



Young Women with Bright Futures Essay Prompt

Theme: Taking A Stand

Since the YWCA Bellingham was established in 1907, it has been a voice for women and girls and a force for change. Today, the YWCA embraces a national mission of dedication to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. YWCA carries out this mission to help those who face homelessness, to help those who need additional case management support, to prepare our children to prosper in a multicultural world and by working directly to empower women in our community.

Essay Prompt: Keeping YWCA's mission in mind, in your essay, please describe a time or a situation you stood up for something you believed in. What made you make a stand and how has that changed your outlook in life?

- Essays should be a maximum of two pages, typed, double spaced, font size 12
- All applications should include the cover page below with your name, contact information (phone and email), and school.
- Essays will be evaluated by a review committee made up of YWCA staff, Board of Directors, and community members, judged for grammar, spelling, execution of the prompt and the ability to relate to YWCA's mission.
- Application deadline: February 13, 2026.
- Awardees will be notified by email/phone call by March 5, 2026, and funds will be presented at a banquet on March 28th, 2026.
- All awardees must be available to attend the banquet on March 28th, 2026.

Essays can be emailed to brightfutures@ywcabellingham.org by 5 PM on February 13th, 2026.
(Please make sure you receive an acknowledgement. If you do not receive an acknowledgment within 2 business days, please resend the essay).

Mailed essays must be postmarked by February 13th, 2026, to:
YWCA Bellingham
Bright Futures Award Committee
1026 N Forest Street
Bellingham, WA 98225



Young Women with Bright Futures Sponsorship – Application Cover Page

Application Information

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Grant Information

How did you hear about this grant?

- Website
- Email Newsletter
- Social Media
- Friend of Colleague
- Organization or school
- Other: _____

Applicant Statement

- By checking this box, I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Signature:

Date:

