



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

Program Pillar Presentation

Big Goal Targets &
Accelerator Projects

Elise Balgley
Founder Region Program Chair



Good afternoon, as you know, I am Elise Balgley. One of the hats I wear this biennium is as Founder Region Program Chair.

500,000

Women and girls will be able to **live their dreams**
because of **YOU!**



2023 Region Meeting

As you know, we have our Big Goal—to invest in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education by 2031. It's an ambitious goal, driven by member input, that every Soroptimist club in our federation can be proud to be part of!



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

Big Goal Accelerator Projects



x 500,000
empowered to live their dreams

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While developing this goal, we heard from members that they want their other work BESIDES the Dream Programs that helps women and girls access education to be valued and counted for the next Big Goal. These projects are called **Big Goal Accelerator Projects**. We have been collecting data on them since the 2021-2022 club year. It is important to note that not all club and region projects are eligible as Big Goal Accelerator Projects.

Eligibility

- Work only with women and girls **facing obstacles**
- Increase or provide access to **formal education** with goal of **economic empowerment**
- Must be reported to SIA
- Must **NOT** be the Dream Programs



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To be eligible and contribute to the Big Goal, club work must meet all the following criteria:

- Work only with women and/or girls who are facing obstacles
- Increase or provide access to formal education
- Ultimately lead to economic empowerment
- Be reported to SIA through the official reporting link
- NOT be the Dream Programs NOT be the Dream Programs—remember that we are counting women and girls reached for our Big Goal, not service projects conducted.

What's NOT eligible?



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What kinds of projects are *not* eligible?

- Projects that focus on raising awareness about any topic
- Beautification of space
- General social empowerment
- Projects that serve anyone other than women and/or girls facing obstacles
- Donations to another organization
- Any projects that are not Soroptimist-driven

Women & Girls Facing Obstacles

Examples:

- Poverty
- Gendered violence
- Racism
- Teen pregnancy
- Being a foster care youth
- Single parenting
- Substance abuse disorder

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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 and parenting
 - • Being a foster care youth
 - • Trafficking

- • Single parenting
- • Substance use disorder



Eligible project categories include:

- Scholarships/education awards
- Providing necessary items for education (computers, internet, transportation)
- Paying fees for college-preparation exams, applications, or professional licensure
- Classes focused on job, skills, or education training

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What are the project categories that are eligible?

- • Scholarships or education awards
- • Providing necessary items for education like computers, internet, transportation; paying fees for college-preparation exams, college applications, entrance exams, or professional licensure
- • Classes that are focused on job training, skills training, applying for financial aid/college, computer training, career mentorship
-

Key Eligibility Summarized



Right Population

Serves women and girls
facing obstacles



Right Focus

Increases access to
formal education



Right People

Completed by Soroptimists
in hands-on projects

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So to summarize, to be eligible a project must have the following components in place:

- The right population (women and girls facing obstacles who are NOT already served by the Dream Programs)
- The right focus (increasing access to formal education)
- Completed by the right people (Soroptimist-driven, hands-on projects)
- And of course, all projects have to be reported to SIA through the official reporting link to be counted towards the Big Goal!

Reporting

Deadline: June 30th

Submit Online Only

Please **NO** emailed, typed, PDF, or mailed reports



English (US) -

BIG GOAL ACCELERATOR PROJECTS

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Investing in Dreams

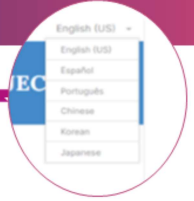
Before starting, make sure your project meets all eligibility criteria below.

This report is for projects completed between July 1st, 2023 and June 30th, 2024. Any projects outside of this time frame will not be counted.

Our project... (select all that apply) *

- 1. Works only with women and/or girls who are facing obstacles.
- 2. Provides access to education.
- 3. Ultimately leads to economic empowerment.
- 4. Is a Soroptimist-led project
- 5. Is not a Dream Programs project
- 6. None

Next



How do we report?

- Clubs must report their projects through the online reporting form by the annual deadline of June 30th to report that club year's projects. SIA staff will review the reports on an ongoing basis for eligibility and be in touch with clubs as needed with questions.



Let's take a look at some real-life club projects that are inspiring! SI/Norwalk Sante Fe Springs is funding scholarships for High School Equivalency Diploma (GED) exam for incarcerated Women in Transition from Custody to Community through a Reentry Program. These women may have their sentence reduced by six months by successfully completing their GED tests, and they'll have more education when they exit incarceration.



SI/Asuncion in America del Sur offered basic computer skills classes to 12 women --these skills gave them more tools for job application and further education.



In Brazil Region, SI/Rio Negro offered classes for women who have experienced domestic violence with a focus on professional qualifications and creating autonomy through offering meaningful employment training.



SI/David in the Mexico CentroAmerica region offered 16 women cooking classes and certification to help them find work in restaurants, hospitality, or to launch their own culinary business.



In Japan Minami Region, SI/Kumamoto offered the Take One Step program which provides financial support to the children of single mothers who are planning to go on to higher education, but who have financial concerns to enable them to get an education. For the single mothers themselves, the club provides financial support for career advancement and congratulatory money after obtaining their certifications.



SI/Oak Harbor in the Northwestern Region offers the Live Your Dream Opportunity, which is a High School Scholarship that is given to high school girls that have overcome challenging life circumstances to persevere to obtain their dreams of high school graduation and admission to college or trade school. Last year, they awarded 4 scholarships totaling \$8000.



Finally, we have SI/Valencia in Camino Real Region with their Fostering Youth Independence Program. They raised funds to support 30 girls who have aged out of the foster system and were starting college. They sponsored a live event where the girls were gifted a brand new backpack filled with school supplies and toiletries, which enabled the girls to begin college loaded up with supplies they needed.

These are some great Big Goal Accelerator Projects from outside our Region. Maybe there are some ideas we could use.

What's happening here?

- Governor Vicki and I receive notifications when any club in our Region has an approved Big Goal Accelerator Project. Who would like to speak about a project

your club has done or is doing? AUDIENCE RESPONSE

- Here are some others I know about.

Big Goal Targets



10%

Annual increase in # of women given *Live Your Dream Award*

25%

Annual increase in # of girls participating in *Dream It, Be It*

10%

Annual increase in # of women & girls reached through Big Goal Accelerator Projects

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500,000 is a LOT of women and girls for our federation to reach by 2031, and it can be daunting to think about that huge number. To make this goal more attainable, all regions have been provided with annual targets. For the 23/24 club year, every region in the federation has been asked to increase the number of women receiving a Live Your Dream Award by 10% and the number of girls participating in Dream It, Be It by 25%; and the number of women and girls reached through Big Goal Accelerator Projects by 10% over our 22/23 numbers. These goals are ambitious but also completely achievable with focus and working together.

- Of course, if we want to reach our goal as a federation and as a region, we also need to make sure our clubs have goals and a plan to achieve them.

Next Steps:

Focus on projects that support our mission and the **Big Goal**.

Redirect
Funding

Recruitment

Connect with community partners and schools.

How to Reach More Women and Girls

Sponsorship

Connect with local businesses.

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Here are some questions/ideas to take back to your club. Take the time to discuss these questions and make a plan to take action.



We will continue to grow our impact for women and girls through our Dream Programs over the next decade. Our evidence-based Dream Programs transform lives and unite our Soroptimist story. And our Big Goal Accelerator Projects will move us closer to our Big Goal of investing in the dreams of half a million women and girls through access to education!

- Together, we can create the vision that all Soroptimists hold dear: a world where all women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

- Thank you for your attention.