

Frequently-Asked Questions

The Women's Foundation of Colorado's Gender-Lens Investment Strategies

What is gender-lens investing?

Coined in 2009 by the Criterion Institute, gender-lens investing is an approach to investing that considers gender-based factors across the investment process to advance gender equality and better inform investment decisions. Gender-lens investing is a form of impact investing, which is investing with the intent of both a financial and measurable, beneficial, social return. The Women's Foundation of Colorado defines gender-lens investing by the following strategies:

- Gender-mandate strategies
- Environmental, social, and governance (ESG)
- Shareholder advocacy
- Working with diverse investment managers

What is unique about The Women's Foundation's gender-lens investing program? As of December 31, 2023, 100 percent of The Foundation's investable assets are intended to be aligned with our gender-lens investment strategies. We have two investment portfolios – a long-term portfolio and 100 percent gender-lens portfolio. We are the first community foundation in the state to offer a 100 percent gender-lens investment portfolio to our donors.

What is the value of WFCO's investable assets?

As of March 31, 2022, The Foundation's investable assets totaled \$27,923,482.

OUR MISSION

Catalyzing community to advance and accelerate economic opportunities for Colorado women and their families.

WFCO.ORG

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Where does WFCO’s gender-lens investment percentage stand?

As of March 31, 2022, 75.1 percent of WFCO’s long-term portfolio met gender-lens investment strategies. It is comprised of fixed income, equities, and private investments. The 100 percent gender-lens portfolio is comprised of fixed income and equities.

What percentage of investable assets are in the long-term portfolio and the 100 percent gender-lens portfolio?

The long-term portfolio makes up 83 percent and the 100 percent gender-lens portfolio makes up 17 percent of the total portfolio.

What have been the returns on each of the portfolios?

As of December 31, 2021, the 3-year net annualized return on the long-term portfolio is 15.1 percent. The 10-year net annualized return on the portfolio is 8.3 percent. The 100 percent gender-lens portfolio’s net annualized return after three years was 13.7 percent. There is no 10-year data because the fund’s inception was in 2014.

How have the portfolios performed?

Since inception, both the long-term portfolio and the 100 percent gender-lens portfolio have outperformed their portfolio benchmarks on a risk adjusted basis, resulting in positive net alpha since inception.

Who manages WFCO’s investments?

Syntrinsic Investment Counsel is WFCO’s investment firm. Their team recommends policies and allocations, selects, and monitors investment managers, and reports and evaluates WFCO’s investments. They work alongside WFCO’s investment committee, which is comprised of trustees and investment experts, to advise the board of trustees on policies, financial objectives, and impact objectives.



What are the impact goals of WFCO's gender-lens investment program?

We seek to not only grow our assets, but to align them with our mission to meet current and future needs of women and families. With the support of Syntrinsic, and in alignment with our strategic framework, the WFCO investment committee defined four impact goals for WFCO's gender-lens investments:

- Address gender and racial disparities
- Expand access to capital
- Further economic security
- Learn and share knowledge

How does WFCO determine if its investments are meeting the impact goals?

The Women's Foundation uses four investment strategies to further our impact goals. Those include:

- Gender-mandate strategies
- Environmental, social, and governance (ESG)
- Shareholder advocacy
- Working with diverse investment managers

These strategies help us screen our investments for companies that have demonstrated a commitment to workplace equity, have a history of providing access to capital to under-represented communities, and offer products and services to women.

Why is working with diverse investment managers a gender-lens investment strategy?

As of 2021, diverse-owned firms represented just 1.4 percent of U.S. based assets under management. Yet diverse managers are more likely to invest in diverse communities, and the likelihood of outperformance by diverse teams is greater than non-diverse teams.



Because of this, WFCO has set a goal to invest 25 percent of investable assets with diverse investment managers, including women, by 2025. A minimum of 10 percent will be invested specifically with managers from under-represented communities of color, including Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and Asian managers.

What happens to the 100 percent gender-lens investment portfolio when the long-term portfolio reaches 100 percent?

When the long-term portfolio is 100 percent aligned with our gender-lens investment strategies, it will merge with the current 100 percent gender-lens portfolio. We will offer our donors one investment portfolio that is well-diversified and 100 percent aligned with our gender-lens investment strategies.

What is noteworthy about The Women's Foundation of Colorado reaching 100 percent alignment with its gender-lens investment strategies?

As the only community foundation in the state focused on gender, racial, and economic equity, it is important that we align all our available resources with our mission and vision. In addition to our gender-lens investing, we introduced two new grantmaking programs in 2021 that support gender, racial, and economic equity - the Women & Girls of Color Fund and WINcome. Women, especially women of color, have historically been underinvested in and undervalued. Intentional and explicit investments are needed to change this. We are proud that meeting our investment goals will enable our donors to maximize their impact.

Who can invest with The Women's Foundation?

Individual donors have the opportunity to invest directly in our work and our endowment. Our donor-advised fundholders and giving circles invest their funds with us. The assets of our donor-advised funds and giving circles grow through our sound investment strategy.



How can I open a donor-advised fund with The Women's Foundation?

Donor-advised funds can be opened for \$2,500. Contributions can take many forms. Please contact Renee Ferrufino, vice president of development, at reneef@wfco.org or 303-229-9411 for more information.