



Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota  
Investing in the Field to Advance the *Blueprint for Action*  
Request for Proposals and Grant Application

\*\* APPLICATION DEADLINE \*\*

January 12, 2018– 5 p.m.

[Register here to access the web portal & start your application](#)

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### What is the Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota?

The Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota (YWI MN) is a statewide initiative **to create a Minnesota where every girl thrives and is the champion of her own life**. YWI MN is a public-private partnership between the Women's Foundation of Minnesota (WFMN) and the Governor's Office of the State of Minnesota. Launched in October 2016, YWI MN is driven by a powerful cross-sector partnership of government, businesses, nonprofits, philanthropies, and young women to build and ensure equity in outcomes for all young women in the state. Our definition of young woman is anyone who identifies as a woman, inclusive of cisgender, transgender, gender non-conforming, and gender non-binary people, between the ages of 12-24.

### What is the *Blueprint for Action*?

The YWI MN was designed by the Women's Foundation with young women at the center and as key drivers of the work. To ground YWI MN in the lived experiences of young women and the community-specific challenges and solutions they identified, WFMN held [Listening Sessions](#) and commissioned a community action research process focused on young women from eight communities that experience the greatest disparities in outcomes in our state: African American, African Immigrant, American Indian, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Latina, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer), young women with disabilities, and young women in Greater Minnesota.

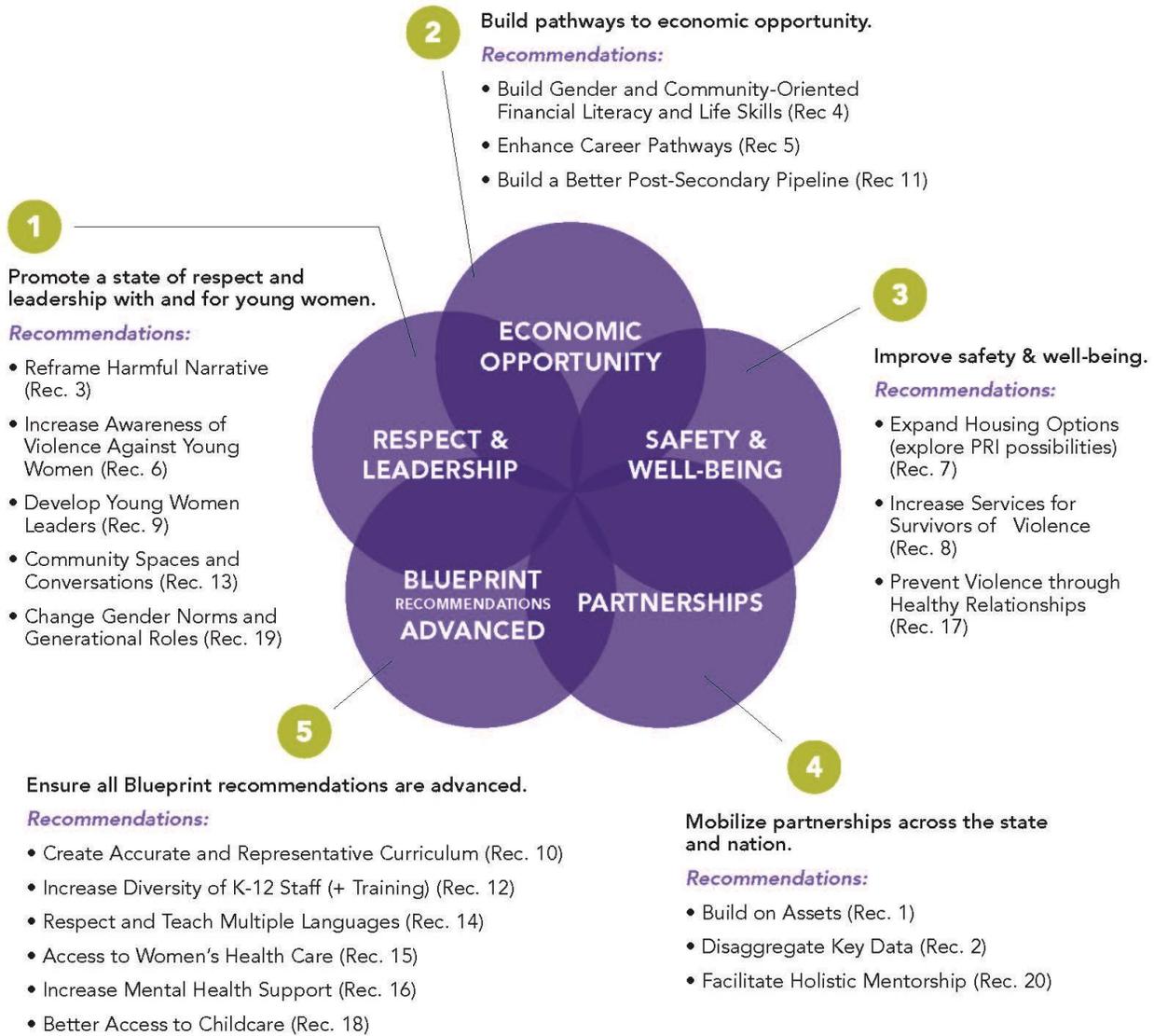
Learnings from the action research engagement yielded fresh and innovative approaches to issues of inequity, which became the [Blueprint for Action](#). The [Blueprint for Action](#) will drive targeted and cross-sector solutions tailored specifically to young women who, data show, face the biggest barriers. See page 2 for the *Blueprint for Action* recommendations, aligned with five key goals.

