



1. Purpose:
 - 1.1. To provide for the formation of WFS meetings for Affinity Groups.
 - 1.2. To state the policy governing the operation of Affinity Group meetings.
2. Scope:
 - 2.1. This policy applies to all WFS peer-support resources including the WFS Online Community; other online peer support communities such as any WFS Facebook groups; all formats of WFS meetings such as in-person, video, and text chat; the annual conference event; and any other WFS peer-support groups or resources created in the future.
3. Instructions:
 - 3.1. Formation of Affinity Group Meetings: Each WFS Affinity Group Meeting should have at least two Certified Facilitators (at each meeting) who plan to attend meetings. Affinity Group Meetings shall be titled: "WFS [Affinity Group name] Meeting".
 - 3.2. Affinity Group Meetings must be held at least twice monthly. They will be listed on the Meetings page on WFS Online at a special Zoom link. There will not be approval given for location-based meetings.
 - 3.3. Certified Facilitators who plan to lead a group must submit a clear definition of the affinity group and submit their application to the Facilitator Team for initial review. The application will then be submitted for approval by the Board of Directors.
 - 3.4. Participation in Women for Sobriety requires that attendees meet the following requirements:
 - 3.4.1. 18 years of age or older
 - 3.4.2. In, or seeking, recovery from a substance use disorder or problematic substance use
 - 3.4.3. Identify as female, including women from the LGBT+ community and those with trans experiences.
 - 3.4.4. Identify as a member of the defined Affinity Group to discuss their recovery through the WFS New Life Program.
 - 3.4.5. Exclusions: Supporters/allies of the Affinity Group unless allowed explicitly by the CFs.
4. Definitions:
 - 4.1. **Affinity Group:** a group of people linked by a common interest or purpose. An affinity group is a designated "safe space," where everyone in that group shares a particular identity. This identity can be based on race, gender, sexual orientation, language, nationality, physical/mental ability, socio-economic class, family structure, religion, sensitive occupations, etc. Affinity groups can be a place for underrepresented people in a community to come together to feel less isolated and more connected. During affinity groups participants might share and talk about their experiences.



4.2. Location-Based Meetings: Regularly scheduled WFS meetings that are listed on the public meeting finder.

5. Distribution:

5.1. Posted publicly on the WFS website Governance page.

5.2. To be included in training documentation for Certified Facilitators and other leadership positions.

Policy approved and adopted by resolution of the WFS Board of Directors at their regular meeting on 8/19/21.