

YWCA: 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 Phillis Wheatley Branch, one of the first interracial YWCA branches in the country.

We envision a healthy and joy-filled community transformed by racial and gender equity, where women and girls of color have equal access to opportunity and resources to pursue their full potential, which elevates the entire community.

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 program participants and services. Legislation that YWCA has advocated on behalf of includes:

- Increasing paid family medical leave
- Expanding voting rights
- Opposing the transgender discriminatory bathroom bill
- Supporting the requirement of de-escalation training and accountability for police officers