

Big Goal Accelerator Projects

Club Toolkit

2021-2031 Big Goal: Invest in the Dreams of Half a Million Women and Girls

Big Goal Accelerator Projects

Club and region work that increases access to education for women and girls facing obstacles and leads to economic empowerment will count towards our 2031 Big Goal! SIA collects information from clubs and regions about their work outside of the Dream Programs that contributes to our 2021-2031 Big Goal. These projects are called Big Goal Accelerator Projects. It is important to note that *not all* club and region projects can count toward the next Big Goal.

Big Goal Accelerator Project Eligibility

What criteria must projects meet to be eligible?

To be eligible, club and region work must meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

1. Work only with women and/or girls who are facing obstacles who are not already served by or counted under the Dream Programs (*Live Your Dream Awards* and *Dream It, Be It*)
2. Provide access to formal education with the ultimate goal of economic empowerment
3. Be a Soroptimist-led hands-on project
4. Be reported to SIA through the official reporting [link](#)

What do we mean by “obstacles?”

These are some examples of the obstacles that can make accessing education more difficult for a woman or girl:

- Poverty
- Violence
- Racism
- Teen pregnancy
- Being a foster care youth
- Trafficking
- Single parenting
- Substance abuse disorder

What do we mean by women and girls who are not already served by or counted under the Dream Programs?

Clubs should do their best to report women and girls as individuals served and not “double count” them if they participated in multiple club offerings. If a woman was already reported as a *Live Your Dream Award* recipient and she participated in a Big Goal Accelerator Project, you would ONLY report her as a *Live Your Dream Award* recipient. This will give us a more accurate count of the actual number of women and girls we collectively serve.

What do we mean by “access to education?”

Projects should be focused on increasing access to formal education, meaning education that has a credential and results in increased employability for the person receiving it.

What do we mean by “Soroptimist-led hands-on?”

Projects should be member-driven, led by Soroptimists in your club! The project should not be supporting another group’s work, including fundraising for another organization’s mission.

What are some examples of eligible projects that increase access to education for our target population of women and girls facing obstacles?

- **Scholarships/awards** (for college, technical/vocational school, advanced degrees)
- **Removing obstacles** (providing necessary items for education like computers, internet, transportation; paying fees for college-preparation exams, college applications, entrance exams, or professional licensure)
- **Classes** (focused on job training, skills training, applying for financial aid/college, computer training, career mentorship)

Examples of Eligible Projects

Below are some specific examples to help clubs and regions understand the eligibility parameters. Please note that these are not exhaustive and are intended to help illustrate the eligibility parameters more clearly.

Would be Counted towards Big Goal	Would NOT be Counted towards Big Goal
Scholarships for girls facing obstacles go to college/technical school	Scholarships for girls go to college that don't consider obstacles in the award process
Scholarships or educational awards for women who face obstacles to access education (but who are not eligible for Live Your Dream Award)	Scholarships or educational awards for women or girls based on only on academic performance
Job training classes for women facing obstacles.	Providing classes that don't focus on skills for education/employment (such as self-defense, etiquette, trafficking awareness)
Paying for testing fees for educational exams, application fees for college, or professional licensures for women or girls facing obstacles	Awareness raising of local scholarship funds
Classes to assist girls or women facing obstacles with applying for financial aid	Sharing calendars with girls or women facing obstacles to remind them of application deadlines for financial aid
Hosting computer training classes for women who have experienced trafficking or other gendered violence	Community education on trafficking or other forms of violence against women.
Helping women in a shelter apply for college or vocational school	Sharing applications for college or vocational school with women in a shelter
Providing low-income women attending college with a laptop to do schoolwork	Providing laptops to high school girls and boys for doing the most community service

What kinds of projects are **not** eligible?

Projects that focus on raising awareness, beautification of space, grants or donated funds given to nonprofit organizations, support for projects led by other organizations, or general social empowerment would not be eligible, even if they focus on our target population of women and girls facing obstacles. *Dream Programs work also should not be reported as Big Goal Accelerator Projects since we have existing reporting processes for those programs.*

What's your project missing?

- **Population**
 - Change your project so it focuses on women and/or girls who have obstacles to their success.
- **Focus**
 - Is it focused on increasing access to education? If not, change the focus to one of our eligible project areas: classes, scholarships, or providing items required for education.
- **Soroptimist-led**
 - Make sure your project is member-driven and not fundraising for another organization's mission!

Do you have a specific project that you aren't sure is eligible? Email program@soroptimist.org and we will advise.

Important information to think about when planning your project:

- What type of project is this?
- Who is your target population?
- What are the obstacles that this population faces?
- How many women and/or girls will benefit?

You will be asked to report all this information!

How do I report my project?

By June 30th, report your projects for the club year at the [online reporting link](#). PDF, emailed, mailed, or faxed reports cannot be accepted. If you need assistance with your report, please [consult our handout](#).