



Funding & Grants Directory for Women Entrepreneurs

Curated by Vanguard Impact

How to Use This Directory

At Vanguard Impact, we believe access to capital should never be the barrier that holds women back. Use this directory as a launchpad, and keep building your network, your vision, and your impact.

This directory highlights grants, funding programs, and capital resources available to women entrepreneurs across Canada, the United States, and internationally. It is designed to be a starting point. Always check each program's website for current eligibility, deadlines, and application details.

Canada – National Programs

BDC – Women in Tech (WIT) Venture Fund

- Investment fund dedicated to women-led tech companies.
- Website: <https://www.bdc.ca/en/bdc-capital/venture-capital/funds/women-tech-fund>

Capital Elle Business Impact Award (Elleiance Network)

- An exclusive opportunity designed to support and fund Canadian women in business through community and capital
- Website: <https://www.elleiance.ca/impact-award>

Futurpreneur Canada (Women Entrepreneurs)

- Offers events, peer-support, and workshop to help women entrepreneurs.
- Website: <https://futurpreneur.ca/en/women-in-entrepreneurship/>

Startup Global (Startup Canada)

- Webinars, industry roundtables, export readiness resources, and a pitch competition with a cash prize pool of \$70,000
- Website: <https://www.startupcan.ca/explore/startup-global/>

Visa She's Next Grant Program

- Provides funding and coaching for women-led small businesses.
- Website: https://www.visa.ca/en_CA/support/small-business/support-small-business.html

WEOC National Loan Program (via Women's Enterprise Organizations of Canada)

- Loans of up to \$50,000 for women entrepreneurs.
- Website: <https://weoc.ca/loan-program/>

Women Entrepreneurship Strategy (WES) Ecosystem Fund

- Supports women-led businesses with growth capital and ecosystem partnerships.
- Website: <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/wes-ecosystem-fund/en>

Canada – Regional Programs

PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise (Ontario, Northern Regions)

- Microloans, peer circles, and training for women entrepreneurs.
- Website: <https://paro.ca/paro-funding/>

Women's Enterprise Initiative (Alberta)

- Loans, grants, and training in Alberta.
- Website: <https://www.awebusiness.com/loans>

United States – National Programs

Amber Grant for Women

- Monthly grants awarded to women-owned businesses.
- Website: <https://ambergrantsforwomen.com/get-an-amber-grant/>

Fearless Fund (Black women founders)

- Early-stage capital for women of color entrepreneurs.
- Website: <https://www.fearless.fund/>

IFundWomen

- Grants, coaching, and funding marketplace for women-led businesses.
- Website: www.ifundwomen.com

Tory Burch Foundation Fellows Program

- Grant and yearlong fellowship for women entrepreneurs in the US.
- Website: <https://www.toryburchfoundation.org/fellows/>

Global & International Programs

Cartier Women's Initiative (Global)

- Awards funding and mentorship to impact-driven women entrepreneurs worldwide.
- Website: <https://www.cartierwomensinitiative.com/>

EIT Women Entrepreneurship (Europe)

- EU-backed funding and resources for women innovators.
- Website: <https://www.eit.europa.eu/women-entrepreneurship-and-leadership>

Vital Voices GROW Fellowship

- Training and grants for women scaling businesses in emerging economies.
- Website: <https://www.vitalvoices.org/>

Tips for Applying

1. Check eligibility early: don't waste time applying if your business doesn't fit.
2. Tailor your application: highlight how your business impacts women, community, and/or innovation.
3. Tell your story: investors and grantors respond to authentic journeys.
4. Apply widely: small grants add up and increase your visibility.
5. Leverage networks: join organizations that connect women to funding opportunities.

Additional Resources

- [WEKH](#) (Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub): research and funding updates
- [Grants.gov](#) (US): federal funding search tool
- [Innovation Canada Funding Tool](#): personalized funding matches