

RECRUITING TIPS

Work with Local Schools

Many community colleges, universities, and vocational/trade schools offer financial aid workshops that include information about local scholarships and awards. Contact the financial aid offices of nearby institutions to ask if the *Live Your Dream Awards* can be included. Also, many colleges and universities have women's centers to assist women throughout their education. Contact these centers for assistance in finding eligible women. Offer to email the application or online application portal link (US and Canada) and ask that they forward it to eligible women.

Make a Personal Contact

Clubs have reported they have the most success receiving completed applications when they have a personal contact at the organizations where they are recruiting. Do not just email, mail, or drop off applications and expect to receive a response. Talk to someone within the organizations and explain the benefits of the program. To assist with these efforts, please refer to the [sample recruiting letter](#) of introduction to a local community organization.

Assist Women with Their Applications

The women targeted by this award are usually going to school, raising children, and working. They may be very busy and may need reminders about deadlines. Furthermore, they may find the application intimidating. This could be the first time they are applying for an award. We also hear that women do not feel they are worthy of the award. Helping applicants understand the award process can dispel this thinking.

Consider holding a workshop to discuss the application process and have club members available to offer one-on-one assistance. Conducting a Soroptimist *Live Your Dream Awards* application workshop is an excellent way for your club to identify eligible women in your community and provide them with the support they need to complete the application process. To assist clubs in conducting an application workshop, check out [Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards: Achieving Success Through Application Workshops](#).

Expand the Search to Surrounding Areas

If you live in a particularly small area and are having difficulty finding applicants, expand your search to surrounding communities that do not have Soroptimist clubs. Contacting organizations, distributing applications, and receiving completed applications can all be handled by email, mail, or telephone.

Applications from SIA Headquarters

If your club has not received any eligible applications, contact SIA Headquarters to ask for complete and eligible applications that can be forwarded to your club.

Working with Other Local Soroptimist Clubs

Some Soroptimist clubs share their completed applications as a way to honor as many eligible women as possible. Each club gives an award to a different woman. Your region chair can help facilitate this.

Work with Previous Award Recipients

Previous *Live Your Dream Award* recipients have expressed a desire to promote the award by speaking to other local organizations, at schools, community centers, and health centers. Additionally, they were interested in connecting with the media about their experience and holding workshops for applicants. Utilizing enthusiastic women who have received the award to promote the *Live Your Dream Awards* can bolster recruitment.