



Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the HOTGIRLS Young Women's Leadership Council (YWLC), a new program funded by Advocates for Youth's Young Women of Color Initiative. Helping Our Teen Girls in Real Life Situations, Inc. (HOTGIRLS) is a volunteer-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the health of black young women and girls. The YWLC is a new nine-month training and peer health education program for black female undergraduate students (freshmen, sophomores, and juniors) enrolled at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in Atlanta. This program provides a unique opportunity for students to gain leadership experience and learn more about HIV/AIDS, women's and girls' health, racial/ethnic health disparities, and peer health education.

Today, AIDS is the #1 cause of death for black women ages 25-34 in the United States; and half of all new infections in this country occur in young people under age 25. HIV and AIDS disproportionately affect black women—especially young black women and adolescent girls residing in the Southern region of the United States. Moreover, black women comprise the majority of AIDS cases among women in Atlanta; and 85% of reported AIDS cases from 1983-2001 among black heterosexual youth ages 13-19 years old in Georgia occurred among black girls. In addition, rates of HIV/AIDS are increasing at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the southeastern United States. As black young women and girls continue to be unequally burdened by this epidemic, it is critical that young black women take action to prevent HIV transmission and increase awareness about HIV/AIDS.

Since our inception in 2001, HOTGIRLS has been committed to designing and implementing innovative initiatives to raise awareness and educate black women and youth about HIV/AIDS. We launched Internet-based HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns in 2001 and 2002 in observance of *World AIDS Day*, *National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day*, and *National HIV Testing Day*. On *World AIDS Day* in 2003, we launched FIREGRL.com, an interactive web site that educates and informs black teen girls and other youth about HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, street harassment, and other health issues (FIREGRL.com is under construction). Since 2004, our Girls' Advisory Board has organized annual summits that provide an opportunity for youth of color to learn about HIV prevention, representations in the media and hip hop culture, and health and social justice issues. By working with black college students, we believe that we can strengthen our efforts to prevent HIV infection and combat racial/ethnic health disparities among black young women and girls.

Please read the enclosed program materials for additional information about the program and requirements. A complete application must include the following items:

1. Completed application form
2. Essay (250-500 words)
3. Resume
4. Recommendation form from a friend

The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. on **Friday, January 26, 2007**. YWLC participants will be selected on a competitive basis. Application materials must be submitted via e-mail: YWLCapp@helpingourteengirls.org. For more information, please visit: www.helpingourteengirls.org/ywlc.htm. We look forward to receiving your application.

Best regards,

Carla E. Stokes, Ph.D, M.P.H., HOTGIRLS Executive Director & Founder
Taleria R. Fuller, Ph.D., YWLC Advisory Committee Chair
Nicole T. Clark, YWLC Program Coordinator



Helping Our Teen Girls In Real Life Situations, Inc. (HOTGIRLS)®
Improving the health and lives of black young women and girls

YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (YWLC) APPLICATION

**HIV/AIDS is a Public Health Crisis for Black Women and Girls! Don't Just Talk About It....
Do Something About It!**

We are inviting black female undergraduate students (freshmen, sophomores, and juniors) ages 17-24 enrolled at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in Atlanta to apply for membership on the HOTGIRLS Young Women's Leadership Council to help combat HIV/AIDS among black young women and girls. Approximately 20 students will be selected for the 2007 YWLC. Please submit an application if you want to learn about HIV/AIDS and women's and girls' health issues while developing your leadership skills, mentoring girls, working on rewarding HIV/AIDS action projects, and making a difference in the Atlanta community.

What are the Goals of the YWLC Program?

The goals of the YWLC are to:

- Recruit, mentor, and train a powerful community of black young women to serve as HIV prevention peer leaders among youth in the greater Atlanta community. Upon completion of a two-day training, HOTGIRLS Council members will plan, implement, and evaluate culturally relevant HIV prevention programming for black young women and girls.
- Raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and provide HIV prevention education for HBCU students, black young women and girls, and other youth residing in the Atlanta metropolitan area that promotes HIV risk avoidance and risk reduction behaviors and HIV testing and counseling

What Do YWLC Members Do?

