

YWCA FOCUS: RACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Founded in 1894, YWCA from its inception has been dedicated to the well-being of women and families of all races and faiths. Our work to advance social justice is grounded in the belief that all people deserve to live in dignity, free from violence, racism, and discrimination.

In 1919, YWCA provided one of the few public meeting places for Seattle's African-American community at what is now our East Cherry branch, one of the first interracial YWCA branches in the country.

We envision an inclusive society where all people can thrive and all communities are valued, respected, and self-directed. To reach our impact and goals, YWCA works to overcome racial and gender disparities and reduce institutional and societal barriers that drive inequities in:

- Compensation, education, and employment opportunities.
- Health care access, engagement, health outcomes, chronic disease, and life span.
- Homelessness and access to permanent, affordable housing.

YWCA is a key member of the community. We share a passion for change and work toward it locally by advocating on issues that impact our clients and services. Legislation that YWCA has advocated on behalf of includes:

- Strengthening sexual assault protection orders
- Increasing paid family medical leave
- Establishing equal pay across genders
- Opposing the transgender discriminatory bathroom bill
- Supporting the requirement of de-escalation training and accountability for police officers