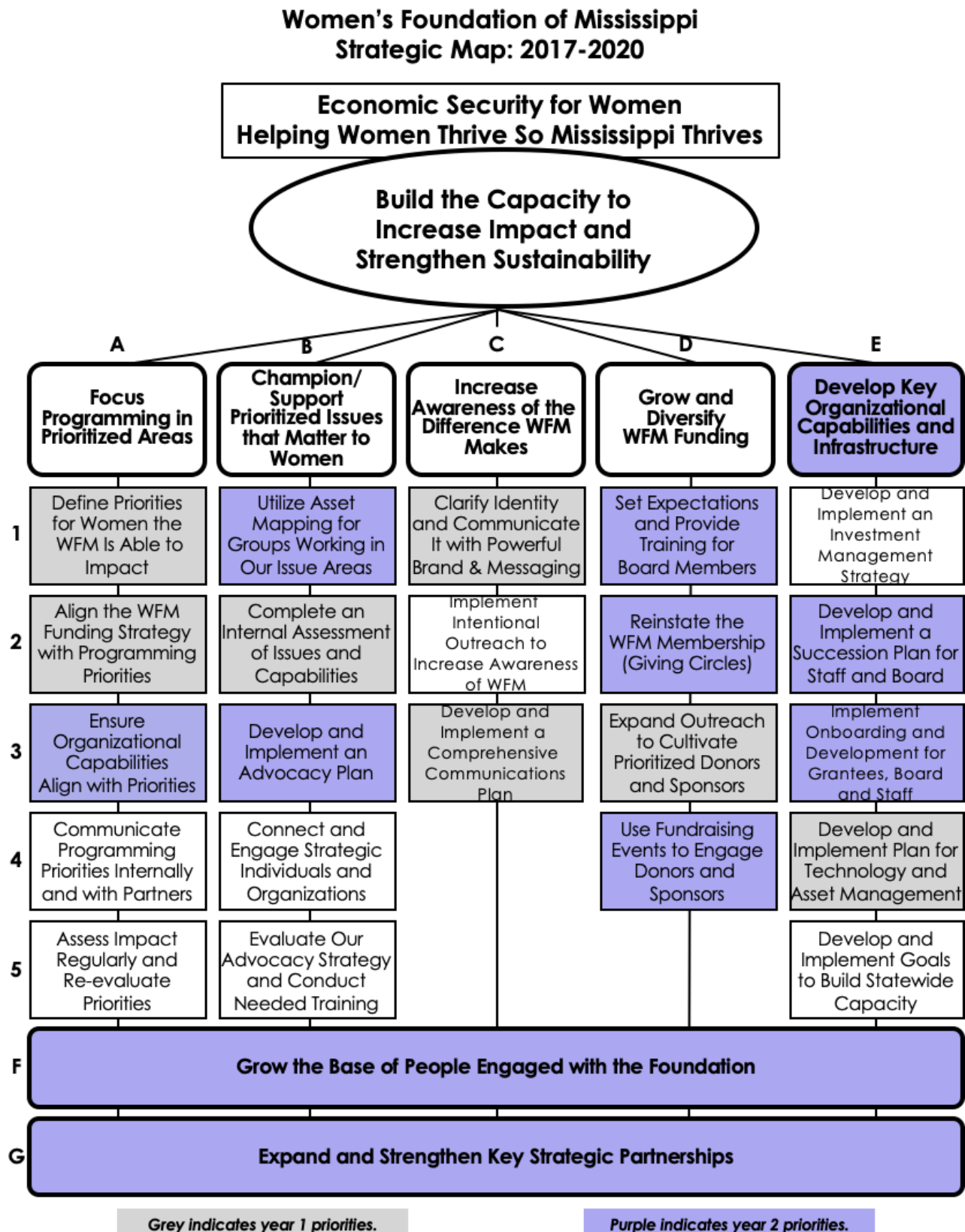
CLINIC FINDER

Find a confidential clinic near you that can help you meet your healthcare needs.



Let's talk strategy...

In the summer of 2017, the Board of Directors of the Women's Foundation of Mississippi came together to thoughtfully and carefully make a plan for the future. The resulting three year plan will guide the organization's activities for 2018, 2019, and 2020.



Celebrating the Past - Looking Towards the Future

In 2019, we convened our Emerita (former Board Chairs) with some of our partners to update them on the work of the Foundation - an organization they have given so much of themselves to over the years. We are thankful to the dedicated founders and leaders of the organization. These women started us on this path of helping women thrive, and their legacies live on in the work we do. Thank you to our founders and former leaders. We stand on your shoulders.



Financials

Our most recent audited financial statements can be found on our website at:
www.womensfoundationms.org/about

We know that it is important to raise funds from donors here in Mississippi, as well as out-of-state, for our annual needs and for our long-term sustainability through investments such as the **Lois Kennedy, Women We Honor Endowment Fund**. Started in 2017 by Board member Donna Barksdale in honor of her mother, the endowment will guarantee our work can continue far into the future.



We were thrilled to launch our new Giving Circle program at the close of the 2019 year, so donors can enhance their investment in Mississippi's women while belonging to a special group of like-minded donors. The Giving Circle runs annually, from January 1-December 31. Members are joining now the 2020 Giving Circle now.

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