

## Big Goal Accelerator Projects

### What criteria must projects meet to be eligible?

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

1. Work only with women and/or girls who are facing obstacles
2. Provide access to education
3. Ultimately lead to economic empowerment
4. Be a Soroptimist-led hands-on project
5. Be reported to SIA through the official reporting [link](#)

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

- Projects that focus on:
  - Raising awareness
  - Beautification of space
  - Sharing applications
- Grants or donated funds given to nonprofit organizations
- General social empowerment
- Dream Programs work

### 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 are some examples of 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

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

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