

Women In Community Development (WICD)

- ◆ LOCATION: Boston, MA
- ◆ ESTABLISHED: January, 1997
- ◆ AFFILIATED/FREE-STANDING: Affiliated with the College of Public and Community Services (CPCS) at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, Project Hope, and the Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development.
- ◆ NUMBER INVOLVED IN WICD: There are currently 12 women enrolled, and there have been 6 graduates.

◆ % Low Income	92%	◆ % Married	46%
◆ % Employed	92%	◆ Mean Age	35-45 yrs.
◆ Racial/Ethnic Profile	78% African American women, 11% Latina, 6% Caucasian, and 6% biracial		

- ◆ GOALS: To help low-income women access a college education, complete their Bachelor's degree, increase their opportunities in the work force, and foster leadership development.
- ◆ IMPETUS/POLITICAL CLIMATE AT OUTSET: The University of Massachusetts and the Women's Institute joined to develop the Roofless Women's Action Research Mobilization. This program, a joint research project on women and homelessness, mentoring, and financial support, identified the supports needed for low-income women to successfully attain a college education. WICD began after welfare reform placed limitations on the duration of college attendance. Project Hope joined the collaboration because they had identified similar needs among women in their mentoring program.
- ◆ STATE TANF LIMITATIONS: Massachusetts allows for two-year college attendance.
- ◆ ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT: The Women's Institute is the lead agency, which provides overall coordination, grant writing, supervision, and fiscal management. Project Hope raises funds and provides resources, such as meeting space and childcare. CPCS provides faculty, advocacy, and tuition waivers.
- ◆ COST TO THE PARTICIPANTS: There are no program fees. Participants may receive tuition vouchers if financial aid does not cover tuition costs.
- ◆ SERVICES OFFERED: Peer support, financial assistance (compensation for books), academic guidance, job referrals, professional development opportunities, and leadership training.