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Dallas < R X Q R J P H Q Q L W L D W h e Y W I e a 0 Summary

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Program Background

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Evaluation Questions, Data Collection & Data Analysis

CORE is collaborating with TXWF, Ntarput and the YWAC on the participatory and qualitative evaluation.

The evaluation questions for Year One were 1) What are the initial or emerging components of the YWI program? and 2) Who benefits from participating in the YWI program? In what ways?

A qualitative methodological approach was used during Year One that contributed to an exploratory understanding of the Dallas YWI program. The data collection activities included document and literature reviews, interviews with YWI program staff, cross-sector committee members and YWAC, a focus group, session observations and field notes. In keeping with our value orientation to include the young women in the design of this evaluation and validate emerging findings, the data analysis approach and emerging findings were also shared with the young women.

Key Findings: Emerging Components of YWI

An initial undertaking for the evaluation was simply to describe and document key YWI components as they emerged during Year One. Understanding these components was a critical first step in developing an evaluation strategy specific to Dallas YWI. Moving forward, the evaluation will continue to explore the ongoing presence and influence of these intended components in the work.

YWI Activities in Year One

The Dallas YWI WAC was made up of 13 young women of color ages 17-24. The key structural components YWAC Retreats provided the YWAC to address issues that surround them. The YWAC meetings

throughout the year provided a space to share updates and work in their work groups. There were training sessions for the YWAC that included Racial Equity, LGBTQ Inclusivity, Policy and Advocacy, Immigration, Poverty, Homelessness, Grant Making etc. Finally, the closing meeting took place to reflect on successes, challenges and hopes for the future of Dallas YWI. The YWAC identified five focus areas in Year One to further research, and for which they drafted initial recommendations to develop solutions for implementation: 1) Education 2) Representation & Projection 3) Identity 4) Self-Advocacy & Mental Health and 5) Sexuality. Moving in to Year Two, the aim is now for the incoming new WAC and returning YWAC members to secure and implement a grant to address their recommendations in these areas.

¹ The YWI structure primarily consisted of 1) YWAC Chairs 2) YWAC 3) YWI Cross-Sector Committee and 4) YWI Working Groups.

² The Process Pillars include 1) Convene, Collect, Build and Listen 2) Design Structure & Secure Partnerships 3) Recommendation Implementation 5) Asset Mapping and 6) Evaluation

Key Findings: Who benefits from participating in the YWI program? In what ways?

A second undertaking for Year One of the evaluation was to understand the way participation in the program may benefit young women. The areas of potential benefit that we identified in Year One will be possible outcomes for later YWAC participants

Lived Experiences

Each of the young women interviewed narrated their lived experiences as the core motivation of what they do as a young woman of color. Undeniably, their inspiration, learnings, growth and actions are anchored to these experiences. In turn, lived experiences became an impetus and shaped the way they lived and defined what it meant to thrive as a young woman of color. In addition, by extension what this would mean for other young women. A major finding in Year One of the evaluation was that these young women of color have recalled their lived experiences and connected them to their YWI work. A critical part of the evaluation of the Dallas YWI is examining the intricacies

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