

## YWCA USA PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

YWCA is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities. We are one of the oldest and largest women's organizations in the nation, serving over 2 million women, girls, and their families. YWCA has been at the forefront of the most pressing social movements for more than 150 years — from voting rights to civil rights, from affordable housing to pay equity, from violence prevention to health care reform. We carry on this long tradition of social action and advocacy to advance our critical mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

Consistent with YWCA's mission impact framework, theory of change, and local association feedback, YWCA has set the following public policy priorities for 2017-2018.

### RACIAL JUSTICE & CIVIL RIGHTS

#### End Racial Profiling and Criminalization of People of Color

YWCA USA's advocacy goal is to eliminate the policies and practices that support racial profiling and the criminalization of people of color and other marginalized communities by systems of authority.

#### Support Girls of Color Who Are Trauma Survivors

YWCA USA's advocacy goal is to ensure that girls of color who have experienced trauma have improved access to community resources for trauma survivors, including in the education and juvenile justice systems.

#### Support the Attainment of the United Nation's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Targets

YWCA USA's advocacy goal is to support and advance the United Nations gender equality and women's empowerment targets set forth in Sustainable Development Goal 5, with a particular focus on ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere (SDG 5.1) and ensuring women and girls' full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life (SDG 5.5).

### EMPOWERMENT AND ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

#### Improve Women's Economic Security

YWCA USA's advocacy goal is to improve the economic security of women, particularly women of color, by increasing access to job-protected safe, paid sick, and paid family leave.

## **Remove Barriers to Women's Workplace Participation**

YWCA USA's advocacy goal is to remove barriers to successful workplace participation by women, particularly women of color, by improving access to quality affordable childcare and housing.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

### **Promote Federal Legislation to Support Survivors of Gender-Based Violence**

YWCA USA's advocacy goal is to address gender-based violence by supporting federal legislation that supports survivors of violence.

### **Improve Maternal Health Outcomes for Women of Color**

YWCA USA's advocacy goal is to address racial health disparities by reducing maternal mortality rates and improving maternal health outcomes for women of color.

### **Ensure Access to Quality, Affordable Health Care for Women and Girls**

YWCA USA's advocacy goal is to ensure that the healthcare infrastructure currently provided by the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, Medicare, state health insurance programs, and reproductive health service providers remains strong and viable.

*In addition to these policy priorities, YWCA remains committed to advancing and protecting a wide array of mission-related concerns, including: equal pay for equal work, raising the minimum wage, adoption of fair scheduling practices, ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, reducing firearm-related domestic violence homicides, preventing and supporting victims of trafficking, increasing educational and employment opportunities in STEM, and other efforts to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.*