**Information for Partners**

**YW Boston’s Youth Leadership InItiative**

Information for Class of 2016 – 2017 Partner Schools and Organizations

**Purpose & Benefits**

YW Boston’s Youth Leadership Initiative (InIt) is a selective, **ten-month teen development program** that teaches leadership skills and ignites a passion in high school students to create socially responsible communities. The program, administered by YW Boston staff and professionally-trained adult volunteers, introduces teens to peers from different racial, religious, socio-economic, and geographic backgrounds tobuild them into a network of student leaders who can affect change.

Thegoals of the InIt program are to build students’ abilities to work across differences, and to have them **design, implement, and engage other teens in community action projects**. These projects create opportunities for learning and promote equity in their schools or communities.

InIt is nationally recognized for its best practices in **cultivating social and emotional learning skills** such as teamwork, empathy, emotion management, responsibility, initiative, and problem solving in its participants. These life skills have been identified as essential for youngpeople to thrive in college and in today’s workforce.

Benefits for student participants

InIt alumni have **higher high school graduation rates and enrollments to four-year colleges** (88%) than their peers. The program builds students’ college admissions profiles, aiding them in pursuit of scholarships.

InIt creates **socially responsible leaders**: By graduation, 71% of delegates know what they can do to help make their community a better place.

Benefits for partners

The program can serve as a foundation for a school’s or organization’s growing **commitment to community service and student leadership development**, or as a complement to existing programs.

Delegates create **school-wide opportunities for learning and dialogue** through club meetings, facilitated workshops, and assemblies. Last year’s InIt class reached a total of 600 other students through their community action projects.

Since the first graduating class in 1986, over 1,000 InIt alumni have gone on to transform their schools, communities, employers, and civic organizations into **more socially responsible institutions**.

**Program Structure**

The InIt Class of 2016 – 2017 will be comprised of delegations of students from schools and other youth-serving organizations across Greater Boston. Programming will run from August 2016 through May 2017 and will include:

A five-day overnight retreat to deepen students’ understanding of systems of inequities and their personal identities through “Real Talk” on social justice issues.

Immersion Week

(July 2016)

Interactive workshops and community service projects to enhance students’ skills and deepen their understanding of how social justice issues affect their communities. Saturday Program Days occur one Saturday per month and incorporate:

Saturday Program Days

(September 2016 - April 2017)

* + - * + **Community learning.** Together, students examinethe impact of race, gender, and class on health, education, and safety.
				+ **Leadership development.** Activities are designed to develop students’ leadership skills.
				+ **Community service.** Students contribute volunteer hours to advocacy organizations, homeless shelters, food banks, and farms.
				+ **Social and Emotional Learning.** Activities call upon students to develop their self-awareness, critical thinking, listening and dialogue skills.
				+ **Workplace skills development.** Self-guided work builds students’ time management, goal setting, planning, and public speaking abilities.

Action projects designed and led by students, that engage their peers in addressing social inequities in their school or community. Students receive coaching and support from InIt staff through biweekly meetings at their schools.

Community Action Projects

**Partner Responsibilities**

Successful student participation in InIt relies on a strong collaboration between InIt staff and the schools or organizations that send student delegates. **Partner responsibilities include**:

1. Identify young people from your school or organization to apply for InIt. To maximize the program’s benefits for both students and communities, **InIt seeks to enroll delegations of 3-5 students from each partnering organization**. Successful InIt students have leadership potential, an interest in improving their school or community, openness to connecting with people from different backgrounds, and time to commit to all program activities.
2. Select an adult advisor to serve as the primary contact for your delegates and InIt staff.
3. Finance delegates’ tuition, if applicable, as per the fee structure on page 3.

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**Tuition**

**In order to keep the InIt program financially viable, we count on partner organizations and families to contribute at the suggested levels**. Tuition contributions cover only a portion of the total cost of $5,500 per student, which includes accommodations and meals during the overnight retreat, monthly program days, and bi-weekly coaching and support throughout the academic year.

Expected partner contribution for a delegation

Public or charter school in Boston: $0

Public or charter school outside Boston: $1,500 total

Private school: $4,500 total

Community-based organization: $0

Other/private organization:$4,500 total

Expected family contribution

Annual household income less than $47,000 $50

Annual household income $47,001 - $70,000 $200

Annual household income $70,001 - $94,000 $500

Annual household more than $94,001 $1,000

**Financial hardship does not preclude student participation in the InIt program**. If families are unable to pay tuition and your organization cannot cover the costs, payment plans can be discussed.

**Application Process**

Applications may be completed online at [www.ywboston.org/init](http://www.ywboston.org/init), or submitted by:

**Mail:** Daniela Gonzalez-Jatar, YWCA Boston, 140 Clarendon Street, Boston, MA 02116

**Email:** dgonzalez-jatar@ywboston.org

**Fax:** Attn: Daniela Gonzalez-Jatar, YWCA Boston, 617-585-5499

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis beginning in January 2016 and qualified students will be interviewed beginning in March. Applications will be accepted until all slots are filled. If more than five students from a single school or organization apply, all qualified candidates will be interviewed and up to five will be selected to form a delegation. Any additional candidates will be put on a waiting list.

**If you or potential applicants have any questions, please contact**: Daniela Gonzalez-Jatar, InIt Recruiter, at 617-585-5462 or dgonzalez-jatar@ywboston.org.

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**Other Programming**

Based on demand from both InIt delegates and partners, the **InIt program will now be offering workshops and assemblies to classrooms and schools**. Through interactive, experiential-based activities, this programming will:

* Provide an opportunity for facilitated dialogue about challenging topics
* Raise awareness and increase knowledge about a particular social justice topic
* Create a culture of inclusion and open, honest conversation about social justice issues

The InIt program holds ten workshops each year. **Five workshop slots are available on a first come, first served basis free of charge for current InIt partners**. Current InIt partners are those schools or organizations that are currently sending a delegation or that have sent a delegation in two of the past three years. **The remaining five slots are available for a fee**, as detailed below.

Availability and Cost

**Length <25 students >25 students**

2 hours $500 $750

2-4 hours $1,000 $1,250

4-8 hours $1,500 $1,750

**Social Justice 101**
Introduces general concepts of social justice and socially responsible leadership, including an overview of “isms”; the Cycles of Socialization and Liberation; and the 4 “I’s” - how inequities are reinforced at internal, interpersonal, institutional, and ideological levels.

Example
Offerings

**Healthy Relationships**Gives students an opportunity to learn and discuss core elements of healthy relationships in their personal, academic, and professional lives; examines communication behaviors that perpetuate power and control vs. those that promote equality and respect; includes strategies for dealing with conflict and communicating effectively.

**Race**

Explores the power of racial stereotypes and the ways in which they are used to put people down within and across racial categories; illustrates how race is a social construct that has real implications for how people are treated and the opportunities they are afforded; defines the difference between individual biases and racism as a system that includes both prejudice and power.

A more comprehensive list of workshop topics can be found at www.ywboston.org/init/workshops.
The depth and breadth of the workshops will vary based on the number of participants and time allotted. Content can be tailored to meet a group’s specific needs. **For more information**, **contact**: Daniela Gonzalez-Jatar, InIt Recruiter, at 617-585-5462 or dgonzalez-jatar@ywboston.org.

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