

WOMEN INFLUENCING SYSTEMS & HISTORY

WISH: AN ADVOCACY TRAINING PROGRAM



WISH will prepare you to become an advocate in your own community. Our eight-week program provides:

- in-depth **advocacy training**
- skill development in **public speaking**
- training in **understanding the policy process**
- **connections to policy** campaigns in New York and beyond

WISH PARTICIPANTS SAY:

"The WISH program gave me an opportunity to...reflect on my experiences with women with similar life experiences...[It] taught me that sharing my experiences can only free me from my chains."

"The training provided me [with the skills] to be comfortable with community organizing and created a safe space for individuals to strengthen their weaknesses."

Questions? Contact Ivelisse Gilestra: igilestra@collegeandcommunity.org

CCF offices: 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1626 | NY NY 10115



College &
Community
Fellowship



WomenInfluencingSystemsandHistory



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Who is eligible?

WISH is open to women who:

- Have felt the impact of the criminal justice system
- Live in the New York metropolitan area
- Want to advocate for meaningful criminal justice reform
- Are motivated to learn about the policy process and how to influence legislation
- Want to become a leader for positive social change in their community



What are the requirements?

- Attend eight-week program to the best of their ability (missed classes acceptable on a case-by-case basis)
- Attend one office hour session with facilitation staff
- Attend one field activity and one skills workshop
- Present an oral advocacy narrative at the final session
- Submit a written reflection within 30 days of final session

Workshop and field activity options (must attend one of each)

FIELD ACTIVITIES

Below are field activity criteria. We will provide participants with a list of acceptable activities at the first session.

A coalition, community, or member meeting of an advocacy organization, such as:

- JLUSA member meetings
- VOCAL-NY union meetings
- RAPP Coalition meetings
- Beyond Rosie's 2020 planning meetings

A direct action, such as:

- Rally, protest, or demonstration organized by a partner organization

A government meeting, such as:

- City council hearing
- Public forum
- Roundtable events with city officials

WORKSHOPS

- April 5: Learning about Housing & Homelessness
- April 9th: Learning to Read and Understand Legislation

You will receive:

- MetroCards for each required activity and all eight sessions
- \$300 program completion award
- Certificate of Completion
- Meals at every session

Key Dates:

- Application open Jan 30-Feb 18
- Sessions each Tuesday, 6-8pm, from March 5 - April 23

WISH Session Topics

Welcome to WISH

- Getting to know each other
- Introduction to policy advocacy

What's Advocacy?

- Advocacy through organizing, mobilizing, voter engagement, lobbying, and direct actions
- Advocacy through the arts
- Advocating with trauma in mind

Government and the Policymaking Process

- How bills become laws, and how federal budgets work
- Understanding social constructions and how they affect us

Perceptions and Policy Problems

- How people's perceptions and biases shape their understanding of policy
- Being strategic in our advocacy efforts

Storytelling for Effective and Persuasive Communication

- Using your story to advocate effectively
- Trauma-informed storytelling and practicing self-care
- Best practices for public speaking

Skills Workshop and Office Hours

- One-on-one training with CCF staff
- Two options for workshops (must attend one)

Review and Reflection

- Open discussion about your new understanding of policy advocacy and intersectionality in criminal justice reform

Sharing Oral Advocacy Narratives

- Sharing your narrative about a specific policy issue, and celebration!

