



Going Places. Going Strong.

2019 PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP FACT SHEET

The Dress for Success Columbus Professional Women's Group provides employed women with support, practical information and inspiration to achieve self-defined success in career and life.

What It Is: The Professional Women's Group is an exclusive career-development alliance. The program was created to promote employment retention and career advancement by providing valuable skill-building information, while creating a safe environment to network with other professionals. It is the first and only employment retention model that moves low-income women towards self-sufficiency by addressing social and economic needs in relation to work, home and community.

Why It Works: Women face a myriad of challenges, from understanding corporate culture to handling personal finances, often with no support or guidance. The Professional Women's Group provides a safe environment where members can network and develop professional skills.

How It Works: Clients who gain employment and return for Employment Suiting are provided an opportunity to complete an application for PWG Membership. Applicants meet with a Career Counselor to discuss their 5-year career plan and career development options. Following enrollment, Members attend monthly seminars on a variety of career development and health & wellness topics. Each meeting consists of two key elements: an expert speaker leading an informational discussion and a networking period. In addition to monthly meetings, members receive opportunities for career coaching, mentoring, and quarterly styling events. Members also have the opportunity to become the representative at the annual *Success Summit*, our signature leadership conference for select PWG members and coordinators. Additionally, 'Awards & Accolades', our annual year-end celebration, recognizes significant achievements. Updates can be found on the PWG page of our website: www.dfscmh.org.

2019 Meetings Dates & Topics*

January 19	Professional Development	10AM-NOON
February 16	Community Action Project Gathering	10:00AM-1:30PM
March 16	Professional Development	10AM-NOON
April 13	Financial Literacy	10AM-NOON
May 18	Health & Wellness	10AM-NOON
June 22	Leadership Civic & Responsibility	10AM-NOON
July 20	Health & Wellness	10AM-NOON
August 17	Financial Literacy	10AM-NOON
September 21	Professional Development	10AM-NOON
October 12	Success InSight	10AM-2PM
November 16	Civic Engagement	10AM-NOON
December 7	Awards & Accolades Year End Celebration	TBD

*Meetings dates, location, or topic are subject to change. For confirmation or to RSVP, please reach out to: bridgett@dfscmh.org
Meetings are held at: The Residences at Career Gateway 755 E. Whittier Street, 43206. To enter meeting go through the 747 entrance.

PWG is a Worldwide Sisterhood!

- **60 Dress for Success affiliates have Professional Women's Group programs.**
- There are currently more than **11,000 PWG members worldwide.**
- The annual **Success Summit** provides advanced leadership training to more than **50 PWG members each year.**
- **84% of Professional Women's Group members stated they were the primary wage-earner.**
- **20% of members enrolled in or completed educational programs.** 12% of members have either a 2- or 4-year degree.
- **Over 70% of PWG members reported that they have definite career and personal goals** that they would like to achieve.
- **12% own their own home.** The majority of members rent, but many live in a supportive environment.
- **42 is the average age of a Professional Women's Group member.** Women between the ages of 14 and 80 utilize programs offered by the Professional Women's Group. Most women have 2 or more children. More than 25% are married or in long-term stable relationships.



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2019 Guidelines

- Interested members complete PWG Membership Application. Electronic application submission is required; please visit www.dfscmh.org and access the Client Services + Professional Women's Group link to complete the 2019 membership application.
- New and renewing Members complete application annually
- Candidate discusses career goals with Program Manager
- Employment is a baseline requirement for PWG Membership
 - Full-time employment is not required
- **The following will be taken into consideration on a case-by-case basis if candidate for membership is currently unemployed. Verification is required:**
 1. Enrollment in a workforce readiness program
 2. Enrollment in college-level courses
 3. Workplace Experience Partnership (WEP) involvement
 4. **Consistent** volunteer commitment
- If a Member loses employment during membership year:
 - PWG Coordinator/DCD will discuss 90-day goals
 - Evaluate workforce readiness training opportunities
 - Determine next steps – continued involvement or referral to workforce readiness program
- For those who aren't currently eligible for membership (unemployed and not engaging in 1-4 above), information regarding workplace readiness classes will be provided by Dress for Success Columbus (e.g.: Columbus Urban League, Goodwill Columbus, Jewish Family Services)
- Once employment is secured, previously ineligible candidates can reapply for PWG Membership

Member Guidelines

- Confirmed PWG Members (following discussion with PWG Coordinator/DCD) are added to PWG E-Mail List
- Information regarding monthly meetings is distributed twice a month via email
- **Membership emails are solely for PWG members – please do not forward**
- RSVP for meetings is required so adequate resources are available
- Members can bring a guest to meetings
 - Guests must be employed
 - Members are required to provide name of guest at time of RSVP
 - The same guest can attend no more than 2 PWG meetings in a program year
 - Guests with special circumstances should be discussed with Program Manager
 - Employed guests are welcome to join PWG through the described application process