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[18DEGREESMA.ORG](http://18DEGREESMA.ORG)

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Young Women's Initiative (YWI) is a national project creating prosperity for young women, particularly Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). 18 Degrees, Family Services for Western Massachusetts, is excited to partner with the Women's Fund of Western Mass to bring the program to 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!

Up to twenty young women, ages 16-24, will make up the Young Women's Advisory Council (YWAC). Over eight months, they will strategize efforts to encourage a safe, healthy, and economically prosperous community with gender and racial equity. The YWAC members will investigate barriers, explore solutions, and make recommendations for change in their community. They will participate in groups and develop their advocacy skills while being a part of the YWI National partnership. YWAC members' 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, both virtually and in-person, between October 2021 and May 2022.

**We hope to hold several YWAC meetings in person. To do so, staff and YWAC members will need to practice the applicable protocols established by 18 Degrees, per CDC and state guidelines, including wearing masks, physical distancing, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.**

Although we will not ask for confirmation, we strongly encourage YWAC members to be vaccinated.

## ELIGIBILITY

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

- 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 meetings between October 2021 and May 2022.
- 16-24 years old by the time of application.



## **TO APPLY**

Please send application materials, including the application form, resume, recommendations, any supporting documents, to [ssteed@18degreesma.org](mailto:ssteed@18degreesma.org) by FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

For more information, please call or text **Meleah White at 413-344-3721** or visit us at [18degreesma.org](http://18degreesma.org).

# YOUNG WOMAN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL APPLICATION

## 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 you plan to be involved in during 2021-2022.

co-curricular activities	work/job commitments

## DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

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 (OPTIONAL):**

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? \_\_\_\_\_

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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):**

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