

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Delaware

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

**YWCA DELAWARE POLICY PILLARS AND
ADVOCACY ISSUES 2024**

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YWCA Delaware Policy Agenda 2024

YWCA Delaware's mission is to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. We advocate for community action, public policies, and practices that improve economic security, health, safety, and social equity for women and their families, with attention to the issues that affect people of color.

RACIAL JUSTICE

Advance equity, safety, and racial justice for people of color with a focus on the criminal justice system, accessible voting and elections, environmental justice, education, and other systems with structural racial disparities.

Priorities include:

- **Education:** Equitable funding source that places resources in schools where they are most needed and supports the training of a more diverse workforce in the field.
- **Law Enforcement Reform:** increasing police transparency and accountability, such as implementing a data collection system for all interactions, providing additional support such as social workers along with law enforcement, and additional training including SROs (School Resource Officers). Additionally, banning no-knock and reverse warrants.
- **Prison and Probation Reform:** policies that reduce incarceration and high recidivism rates, such as eliminating fines and fees for those unable to pay and compassionate early release. Reforming probation by ending incarceration for technical violations, enabling the customization of probation conditions to individual needs, requiring collecting and publishing data on probation and people on probation, investing in community-based reentry programs, and eliminating probation for minor convictions.
- **Equal Access to Voting:** policies that make voting easy and accessible for all citizens including previously incarcerated individuals upon the moment of release regardless of crime, mail-in voting, and no-excuse absentee voting.
- **Environmental justice** that promotes fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, concerning the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

HOUSING SECURITY FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

Provides services to keep women and children in safe and affordable housing. Serve those who are going through the experience of being unhoused by providing safe and affordable housing for families.

Priorities include:

- **Tenant rights:** policies protecting tenants from unfair treatment by their landlord, establishing a rent escrow program, rent stabilization, and a homeless bill of rights.
- **Funding for Affordable Housing:** policies and budgets that create more safe and affordable housing, such as a consistent stream of funding for building affordable housing and increasing availability of those locations statewide.
- **Establishing a right to counsel** for indigent parents in custody cases.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Support survivors and work to prevent domestic violence, sexual assault, and other forms of gender-based violence as demand for services continues to rise. Work towards closing the gap in health disparities between People of Color and white people.

Priorities include:

- Victim rights: Policies that protect and educate women on their rights as victims; policies that reduce the power that a perpetrator of domestic/sexual violence has over the victim including stalking.
- Equitable healthcare: policies that make healthcare equitable by increasing access and affordability to traditionally underserved communities which includes any expansion of Medicaid services.
- Support establishing and funding a Family Justice Center which would provide one place for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse to receive the life-saving services currently available in their community from both non-profit and governmental agencies in each county.
- Reproductive Justice (RJ) means the human right to control our sexuality, our gender, our work, and our reproduction. That right can only be achieved when all women and girls have the complete economic, social, and political power and resources to make healthy decisions about our bodies, our families, and our communities in all areas of our lives.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND OPPORTUNITIES

Ensure safe, fair, and inclusive workplaces that expand opportunities for women, particularly women of color, LGBTQ+ people, and historically marginalized communities. This includes addressing childcare needs and providing services that support women's success in entrepreneurship and workforce development.

Priorities include:

- Pay equity: policies that reduce the pay equity gap for women and people of color.
- Childcare: support policies that increase access to childcare by increasing funding, and availability by increasing the poverty level when applying for Purchase of Care reimbursement.
- MWOBs: Increase support for women and people of color-owned businesses.

NON-PROFIT SECTOR

The non-profit sector is the backbone of our community and continues to provide programs and human services for families in Delaware. We support efforts to strengthen these organizations. Priorities include:

- Restore and expand the above-the-line or universal charitable deduction and other tax policies incentivizing giving.
- Advocate for increased Grants in Aid to cover rising costs across the non-profit sector.
- Support policies that decrease costs for non-profit organizations, such as a community or state-supported healthcare model.

