

RJ Conference: Youth Track call for Abstracts!

**Black Women for Wellness  
Power Manifesto  
Building Youth Power  
October 19, 2017**

**Call for Abstracts**

**Conference Summary**

Each year Black Women for Wellness (BWW) hosts an annual conference to provide a space for Black and African American women to have open conversations and dialogue surrounding reproductive justice, what it means for us, and the right to live the life that we choose. This year we have added a youth track to empower our youth to take control of their own health and lives. Attendees leave empowered and better equipped to educate and mobilize their communities on important issues connected to our health and well-being. This year's theme is **POWER MANIFESTO**. History has shown time and time again that when we empower youth and let them take the lead on certain issues, history begins to shape itself in a more progressive way. In this political climate we are witnessing policies and programs that directly go against our reproductive health, rights, and justice. Many of us have been fighting hard to protect the important strides we have made in this field and we will need a strong army to pass the baton to.

**Who Should Submit**

All researchers, community advocates, community members, organizers, health educators, peer educators, youth organizations that's dedicated to the empowerment of youth of color.

**Evaluation Criteria**

The most successful abstracts will include visionary and hands on approaches to uplift and empower youth that goes beyond a PowerPoint or lecture. Priority consideration will be given to abstracts that feature:

- youth-led and/or youth-designed innovations and interventions that are community-focused and culturally competent
- transformative collaborations and partnership strategies that engage and empower youth of color
- innovations that foster diversity and inclusion, and build empathy and collaboration

**Black Women for Wellness encourages sessions that cover one or more of the following topics concerning youth: 500 words max**

## Health

- Health disparities among adolescents and engaging youth in their own health
- Mental health, bullying, or suicide prevention
- Substance use and abuse, including alcohol and marijuana
- Sexual health, including prevention of HIV, teen and unplanned pregnancy, and dating violence
- African American adolescents health
- Sexuality continuum and gender identity health issues
- Support and access for homeless youth, foster youth, and transgender youth

## Building Youth Power

- Inclusive community technology projects
- The importance of being adult allies
- Helping youth understand when, where, and how they have power
- Digital storytelling for advocacy
- Entrepreneurship and how to build your business

## Body Image/Self Love

- Developing a healthy sense of body image
- Building self esteem
- Dealing with depression
- The effects of a cultural overemphasis on physical appearance and beauty.
- Fear of and prevalence of obesity
- The role of mass media
- Healthy means of exercise and the importance of eating a balanced and proper diet
- Loving the skin you're in

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT IS SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>!**

*Send all abstracts to [Lashea@bwwla.com](mailto:Lashea@bwwla.com)*