### Investing in the Field to Advance the *Blueprint for Action*

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota invests in organizations, leaders, and the movement to create the conditions for women and girls to thrive. In the first phase of YWI MN investments, WFMN is investing more than half-a-million dollars to move specific *Blueprint for Action* recommendations forward (see p. 3.) **This Request for Proposals invites front-line organizations working in the intersecting areas of economic opportunity, safety, respect, and leadership on behalf of and with young women to apply for one-time grants of up to \$25,000 in general operating support.** Additionally, YWI MN grantee-

partners will be part of a yearlong learning cohort that will participate in quarterly facilitated meetings and serve as partners of the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota as we move the recommendations from the [Blueprint for Action](#) forward.

**5 Key Goals – Moving the *Blueprint for Action* Recommendations Forward:**



[See full \*Blueprint for Action\* here.](#)

## Young Women’s Initiative Community Investments—Phase One

\$ Invested	YWI Goals	Recommendations	Outcomes
\$350,000	Build pathways to economic opportunity.	<b>Recommendation 5:</b> Ensure young women have opportunities and pathways to high-skill, high-wage careers and jobs; increase participation in stem field and technical careers; and increase opportunities and pay for young women in female-dominated employment sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in understanding of the key barriers and opportunities that impact young women's economic security</li> <li>• Increase in the strategies to eliminate those barriers and increase opportunities</li> <li>• Increase in young women enrolling in post-secondary education</li> <li>• Increase in young women attending post-secondary education</li> <li>• Increase in young women accessing internships or apprenticeships.</li> </ul>
	Improve safety and well-being.	<b>Recommendation 17:</b> Educate young women and men about healthy relationships, harmful narratives and norms, and promoting positive self-identities to reduce violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in young people’s understanding of, intention to be in, and engagement in healthy relationships built on mutual respect</li> <li>• Increase in the number of young people engaging in healthy relationships</li> <li>• Increase in the number of young women thriving by setting healthy boundaries in relationships with peers, partners, and others</li> <li>• Increase in strategies to reduce violence against young women result in reduced exploitation, bullying and violence.</li> </ul>
\$215,000	Promote a state of respect and leadership with and for young women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recommendation 9:</b> Develop the capacity of young women for political and civic leadership</li> <li>• <b>Recommendation 19:</b> Ensure social norms are expanded beyond traditional gender roles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in young women’s understanding of leadership skills</li> <li>• Increase in young women’s social capital and civic engagement</li> <li>• Increase in young women’s voice, sense of agency and power.</li> </ul>
\$50,000	Mobilize partnerships across the state and nation.	<b>Recommendation 1:</b> Conduct a thorough environmental scan across the state to identify existing efforts to support young women in Minnesota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop memo or report identifying existing programs, efforts and supports that currently serve young women is produced.</li> <li>• Identification of programs and efforts that support young women is completed.</li> <li>• Increase in cross-departmental strategic planning and collaboration results in more coordinated and effective support for young women.</li> </ul>
Total Investment: \$615,000			

