INVESTING IN GIRLS ALLIANCE

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 four **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

Civic Engagement how girls lift their voices and act to influence the policies and powers that impact them

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 polices 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
- 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 culture

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
Theresa Lynn , Girl Scouts of Central and Western MA
Tiffany Lillie, Girls Inc of Worcester

To find out more contact:
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CURRENT MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE

508 C.H.E.E.R.S.
Attorney General's Office (Central MA)
AAUW
Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Boys & Girls Club Worcester
Center for Health Impact
Fred Harris Daniels Foundation
Girl Scouts of Central and Western MA
Girls Inc. of Worcester
Girls on the Run
Latino Education Institute
MA Girls in Trades
MA & Worcester County Commissions on the Status of Women
MA Women of Color Coalition
Metrowest Women's Fund
MSPCC
Nativity School
Planned Parenthood League
Rise Above
Safe Exit
Sahiyo
Seven Hills/YOU Inc.
Southeast Asian Coalition
United Way of Central MA
United Way Women's Initiative
Vanessa T. Marcotte Foundation
Whitin Community Center
Worcester Children's Chorus
Worcester Jewish Community Center
Worcester Division of Public Health
Worcester Division of Youth Opportunities
Worcester Police Department
Worcester Public Schools
YouthConnect
YWCA of Central MA
And over 300 local community members

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