



## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

18 Degrees Family Services for Western Massachusetts is excited to partner with the Women's Fund of Western Mass to lead the Young Women's Initiative (YWI), a national project aimed at creating prosperity for young women, particularly young women of color who are residents of Springfield, MA.

18 Degrees is where the sun stands in the sky at the first sign of daybreak - although it's just out of sight below the horizon, the first light lets us know that a new day is coming. The story behind 18 Degrees is where new beginnings come to light and we are offering an opportunity for young women to shine!

Over nine months, the Young Women's Advisory Council (YWAC), which consists of up to 20 young women, ages 14-24, and the YWI Steering Committee, will work on a project. The YWAC members with a leadership development program and mentoring relationships with adult Steering Committee members, will investigate barriers, explore solutions, and make recommendations for change in their community. They will participate in groups, meet community leaders and develop their advocacy skills while being a part of the YWI Springfield Partnership. YWAC members will be encouraged to share their knowledge with school and peer communities by launching clubs or hosting workshops. The young women's participation in experiential learning and leadership development will create a roadmap for their futures and encourage their positive influence across the Springfield community.

### PROGRAM STRUCTURE & TIME COMMITMENT

Accepted YWAC members serve a one-year term. Members will meet two to three times per month between October 2019 and June 2020.

### ELIGIBILITY

18 Degrees seeks bright, self-motivated, and collaborative young women with an interest in community leadership and demonstrated personal achievement.

Requirements:

- Must be a resident of Springfield, MA. Young women who do not currently live in the community (due to enrollment at college, etc.) may apply if they have lived a minimum of 5 years in Springfield and can commit to attending bi-weekly meetings between October 2019 and June 2020.
- 14-24 years old as of October 2019.

### TO APPLY

Please send application materials including application form, essay, resume, recommendations, any supporting documents to [ssteed@18degreesma.org](mailto:ssteed@18degreesma.org) by Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Steed at 413-584-5690, x110 or [ssteed@18degreesma.org](mailto:ssteed@18degreesma.org).



APPLICATION

APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

- Completed application (required)
- Essay (required – 500 words or less)
- One recommendation and interview (required)
- Resume (optional)
- Supporting materials including news articles, citations, awards, or video (optional)
- Please send application materials including application form, essay, resume, recommendations, any supporting materials to [ssteed@18degreesma.org](mailto:ssteed@18degreesma.org) by Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

PERSONAL INFORMATION

First name	Last name
Primary phone	Email
Address	
Education level/Current Grade	Current School (if applicable)

ANTICIPATED COMMITMENTS

Please list any co-curricular activities (volunteerism, sports, etc.) & work/job commitments that you plan to be involved during 2019/2020.

co-curricular activities	work/job commitments

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (OPTIONAL):

Birthday (MM/DD/YY)	Race/Ethnicity
Gender Identity	Sexual orientation
Marital Status	Are you a parent to a child under 18 years old
Primary spoken language	Other languages (include fluency level)



How did you hear about the Young Women's Initiative? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your family's combined annual household income? \_\_\_\_\_

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**RECOMMENDATION (REQUIRED):**

Please attach one letter of recommendation from a community member, teacher, supervisor or mentor. What is your relationship to the person who is recommending you? \_\_\_\_\_  
How long have you known this person? \_\_\_\_\_

**ESSAY (REQUIRED):**

Please write a brief autobiographical essay. Please be sure to include the following topics:

- Your background.
- Why you want to serve on the YWAC.
- Your vision for your future.
- The skills and attributes you bring to the YWAC learning community.

**VIDEO (OPTIONAL):**

Along with your completed application, you may wish to send a short video.

- Videos should not exceed 30 seconds in length.
- Videos may be shot using mobile phones – no need for professional format.
- Accepted formats: WMV, MOV, or MPEG.

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**SIGNATURE (REQUIRED):**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (printed name of applicant), understand that the YWAC is a learning community of young women committed to social change. I understand and agree with the importance of teamwork and cooperation. I honor the YWAC community by accurately and truthfully representing myself and my information in this application, and by agreeing to attend all meetings.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature, Date

**Parent/Guardian permission (required for participants under 18 years old):**

I hereby give my child permission to apply for selection to YWAC:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of parent/guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature, Date