

YWCA RESPONDS TO URGENT COMMUNITY NEEDS

Because our programs are critical for the community and people we serve, YWCA is considered an “essential business” under Washington State’s “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order.

This means that throughout the COVID-19 public health crisis, YWCA’s doors will remain open to those in need.

A NETWORK OF SUPPORT

This crisis requires quick action with the specific services our different communities need.

While there is a perception that YWCA is a large institution, we operate as a network of smaller community-based programs, with more than 20 sites in cities across two counties, and flexible services that meet the unique needs of residents in each area.

MAKING SURE WE REACH THE MOST VULNERABLE

YWCA serves populations who are furthest from opportunity – people from marginalized groups, who are more vulnerable to the health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

Of the nearly 10,000 women, men, and children YWCA served in 2019:

- 92% were low income
- 72% were women and girls
- 63% were people of color
- 72% were experiencing homelessness
- 30% reported a disability
- 23% were experiencing domestic violence

While this virus will impact all of us, we also know that some populations will be hit harder, and face greater barriers to recovery.

YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish is dedicated to eliminating racism and empowering women. We envision an inclusive and thriving community, transformed by racial and gender equity, with peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all people. Visit ywcaworks.org to learn more.

- **PROVIDE SAFE HOUSING:** YWCA provides a full spectrum of services for individuals and families to prevent homelessness and find a stable home, including emergency shelter, temporary housing, and affordable permanent units. Because of COVID-19, many laid-off workers are now struggling to pay their rent, and YWCA staff are helping them negotiate payment plans with landlords, find rental assistance funds, and make sure they don't end up homeless when the eviction moratorium ends.
- **EMERGENCY SHELTER:** Women experiencing homelessness are at high risk of COVID-19, and YWCA Angeline's Day Center is the only 24/7 women-only shelter in downtown Seattle. More than 150 women daily access food, showers, laundry, and community resource referrals at Angeline's. To maintain social distancing while still providing these services, YWCA, the City of Seattle, and other service providers have partnered to setup additional shelter space at Garfield Community Center.
- **ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE:** YWCA's health access staff have responded to COVID-19 by helping uninsured residents get coverage during a special enrollment period, and helping them access and navigate care in the face of this extraordinary public health threat.
- **FOOD AND NUTRITION:** YWCA's Central Area Food Bank distributed over 235,000 pounds of food to low-income residents in 2019. In response to COVID-19, YWCA staff across the agency have stepped up efforts to provide food and grocery store gift cards for families in need, and the food bank is now making home deliveries.
- **EMPLOYMENT:** YWCA helps low-income workers overcome barriers to employment, secure jobs where they earn a fair wage, and build their careers. YWCA's economic advancement programs have adjusted to the impact of COVID-19 by hosting employment trainings virtually and focusing on new skills, like how to prepare for video interviews. YWCA staff are also helping clients navigate the unemployment system and stimulus funding, such as clarifying eligibility and filing tax returns – even getting access to a computer and internet is a common barrier for many of the people we serve.