Funding Underway

### Grant Information & Timeline

Grants are a one-time investment of up to \$25,000 in general operating support to a cohort of 12 organizations serving young women and girls, ages 12-24.

Please note that you must submit your application online. To do so, [please register to access the web portal](#). Your registration will prompt an authentication on our end which should take no more than one business day to complete. Please note: Internet Explorer users often run into issues with the portal, so it is best to use Google Chrome or Firefox as your browser. If you have any questions, Jasmine Sánchez, program officer and grants manager, at [jasmine@wfmn.org](mailto:jasmine@wfmn.org).

### Grant Cycle:

March 15, 2018 through February 28, 2019

The YWI MN grantmaking process engages members of the Young Women’s Cabinet and WFMN staff as members of the YWI MN Grantmaking Committee. The Committee reviews the grant proposals and recommends awards for groups that best represent the mission, goals, and values of the Foundation and YWI MN.

### 2017 Application and Process Timeline

<u>Action</u>	<u>Date</u>
Online application available for organizations	November 14, 2017
Grant information webinar at 3 p.m.— <a href="#">register here</a>	November 28, 2017
Proposals due by 5 p.m.	January 12, 2018
Applicants selected for a site visit will be notified.	February 7, 2018
Site visits will be conducted for applicants still under consideration. Site visits will be conducted in person at the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota office with the YWI MN Fund Grantmaking Committee. Please hold this date.	<b>February 19, 2018</b>
Grant award and declination letters sent to applicants.	March 1, 2018

### **Funding Criteria & Eligibility**

- Programs must operate in Minnesota and serve young women in Minnesota.
- Organizations will only be considered if they serve young women from the following communities: African American, African Immigrant, American Indian, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Latina, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer), young women with disabilities, and young women in Greater Minnesota.
- Organizations must work in at least two of the intersecting areas of economic opportunity, safety, respect/ leadership to advance solutions on behalf of and *with* young women.
- Organizations must demonstrate that young women are centered in programming—including planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Organizations must have programs that serve young women between 12 and 24 years of age.

### **Eligible programs include:**

- Nonprofit tax-exempt organizations and schools that operate programs in Minnesota.
- Unincorporated organizations with a tax-exempt fiscal sponsor.
- American Indian Nations.

### **The following activities or groups are NOT eligible for YWI *Blueprint for Action* funds:**

- Scholarships to attend college, university, technical or certificate programs.
- Projects within religious institutions that do not align with the mission and values of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota.
- Retroactive support of projects or activities.
- Fundraising events.
- Individuals.
- Organizations that may be deemed as discriminatory on the basis of race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, physical or mental ability, veteran status, military obligation, and marital status.
- An organization that limits or opposes a woman's right to self-determination.
- Reduction of an operating deficit or to liquidate existing debt.

### **Learning & Evaluation**

YWI MN grantee-partners will be part of a yearlong learning cohort that will participate in quarterly facilitated meetings and serve as partners of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota as we collectively move the recommendations from the [Blueprint for Action](#) forward. This learning will include an evaluation process of surveys, focus groups, and interviews.

Please note that you must submit your application online. To do so, [please register to access the web portal](#). Your registration will prompt an authentication on our end which should take no more than one business day to complete. Please note: Internet Explorer users often run into issues with the portal, so it is best to use Google Chrome or Firefox as your browser. If you have any questions, Jasmine Sánchez, program officer and grants manager, at [jasmine@wfmn.org](mailto:jasmine@wfmn.org).

