



Information for Potential Partner for the Young Women's Initiative

Background:

The Women's Fund SouthCoast (WFSC) is excited to announce that we were selected to be a part of the National Collaborative of Young Women's Initiatives. We join 15 other Women's Funds across the country in our collective efforts to engage youth, particularly young women and gender expansive youth of color, in philanthropy.

Through leadership development, social justice programming, and learning about the role of philanthropy, these young leaders identify barriers, consider solutions, and make recommendations for change in their community. Young philanthropists will also advise the WFSC on where to direct a special pool of funding to organizations that address these pressing issues.

Finally, this program seeks to build the capacity of young women to enter the workforce or move up in leadership positions in the non-profit, government or any sector they choose to pursue by learning about the inner workings of community organizing, policy advocacy, and non-profit mission-focused work.

To learn more about the National Collaborative model, please visit <https://www.npcywi.org/>.

To see examples of local implementation of the National Collaborative Model, please visit the following links:

- Women's Fund of Western MA ([YWI-Blueprint4Action.pdf \(mywomensfund.org\)](#))
- Women's Fund of Minnesota (<https://www.wfmn.org/ywi-mn/>)

About the Partnership:

The WFSC will partner with an organization that serves girls, young women, and gender expansive folks on the SouthCoast, with priority given to programs operating in New Bedford,

Fall River or Taunton. The selected community partner will create and run a Young Women's Advisory Council (YWAC) during the programming year. The YWAC will culminate its work with a grantmaking process in partnership with the WFSC. To ensure impact and success, program timeline can be discussed and amended in partnership with the WFSC throughout the partnership.

The community partner will join WFSC staff in representing our SouthCoast Young Women's Initiative by attending virtual monthly community of practice meetings led by the National Collaborative. They will also attend regular check-in meetings with WFSC staff to access additional technical assistance and support.

The WFSC expects to name a community partner by August 9, 2024, and will work with them to develop the program through October 2024. Recruitment of the young people will take place from August to September. We expect to begin the YWAC in October of 2024. The timeline is subject to change based on the community partner's availability, insight, and expertise.

Factors for potential community partner to consider:

The WFSC will provide a grant up to the amount of \$35,000 to the community partner to run the YWAC from August 2024 to June 30, 2025. There will be an opportunity to renew the partnership on an annual basis, based on funds available.

Below is a list of activities that the WFSC is considering as part of the program. We ask that the potential community partner check off all that they would be able to incorporate.

____ Hold 16 YWAC sessions (2.5 hours each) at a location suggested by the community partner and informed by program participants to ensure accommodation.

____ Deliver leadership development and social justice education to the youth in YWAC (see below for further details on curriculum)

____ Comply with all relevant laws and regulations with respect to serving youth under 18 years of age

____ Have access to technology or arrange for access to technology so YWAC participants can take up to three evaluations during the course of the program.

____ Recruit girls, young women, and gender expansive folks to the program in a joint effort with resources provided by the WFSC (e.g. social media, newsletters)

____ Process stipends to YWAC participants paid for by grant funding provided to the grant partner

____ Provide food, transportation, speaker fees, activity supplies and support services using the grant funding provided

____ Coordinate with local and national evaluators to ensure that the program is being assessed in a timely manner to ensure outcomes are meeting objectives.

____ Provide a written summary of activities of the YWAC every six months

____ Allow WFSC staff/board to observe sessions as requested

____ Allow dedicated WFSC staff to support programmatic tasks

____ Partnering to co-lead the Young Women's Initiative experience. The WFSC will work with community partner to determine guest speakers and agenda for the sessions.

____ Attend one national YWI convening and curate local field trips. National convening would include up to 3 participants and staff. Local field trips to include all program participants.

____ Have a woman or gender expansive person of color leading the YWAC program and interfacing with the young women, on behalf of your organization.

Size of the YWAC:

The YWAC will be comprised of up to 20 youth (ages 14-24) from the SouthCoast with particular emphasis on girls, young women, and gender expansive people of color.

The WFSC will share the national curriculum with the selected partner. The community partner is not restricted to the existing curriculum, but the following should be addressed over the course of the program:

1. Community Building: Shared experience, learning from one another, networking & support
2. Understanding Leadership: Explore definitions of leadership, models of leadership, leadership responsibilities and challenges, awareness of self as a leader
3. Context: Gender & racial inequality & equity (why it is important, what it can look like, historical experience, how does it get addressed, women's value and societal expectation)
4. Power Dynamics: Understanding power relationships and group dynamics, navigating relationships with those in positions of authority, managing disagreements in dialog, speaking up, presentation and receptiveness
5. Empowered Identity: Knowing who you are, building confidence, finding your voice, claiming personal power
6. Public Speaking: Presenting, persuasive speaking, building consensus, being prepared, credibility
7. Political Process: Understanding of community organizing, moving recommendations, the role of government and citizens
8. Social Justice & Advocacy: Defining social justice, acknowledging values (cultural, social, family, etc.), advocacy and other drivers of social change, using the political process
9. Philanthropy: Participatory grantmaking, power of individual philanthropy, learning about nonprofits working in the region to address issues that also concern the young women

To signal that your organization would like to be considered as the community partner for this unique opportunity, please check off each of the sections under the Factors for Potential Community Partner to Consider by July 30, 2024, submit a proposed one-year budget for running the program and any additional marketing materials that you would like us to consider. There will not be a formal grant application process; instead the WFSC will invite finalists to a Request for Conversation (RFC) modeled after the Boston Women's Fund to further explore fit and partnership.

The chosen partner will be expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to receive the grant funds. We expect to notify all potential partners of the outcome in August. To submit this form and additional materials, please email them as attachments to Executive Director, Christine Monska at cmonska@womensfundsouthcoast.org. Please reach out to her with any questions.

Additional space is provided here for any comments/concern: