

JWFA: Philanthropy Through a Gender Lens

Only 1.9% of us philanthropic dollars are directed toward women's and girls' organizations. In Israel, that is less than 1%.

JWFA is changing that.

A Gender Lens is one way for funders to intentionally support organizations and initiatives that work towards positive social change. Most societies have assumptions related to gender. Men and women, girls and boys are expected to act in certain ways, and this has led to restrictions and inequity.

Gender Lens philanthropy involves considering the influence of gender and its impact on people of all genders during the philanthropic process. It includes:

- Granting to organizations that empower women and girls and work for gender equity.
- Supporting gender analysis of the problem or issue being addressed by philanthropy to ensure the particular needs of women, men, and gender diverse people are considered.

A Gender Lens view builds on the needs, strengths, perspectives, and experiences of women and girls.

JWFA uses the Gender Lens approach as a tool for questioning how a program specifically addresses the needs of people based on their gender identity.

Seeing through a Gender Lens recognizes that the needs of females may differ from those of males and pay deliberate attention to gender as an important component of diversity when creating, implementing, and evaluating programs.

JWFA uses a Gender Lens when we ask: "how will this funding help women and girls?" of every program and potential Grantee Partner.

Programs developed using a Gender Lens demonstrate an understanding of—and ability to meet—girls' and women's needs in both gender-specific (girls/women only) and coeducational environments.

Using a Gender Lens in the funding process explores these differences and takes an account of them. This helps JWFA find the best use of our dollars, ultimately increasing opportunities for long term change for all, including women and girls.