



EmpowerHER Grant Criteria

Crystal Coast Women in Business is dedicated to empowering and connecting professional women across Carteret County by fostering collaboration, providing education and career development opportunities, sharing meaningful resources, and supporting economic growth for women-led businesses and careers.

Purpose: The Women in Business **EmpowerHER Grant** supports women-owned businesses in Carteret County by providing financial assistance to help strengthen operations, encourage growth, and create lasting community impact.

Grant Awards

• **First Place: \$2,000** • **Second Place: \$1,500** • **Third Place: \$1,000**

Eligibility Requirements

- Be a woman age 18 or older
- Own at least 51% of the business
- Operate a business located in Carteret County or primarily serving Carteret County
- Have operated the business for at least six months prior to the application deadline
- Submit a complete application with all required supporting documents
- Agree to provide a one-year impact update if selected as a recipient.

Required Supporting Documents

- Business registration, license, or articles of organization
- Proof of business operations (website, social media, invoices, marketing materials, etc.)
- Any additional supporting documents that strengthen the application (i.e. corporate citizenship efforts, statistics, etc.)

Award Recipient Responsibilities

- Use grant funds for the purpose outlined in the application
- Provide a one-year progress update describing outcomes achieved through the grant
- Allow Crystal Coast Women in Business and its partners to share their success story for promotional and educational purposes
- Attend the Crystal Coast Women in Business Conference
- Winners will receive tickets to the following year to support presentation of future recipient awards

Application Deadline: September 4, 2026. Winners notified by September 18, 2026.

Email complete submission (including application & supporting documents) to:

crystalcoasted@carteretcountync.gov