

OLYMPIA YWCA WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

WORKPLACE EQUITY INITIATIVE FOR THURSTON COUNTY

In response to the wage gap for women in Thurston County, the YWCA's Workplace Equity Initiative (WEI) encourages and expands the use of best practice-solutions while shining a bright light on employers who are promoting gender equity and tackling the wage gap.

Businesses and agencies are invited to enroll into W.E.I., and are asked to adopt three or more employer-led strategies that have been proven to reduce the wage gap.

YWCA's W.E.I. team offer issue education, outreach, business guidance, training and coaching, tools for success and/or connection to other mentor businesses for each W.E.I. enrollee and will track and monitor progress and successes while celebrating achievements.

KATHLEEN'S CLOSET

Kathleen's Closet helps unemployed and underemployed women by providing no-cost professional attire to women seeking employment and those just starting a job. The YWCA works with women to create not only an interview outfit, but also supply the pieces to mix and match to create a foundation for their professional wardrobe.

The goal is to ensure women have the skills, opportunities and resources to move beyond minimum wage and experience financial stability.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (EEP)

YWCA Olympia's Economic Empowerment Program (EEP) is a holistic, cultural and gender-relevant workforce development program preparing unemployed and underemployed Women for careers in Administration, Bookkeeping and Social Services.

As part of their skill development, EEP participants are responsible for running the YWCA's Front Office, the Other Bank (community hygiene product bank) and Kathleen's Closet (professional clothing boutique).

Some participants choose to move into the bookkeeping track, which trains them as professional bookkeepers and results in paid bookkeeping contracts. Through their work, participants gain strong digital literacy, organization and communication skills necessary in all professional sectors.