YWLC members:

- Advise HOTGIRLS on our HIV prevention and health education initiatives for young women and girls
- Give their opinions and advice about issues that are important to young women and girls
- Develop leadership skills and educate other youth about HIV/AIDS and related health and social justice issues
- Learn new information and gain hands on experience creating and disseminating HIV/AIDS educational and social marketing materials in Atlanta and via the Web
- Meet, work with, and learn from HOTGIRLS staff and YWLC Advisory Committee Members and guest speakers who are passionate about preventing HIV/AIDS
- Organize action projects including two workshops for young women of color on HIV prevention programming; two forums to increase knowledge about HIV among black young women and girls; media outreach; and the HOTGIRLS *Black Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Week*, a week of activities in recognition of National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (during the week of March 19, 2007)
- Assist the HOTGIRLS Girls Advisory Board in organizing an HIV/AIDS summit for teen girls tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 17th or March 24th)
- One YWLC member will be selected to serve on Advocates for Youth's national Young Women of Color Leadership Council (<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/about/ywoclc.htm>).
- One YWLC member will have the opportunity to serve on the HOTGIRLS Board of Directors.

When Does the Program Begin?

Finalists will be notified by Friday, February 2, 2007. If you are selected, you will be **required to attend a two-day training to be held on Saturday and Sunday, February 10-11, 2007.**

Who Can Serve on the YWLC?

To be considered, applicants MUST:

- Be enrolled at a **historically black college or university** in Atlanta during the 2006-2007 academic year
- Be a **freshman, sophomore, or junior** at the time of application
- Be **17-24** years old
- Be willing to **commit to the YWLC for at least nine months (February-October 2007)**
- 3.0 GPA is *preferred* (not required)

Qualifications:

Applications will be reviewed by the YWLC Executive Committee and Advisory Committee Members. Applicants are selected competitively based upon the following: application, essay, resume, letter of recommendation from a friend, interest in HIV/AIDS, public health, and/or racial/ethnic health disparities, commitment to the project, creativity, and leadership potential. We are looking for a diverse group of young women who:

- Are outgoing, enthusiastic, creative, open-minded, and self-driven
- Are good communicators and are comfortable with public speaking
- Care about social justice issues and are willing to share their time
- Have a desire to help prevent HIV/AIDS among black young women and girls
- Get along well with others and are considered by their peers to be positive role models
- Are dependable and committed to the YWLC and HOTGIRLS mission
- Are creative and/or have unique skills and talents that they can share (i.e., artistic or web design skills, etc.)
- Want to help others and make a difference in their communities

Expectations and Responsibilities of YWLC Members:

- YWLC members are sincerely committed to promoting the health and empowerment of black women and girls
- YWLC members will be **open to public speaking** and opportunities to **lead forums and workshops**
- YWLC members will **attend a mandatory two-day training** (you must be present for the entire training); **participate in YWLC and sub-committee meetings** (frequency will be determined by the YWLC members); **assist with organizing YWLC action projects and implementing the YWLC work plan**; and agree to **co-facilitate at least one workshop**.
- YWLC members will **attend the *HOTGIRLS Black Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Week*** and other **activities and trainings** to be held throughout the Spring and Fall 2007 semesters
- YWLC members will **participate in monthly conference calls** and Internet HIV/AIDS awareness activities during the summer
- YWLC members will **maintain their GPA**
- YWLC members will **comply with the community service requirements** of their academic institutions in order to become involved in off-campus volunteer activities.

Who Should Apply?

If you can commit to regularly attending the YWLC meetings and other activities as described above, please submit your application materials before the deadline: **Friday, Jan. 26, 2007 (no later than 11:59 p.m.)**. Application materials are available on the HOTGIRLS web site: www.helpingourteengirls.org/ywlc.htm