

With Gift from ACS Fund, More Women Pursue Ohio Public Offices

Ohio must do a better job creating public policies that support women and girls. One critical way to make that happen is to have more women representing their communities in elected office. Just over half (51%) of Ohioans are women, but women hold only 29% of the state's public offices. As of this writing, there are no women in statewide executive offices.

[Matriots Ohio](#) (Matriots) wants to see this change. A values-based, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, Matriots is dedicated to helping women engage in all aspects of political life. Through its [Education Fund](#), Matriots encourages women to run by demystifying processes of running for and holding an elected office, and helps women activate their voices for political engagement.



*"ACS does a great job of helping educate women and men about politics, so their support is incredibly meaningful."
–Emily Quick Shriver, Matriots*

Matriots Education Fund has used its gift from The ACS Fund for Women & Girls to support a new four-part speaker series, a web-based resource guide that lists local and state offices for which women can run, and a summer internship program for high school and college students.

The [ACS Fund for Women & Girls](#), created by [Advocacy & Communication Solutions, LLC](#) (ACS), made an unrestricted gift of \$14,000 to Matriots at the end of 2024. "The unrestricted general operating support from ACS was so important, because it didn't add to our work by making us jump through hoops—it just helps us," said Emily Quick Schriver, Matriots CEO.

"The team at The Matriots achieves so much on a shoestring budget. They are creative, innovative and highly successful, and we knew that providing general operating support was the best way for us to fuel their fire without getting in the way," said Scarlett Boudier, president and co-founder of ACS, who along with CEO and co-founder Lori McClung created The ACS Fund for Women and Girls in 2024. "They know best what they need, and we completely trust them to use our donation wisely."

Spreading Information and Encouragement

The Matriots has used its ACS Fund grant to support staff salaries for a new speaker series, an updated online resource guide, and a summer internship program.

The speaker series, designed to help break down barriers and encourage more women to engage in the political landscape, has included four events across the state.

The first, held in Columbus, explained how money is used in politics—not just for campaigns, but once a woman is in office. A second event in Cincinnati explored how women can be politically active in ways other than running for office. The third event in Cleveland focused on resilience—explaining hidden barriers that can emerge when running for or holding office, such as family needs, disability, racism, and other issues, and how to develop resilience to move forward. A fourth speaker in Columbus helped attendees understand how to recognize and leverage their individual power.

Matriots' new web-based resource guide lists the local and state offices for which women can run, explains what those jobs entail on a day-to-day basis, and notes the skills and experience best suited for them.

Quick Schriver is also excited about the Matriots summer internship program, which used ACS Fund dollars to expand its reach from college to high school students.

"It was great hearing our interns—men and women—engaging in really honest conversations about what it takes to run for office and be civically engaged. We need to help girls across Ohio see what they can be," Quick Schriver said.

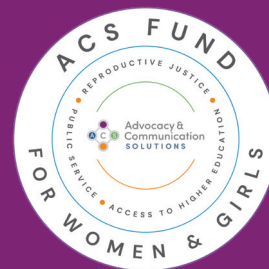
Leveraging Support

These conversations led Quick Schriver and her team to ask how Matriots can continue to engage and involve younger folks more, which in turn sparked a new strategy to secure more grant funding in 2026.

"We were incredibly honored to be one of the first three grant recipients from the ACS Fund for Women & Girls, and so thankful for their investment in women," Quick Schriver said. "ACS itself does a great job of helping educate women and men about politics, so their support is incredibly meaningful. Our work is an extension of what they do and gets the messages and support directly in front of the women who will make a difference in elected office in Ohio."

Join Us in Supporting Women & Girls with a Gift to the ACS Fund

The ACS Fund for Women & Girls is held at the Community Foundation for Lorain County. Donate online via the [Community Foundation website](#).



If you'd like to make a donation through another fund or make a gift of something other than cash, please contact Jamie Simoneau, jsimoneau@peoplewhocare.org, 440.984.7390.

If you'd like to make a multi-year pledge, please email Lori McClung, lori@advocacyandcommunication.org.

Thank you!