



Call for Applications

2025 Ida Barlow Brilliance Award

In 2020, the Board of Directors of the Marion Women's Club created the ***Ida Barlow Brilliance Award*** to honor the life and work of one of Marion's earliest Clubwomen, Ida Harsh Barlow. Whether she was leading programs in cultural engagement, public health, or civic improvement, Ida Barlow always urged her fellow clubwomen to ***not only think about innovative solutions to community problems but work together to make them happen.***

American clubwomen were often described as a set of "busy and brilliant" women and the Marion Women's Club wishes to **recognize women in Marion who are similarly busy and brilliant - carrying on Ida Barlow's legacy** of innovative community problem solving and community leadership.

The Award provides financial support (\$1,000) to a woman-led small business or non-profit organization that wants to undertake a new project, or enhance an existing project, that **supports the mission of the Marion Women's Club:**

***"Empowering women and enriching the community,
while preserving the historic home and promoting the Club's legacy."***

The Award is made possible through an endowed fund at Marion Community Foundation, created with donations from donors, members and friends of Marion Women's Club & Home.

Who is Eligible?

1. Marion County woman, 18 years of age or older.
2. Applicant must be a: 1) Small business owner or 2) Program leader/executive director of a 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving Marion County.
3. Applicant has obtained a minimum education level of a high school diploma or GED equivalent.

Application Deadline: October 31, 2025. *Late applications will not be accepted.*

A completed application includes these 3 items:

1) Application form (*see below*)

2) Typed statement of no more than 1000 words that:

- a) PROVIDES a TITLE for the proposed project
- b) DESCRIBES the proposed project, its objective, its targeted audience, and a timeline for implementation
- c) EXPLAINS how the project responds to an identified community need in an innovative way (i.e., How does your project differ from ongoing projects and programs in Marion?)
- d) IDENTIFIES ways that will assess the successful implementation of the project. (i.e., How will you measure the impact of your project?)
- e) EXPLAINS how the project supports the mission statement of the Marion Women's Club

3) Detailed budget of income and expenses, anticipated or actual, to complete the project.

Additional Important Information:

- 1. Capital improvement/building projects are not eligible for the Ida Barlow Brilliance Award
- 2. Awardee must agree to submit progress report via email at 6 months and at one year following grant award. Submit to: womensclubhome@gmail.com
- 3. Awardee agrees to participate in Marion Women's Club public relations events, including photos and appearances, related to grant of award.
- 4. Awardee and project will be publicized in local and electronic media.
- 5. Awardee may receive the award no more than twice over a five-year period.
- 6. **Scan the completed Application Form, Statement and Budget as one PDF and submit to: womensclubhome@gmail.com no later than 11:49pm October 31, 2025.**

Past Recipients/Projects:

2024 Award: Tara Dyer, Peace and Freedom Committee: "Paul Robeson Speech Academy" to support public speaking skills and community engagement among Marion youth

2023 Award: Jenni Hypes, executive director, Aspire Ministries: "Strong Women – Stronger Marion: Enrichment Day 2024"

2022 Award: Barb Pine, co-owner, Jer-Zee Drive In: "Story Time Reading Program" to enhance literacy rates

For questions or more information, please email womensclubhome@gmail.com and write "Ida Barlow Award" in Subject Line. Application deadline: Oct. 31, 2025

Please include the following information for your non-profit organization or business:

1. Mission Statement:

2. Year organization or business was established: _____

3. List **three recent achievements** of your business or organization, their impact, and how you were involved:

If application is for a non-profit organization, please provide the following:

1) Non-profit Tax I.D. number: _____

2) Please attach a copy of the organization's IRS Letter of Determination as a non-profit organization.

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I hereby declare my interest in applying for the Ida Barlow Brilliance Award, and that the information supplied is true and binding *(please check box if you agree).*

Applicant signature

Date

**Submit the Application, Statement, and Budget as one PDF
no later than 11:59pm October 31, 2025 to:**

womensclubhome@gmail.com