



## EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR CHILD CARE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

June 2020

YWCA USA, representing its more than 200 local associations, advocates for additional relief to address immediate funding, staffing, and safety crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. These recommendations are informed by regular survey data from YWCAs in 45 states and Washington, D.C. As the policy discussion shifts to the U.S. Senate, we urge all Members to maintain or strengthen these provisions in any stimulus package as well as consider additional measures to help our nation’s charitable organizations meet critical needs.

### Need: Ensure Domestic Violence Service Providers Keep Survivors Safe, Meet Increased Demand for Services

Among responses from our survey of local YWCA associations during the month of April and early May:

- 61% of YWCA domestic and sexual violence hotlines report an increase in calls due to the pandemic
- 46% of YWCAs who provide domestic violence services reported an increase in demand
- 47% of YWCA domestic violence shelters report an increase in demand for emergency housing

### 1. Ask: An additional \$340 million in Emergency Funding to Domestic & Sexual Violence Service Providers

Utilize existing funding streams at the Department of Health & Human Services, Department of Housing & Urban Development, and U.S. Department of Justice to quickly distribute the following funding:

YWCA Requests	HEROES Act (H.R. 6800)
\$100 million for Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA)	\$48 million + \$2 million for Hotline
\$140 million for VAWA	\$100 million for VAWA’s rural grant, transitional housing, SASP, Legal Services, and Tribal supports
\$100 million for HUD’s Continuum of Care (CoC) Domestic Violence initiative	\$0 but includes \$1 billion for incremental housing vouchers where domestic and sexual violence survivors are eligible and \$11.5 billion for Emergency Solutions Grants
Stabilize VOCA	Fix included and match is waived
Hazard pay for domestic and sexual violence providers	Providers would be eligible for pandemic premium pay + above the line \$500 deduction for supplies

YWCA appreciates the robust funding included in H.R. 6800 and strongly urges the Senate to match or strengthen this support for domestic and sexual violence providers through FVPSA, VAWA, VOCA, and HUD programs. YWCA also requests maximum flexibility in use of funding so that domestic and sexual violence service providers can utilize funds as needed, and waiver of match requirements so that providers can continue to offer FVPSA-funded services despite declines in the volunteer hours and fundraising that enable nonprofits to meet match requirements. YWCA also supports the National Task Force to End Sexual & Domestic Violence’s requests related to domestic and sexual violence.

### Need: Keep Child Care Available for First Responders and Working Families

Among responses from our survey of local YWCA associations during the month of April and early May:

- 54% of YWCA childcare programs are currently closed due to the COVID-19 crisis and 61% reported a decrease in revenue/funding

- 32 YWCAs are providing **child care for first responders and essential workers** in communities

**2. Ask: Provide Additional Emergency Funding through CCDBG to Support Child Care Providers**

We join broad childcare coalition requests for additional funding through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to ensure providers can continue to meet needs during the crisis and are able to help families get back to work as the nation’s economy recovers. Maximum funding flexibility is needed to enable childcare providers to purchase supplies, ensure safe and sanitary conditions at centers, and maintain operations.

YWCA Requests	HEROES Act (H.R. 6800)
\$50 billion for CCDBG	\$7 billion for CCDBG
Hazard pay for child care providers	Child care providers considered essential workers eligible for pandemic premium pay

**Need: Ensure 2020 Primary and General Elections are Safe, Fair, and Accessible**

**3. Ask: At least \$3.6 billion in funding to ensure both the public’s safety and an equitable voting process**

Systemic and structural racism - and active efforts to suppress voter participation - continue to disenfranchise communities of color. COVID-19 has further obstructed access to the voting booth making it even more important for Congress to pass additional measures that would fully fund and direct states to administer the 2020 elections in a safe, fair, and accessible manner.

YWCA Request	HEROES Act (H.R. 6800)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$3.6 billion</li> <li>• Expansion of early and in-person voting to ensure a more secure, efficient, and accessible election while protecting the public health and safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$3.6 billion for states to have safe and accessible elections in 2020</li> <li>• Requirement that states offer online and same-day voter registration</li> <li>• Requirement that states offer at least 15 consecutive days of early in-person voting</li> <li>• Requirement that no-excuse absentee vote-by-mail is available and accessible to all voters with postage paid by the government</li> </ul>

**4. Ask: Strengthen support the nonprofit sector in their service on the front lines of responding to the COVID-19 and their critical role in helping re-to re-open the country**

YWCA has [joined](#) over 450 charitable partners in expressing our gratitude that the HEROES Act recognizes the important role nonprofits play in strengthening our communities by including the following bipartisan initiatives:

- Extension of the Paycheck Protection Program with set-asides for nonprofits;
- Including nonprofits of all sizes in the Main Street Lending program with loan forgiveness for nonprofits that primarily serve low-income communities;
- Enhancing employee retention credits;
- Clarifying state flexibility around unemployment insurance

The HEROES Act also recognizes the essential work of many nonprofit employees, including child care and domestic violence providers and social service workers, by including them in the definition of “essential workers” who are eligible for “hazard pay.” It is also worth noting that YWCAs have been opening their doors to essential workers in need.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE FIELD

### YWCA Greater Cincinnati, Ohio

*We have had to make several adjustments to our **domestic violence** programming, including moving our clients to motels for safety reasons. Costs for motels and security guards to protect their safety are now upwards of \$38,000 per week.*

### YWCA Boulder County, Colorado

*Our **early childcare** program will be opening next Monday. We have delayed it twice due to extended county stay at home orders. The staff is especially anxious about returning back during this time but committed. The fact that they are considered essential workers and yet our society continues to disregard these critical roles with lower pay and recognition is a stinging point. We are also continuing to move forward with our child care center expansion because we are anticipating several facilities in our area having to close or to take lower numbers of children.*

### YWCA Pierce County, Washington

Established in Tacoma in 1906, YWCA Pierce County opened Washington State's first **emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence** in 1976 and now serves over 15,000 adults and children annually who are seeking help due to domestic violence. Here are a few quotes from staff members:

- *Clients appreciate everything we are doing for them. A client who had been encountering every bump in the road imaginable told me I was the light at the end of her tunnel.*
- *The future is uncertain and people are scared. Clients have expressed their appreciation that we are able to continue services and help navigate their legal cases so that they can protect themselves and their children. Home is not safe for everyone, especially survivors who are quarantined with their abusers.*
- *However hard this pandemic is for us, it is extra difficult and complicated for the families we serve. Think about what staying home means for someone whose home is not safe. It's critical that we continue to be a place that families can turn to for support.*

### YWCA New Britain, Connecticut

*Our **childcare center** is open to essential personnel and currently serving 20 children, but we are waiting on a state waiver to serve more children. In the meantime, income is extremely tight. Although we have received PPP funds and are hiring back staff, it must be fully expended by June 30th. If enrollment is still restricted, it's likely we will have to lay staff off again.*

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