



An unprecedented alliance to address the challenges girls face in the crucial middle-school transition years.
Our work is funded through the generous support of the *Fred Harris Daniels Foundation*

MISSION:

The mission of the Investing in Girls Alliance is to improve services for middle school girls in central Massachusetts through research, education, advocacy, and collaboration.

VISION:

The ultimate vision of the Investing in Girls Alliance is that all girls grow up to be happy, healthy, and productive.

WHAT WE DO: Investing in Girls has three **priority areas** to impact girls' wellbeing:

Physical, Mental and Sexual Health are core to girls' wellbeing and good health provides the foundation for girls' achievements throughout their lifetime.

Education and Economic Empowerment give girls the tools and opportunities they need to be in charge of their lives and actively engage in their families and communities.

Safety and Freedom from Violence where girls grow, learn, work, and play is essential to girls' success.

IIGA WORKS IN FOUR KEY STRATEGIES

- Data and Research** to effectively measure the wellbeing of local girls and understand their current and emerging needs
- Public Education** to raise community awareness of the unique needs, assets, and challenges of middle school-aged girls
- Promoting Best Practices** through networked training and peer sharing
- Advocacy** to secure gender equitable policies and sufficient resources for girls by aligning with like partners across the state including the MA Commissions on the Status of Women and Girls

IIGA KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Providing gender specific data on girls aged 10-14 to youth serving organizations, funders, policy makers and the whole community since 2007
- Building capacity through ongoing training and educational events on gender responsive programs, practices and policies that meet the needs of middle school-aged girls
- Convening community partners locally and across the state to strengthen our collective voices in support of girls - our statewide gathering has been the "go to" place for this work across the state since 2013
- Bringing together policy makers, girl-serving organizations, youth workers and girls to increase investment in girls through government allocation and philanthropy
- Developing and leading workshops for girls serving program and organizational leaders on the research based Helping Girls Thrive Benchmarks. A practical workbook is provided to all attendees to integrate our benchmarks into their program activities and organizational cultures.

BENEFITS OF IIGA MEMBERSHIP

- Engage in ongoing assessment of the wellbeing of girls in central MA and beyond
- Join your voice with others raising the importance of investing and supporting girls in our community and impact policy, programs, and services for girls
- Learn about gender responsive best practices and policies
- Participate in learning how to utilize our Helping Girls Thrive Benchmarks for program development, assessment, and evaluation
- Access to professional development on best practices for staff

INVESTING IN GIRLS ALLIANCE welcomes anyone who is passionate about supporting middle school aged girls to our public education events and our annual statewide gathering. We hold monthly Alliance Meetings with leadership representatives from our member organizations.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- [Visit us virtually](#)
- Like and follow us on Facebook
- Attend Alliance events and trainings
- Participate in our working group

INVESTING IN GIRLS ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP

Tri-Chairs: Deborah Hall, YWCA Central MA
Pattie Hallberg, Girl Scouts of Central and Western MA
Victoria Waterman, Girls Incorporated of Worcester

CURRENT MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE

AAUW
Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Boys & Girls Club Worcester
Edwards Street Child Services
Fred Harris Daniels Foundation
Girl Scouts of Central and Western MA
Girls Inc. of Worcester
Latino Education Institute
Living in Freedom Together (LIFT)
MassEDCO
MetroWest Women's Fund
Nativity School

Notre Dame Academy
Planned Parenthood League of MA
Seven Hills/YOU Inc.
Southeast Asian Coalition
United Way of Central MA
United Way Women's Initiative
WICN Public Radio
Worcester Commission on the Status of Women
Worcester Division of Youth Opportunities
Worcester Public Schools
YouthConnect
YWCA of Central MA
And over 300 local community members



To find out more contact:

Mary McRae
mrypmc@gmail.com