## YWI Grant Application

**\*\* APPLICATION DEADLINE \*\***  
January 12, 2018– 5 p.m.  
Online submission

### Organizational Information

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Name of Organization:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Website:

Contact Person (include title):

Contact Person’s Telephone Number:

Email:

Federal Taxpayer Identification Number (if applicable):

Do you have 501 (c) (3) status?      Yes                  No

If no, please provide information about your Fiscal Sponsor:

Name of Fiscal Sponsor and Contact Information for Executive Director:

Fiscal Sponsor’s Mailing Address:

Current Organizational Budget: \$

Amount of this request: \$

Total dollars and number of WFMN grants you have received: \$

### Proposal Description

Maximum of 5,000 characters (including spaces) for EACH question through online submission.

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1. Describe your organization’s mission, goals, major programs, and participants.
2. Describe the young women who work with your organization, including age, geographic location, race/ethnicity, and socioeconomic background.
3. Describe your programs that are working at the intersections of economic opportunity, safety, and leadership on behalf of and with young women to advance *Blueprint for Action* recommendations 5 and 17 (see full recommendations [here](#).)
4. Describe the outcomes you anticipate during a one-year grant period and how you would measure success. Please see outcomes defined in *Young Women’s Initiative Community Investments—Phase One* table on p. 2.

5. How do you use an intersectional equity lens in your work? (In what ways do you consider the gender, race, place, ability, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status of the people you serve and how do your programs reflect that consideration?)

YWI MN grantee-partners will be part of a yearlong learning cohort that will participate in quarterly facilitated meetings and serve as partners of the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota as we collectively move forward the recommendations from the [Blueprint for Action](#).

### Cohort

Maximum of 2,000 characters (including spaces) for EACH question through online submission.

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6. What distinct contribution will your organization bring to a learning cohort as it relates to the Young Women’s Initiative of Minnesota?
7. Which staff member will be representing your organization in the learning cohort? Please include a brief bio

### Application Checklist

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Please complete and/or attach the following:

- Grant application on our online portal.
- Current year organizational budget and year-to-date income and expense statement.
- Signed W-9 form for the organization or fiscal agent.
- Copy of most recent audited financial statement or IRS Form 990.
- IRS Determination letter.
- If you have a fiscal sponsor, copy of signed Fiscal Sponsor Agreement.
- List of current board members, which **MUST** include gender and race/ethnicity of your board of directors or governing body.

### Questions & Assistance

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Throughout the application process, please contact us with questions or if you need assistance.

- Content — Lulete Mola, Director of Community Impact, at 612-236-1829 (direct) or [Lulete@wfmn.org](mailto:Lulete@wfmn.org)
- Technical Assistance — Jasmine Sánchez, Program Officer & Grants Manager, at 612-236-1856 (direct) or [Jasmine@wfmn.org](mailto:Jasmine@wfmn.org)

Women's Foundation of Minnesota  
Diversity Survey

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The Women's Foundation of Minnesota values diversity and leadership by women and girls. We want to understand the level of involvement of women and girls in your organization. Specifically, we are interested to know how your programs engage low-income girls, girls of color, girls who live in Greater Minnesota, and other girls experiencing the greatest disparities in outcomes. Please complete this chart with as much information as you can provide. Thank you for your cooperation.

<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY ORGANIZATION (#)</b>			
<b>GENDER IDENTITY (#)</b>		<b>WHERE DO PARTICIPANTS LIVE?</b>	
Female		American Indian Nation	
Male		(Please identify)	
Transgender		Greater Minnesota	
Prefer Not to Identify		Twin Cities Suburban	
Gender Nonconforming		Twin Cities Urban	
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY (#)</b>		<b>OTHER CHARACTERISTICS (More than one may apply)</b>	
American Indian or Alaska Native		Immigrant or Refugee	
Asian or Pacific Islander		Disabled	
Black or African American		LGBTQ	
Hispanic or Latina/o		Veteran	
White		<b>AGE GROUP AT START OF PROGRAM (#)</b>	
Multiracial		Under 11	
Unknown		12-18	
		19-24	
<b>INCOME LEVEL (#)</b>			
Poverty or Below		Middle Income	
Low Income		High Income	

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