



Arise for Social Justice

Young Women's Initiative Greater Springfield Partnership
Young Women's Advisory Council (YWAC)



WOMEN'S FUND
WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

ABOUT THE YOUNG WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

<https://www.mywomensfund.org/young-womens-initiative/>

The Young Women's Initiative (YWI) is a national project aimed at creating prosperity for young women, particularly young women of color. The Greater Springfield Partnership is one of nine participating locales in this national initiative. The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts (WFWM) partners with Arise for Social Justice to run the Springfield, MA program. Arise for Social Justice, who will select participants and facilitate sessions, is a grassroots organization with a history of organizing and producing change. The YWI Springfield Partnership is unique because it seeks to empower young women as leaders and mobilize those closest to the disparities to inform necessary systemic change. Entering its sixth year, YWI has graduated over 80 young women who have gone on to pursue higher education and careers in various fields including public policy, nonprofit management, entrepreneurship, and community engagement.

YOUNG WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (YWAC)

The YWAC consists of up to 20 Black, Indigenous, and other people of color who are women-identifying, trans, or gender diverse young leaders ages 16-24 with current residence or origin in Springfield, Chicopee, or Holyoke. Through this leadership development and social justice focused program, these young leaders will investigate barriers, explore solutions, and make recommendations for change in their community. Participants will hone their own leadership skills and learn more about how to harness personal interests into activism and community engagement. We may seek insight from YWAC members that will be used to inform WFWM programming, research pursuits, and future outreach efforts. Cohort members will also have an opportunity to network with local women professionals, legislators, and community organizers.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE & TIME COMMITMENT

Accepted YWAC members serve a one-year term. Members will meet two to three times per month between February 2022 and June 2022 on Tuesdays from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Meetings will begin virtually via Zoom. There will be one in-person field trip and some possible in-person or hybrid sessions. Participants are led through sessions on topics including identity and socialization; power, privilege, and oppression; civic engagement and legislative organizing; organizing and campaign planning; and movement building. Participants will receive a stipend for attending sessions.

Cohort members will also be eligible to participate on the YWAC Grantmaking Committee, which is comprised of current members and alumnae. YWAC disperses grants annually to Greater Springfield-serving organizations. Members of this committee will select grant recipients for the coming year. More information on this opportunity is forthcoming.

ELIGIBILITY

WFWM and Arise seek bright, self-motivated, and collaborative-natured women-identified young people with an interest in/history of community leadership, social justice, professional development, advocacy, and activism.



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Potential participants must be:

- A current resident of Springfield, Chicopee, or Holyoke, Mass:
 - Young women who do not currently live in the community, due to enrollment in college, for example, may apply for consideration if they have lived a minimum of five years in Springfield, Chicopee, or Holyoke and can commit to attending meetings regularly.
 - Those who do not have origins in Springfield, Chicopee, or Holyoke (i.e., born and/or raised in one of these cities) and are either attending college or working in one of these cities must be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of the region and a commitment to pursuing advocacy opportunities in this community.
- 16-24 years old as of October 2022.

TO APPLY

Please send application materials including application form and any supporting documentation to Tanisha Arena, Executive Director of Arise for Social Change, at tanisha@arisespringfield.org by Friday, October 7, 2022.

For more information on the program, please contact Nicole Young-Martin, WFWM's Community Investments Manager, at nyoung@mywomensfund.org.

2022 – 2023 YWI Session Schedule Tuesdays from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

- October 25
- November 15
- December 6
- January 10
- January 25 – Career Conversations (a virtual networking event with local women professionals and community leaders of color hosted by the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts)
- February 7
- February 28
- March 7
- March 21
- April 11
- April 17 – 21: One-day field trip to the Massachusetts State House (one of these dates will be chosen for the field trip)
- May 9
- May 16
- May 30: End-of-Year Celebration/Commencement (in-person event)



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APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

- Completed application (required)
- Essay (required – 500 words or less)
- One letter of recommendation (optional)
- Resume (optional)
- Supporting materials including news articles, citations, awards, or video (optional)

Name: _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Birthday (MM/DD/YY): _____

Current School (if applicable): _____

Education Level: _____

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

RECOMMENDATION (OPTIONAL):

Please attach one letter of recommendation from a community member, teacher, or mentor. What is your relationship to the person who is recommending you? _____

How long have you known this person? _____

ESSAY (REQUIRED):

Tell us more about yourself. (500 words or less). Please respond to the following questions either in writing (an essay of 500 words or less) or in a video.

- Videos should not exceed 2 minutes in length
- Videos may be shot using mobile phones – no need for professional format
- Accepted formats: WMV, MOV, or MPEG

1. Your background.
2. Why is social justice important to you.
3. Why you want to participate in YWI.
4. Your vision for your future.
5. The skills and attributes you bring to the YWAC learning community



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DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (REQUIRED):

Race/Ethnicity: _____

Sexual orientation: _____

Gender Identity: _____

Marital Status: _____

Do you have children under 18 years old living at home? YES NO

What is your family's combined annual household income (select one):
 Below \$20,000 \$21,000-\$45,000 \$46,000-\$69,999 Over \$70,000

Primary spoken language: _____

Other languages (include fluency level): _____

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, cooperation, and respecting differences. If selected, 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:

Print name of parent/guardian: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature Date