

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago Advocacy Position

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago's mission is to eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. We advocate for community action and public policy that advances economic security, promotes equality and human rights and improves safety and wellness for women and families. Our values are centered on equity and inclusion, and as a result, we pay particular attention to the issues impacting people of color.

Economic Security

- *Poverty Alleviation* – The YWCA works to advance policies that lift families out of poverty and remove barriers to economic stability.
- *Equity and Opportunity* – The YWCA works to remove pay equity barriers for both women and men in the workplace (i.e. Fair Pay Act). We also support workplace benefits and flexibility that support the working family (i.e. increased funding for quality, affordable child care and flex-time choices for increased child care options, paid sick leave). We look to business for innovations that create living-wage jobs (American Job Growth legislation).
- *Leadership Diversity* – Women and people of color strive for leadership in every sector of society. The YWCA works to remove barriers in career, entrepreneurial and political advancement (i.e. professional development, STEM education, small business development) to achieve leadership diversity.

Human Rights

- *Basic Human Needs* – As a part of local and national collaborations, the YWCA supports policies that ensure every individual has nutritional food, safe and permanent shelter and advanced health care.
- *Education* – We advocate for the implementation of best-practice schools in every neighborhood with an equitable funding structure that advances all children toward personal, academic and professional enrichment (i.e. tax law and school funding).
- *Equal Protection* – We advocate for equal protection for all individuals with respect to policing, criminal justice, and environmental justice. We advocate for inclusive legislation that grants marginalized groups the same rights and privileges as majority groups (i.e. person of color, persons with disabilities, LGBTQIA and immigrants). We advocate for restorative justice strategies that expand our judicial options. The YWCA supports antihate legislation that discourages and intervenes on behalf of victims and their communities.

Safety and Wellness

- *Violence Prevention and Intervention* – The YWCA supports violence prevention work that protects all members of our society. We actively advocate for prevention and intervention in domestic and sexual violence (for the general public and military personnel), trafficking, bullying and misogynistic media images that contribute to a culture of violence. We advocate for legislation that protects and supports victims of violent crime.
- *Health and Choice* – We believe that women have access to a comprehensive health care safety net and the right to control their own health and family planning decisions. We advocate for dedicated resources (i.e. national health care programs) to support women with their health care choices. We also support





participatory research that actively involves women in curing deadly diseases (i.e. breast cancer and heart disease).

Contact Us

For more information about how you can support the YWCA's advocacy positions, please contact:

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