

MEMORANDUM

TO: YWCA CEOs and Executive Directors
CC: Margaret Mitchell, CEO, YWCA USA
YWCA Board of Directors
FROM: YWCA USA Public Policy & Advocacy Department
RE: Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations and Legislative Successes

On Tuesday, March 15, 2022, President Biden signed a \$1.5 trillion government funding bill (Omnibus) that provides significant assistance for YWCAs and includes Community Project Funding to support local projects. After months of negotiation, we are also pleased to report that the bill also included the full reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), one of YWCA USA's [top legislative priorities](#) for the 117th Congress, 2nd Session.

Today, we are pleased to provide an overview of strategic efforts utilized to achieve these successes in the areas of gender-based violence and federal appropriations. Despite the arduous efforts of the YWCA USA staff the voices, stories, and relentless advocacy of YWCA leaders and their staff, elevated by our over [15,000 advocates](#), were the key to making these legislative priorities a reality - THANK YOU!

We've laid the groundwork for continued success of YWCA legislative priorities and look forward to continue working with you to eliminate racism and empower women!

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT

YWCA USA [applauds passage](#) of the Violence Against Women Act and is pleased that the bill takes the necessary steps to ensure survivor safety by providing the resources and protections critical to all survivors and their families. In addition to providing significant increases in funding, VAWA invests in prevention efforts, expands access for survivors in rural areas and survivors requiring culturally-specific services, establishes a grant program to support LGBTQ survivors, and maintains nondiscrimination language.

Throughout various points of the legislative process, YWCA implemented the following tactics to reauthorize this important bill:

- YWCA USA staff utilized its Action Center and mobilized over **760 advocates who sent over 1770 letters** to Capitol Hill urging their Members of Congress to pass VAWA;
- YWCA staff [wrote to Members of Congress](#) and led the organizational efforts that resulted in a [network letter](#) signed by **121 local YWCAs from 40 states and the District of Columbia**.
 - YWCA USA helped organize a letter signed by **13 YWCAs in Pennsylvania** as part of a targeting strategy [urging Senator Toomey to pass VAWA](#);

- In close coordination with the Communications department, staff drafted social media posts resulting in thousands of likes and retweets, deepening YWCAs presence and legislative expertise on Capitol Hill, in coalition, and throughout the community
 - Specifically, together we built the YWCA [gender-based violence progress report card](#) - including VAWA - to highlight how much work Congress still has left to do to achieve equity for women and girls of color
- YWCA staff joined the National Taskforce to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (NTF) and its coalition partners to demonstrate the volume of support for VAWA reauthorization
 - YWCA USA joined NTF partners, Angelina Jolie, and Senators to lead a virtual VAWA advocacy day of action. The event results in hundreds of phone calls and tweets to Senate offices urging passage of this bill
- YWCA USA CEO Margaret Mitchell stood with a bipartisan group of Senators on Capitol Hill at a press conference to announce the introduction of VAWA;
- At time of publication, **over 650 thank you letters** were sent to Members of Congress thanking them for their support of an omnibus funding package that included VAWA;
- In recognition of their advocacy efforts, YWCA USA staff were invited by President Biden to attend a White House ceremony commemorating the reauthorization of VAWA.

As we celebrate the reauthorization of VAWA, staff will continue to call on Congress to continue the important work of [reauthorizing the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act \(FVPSA\)](#).

FISCAL YEAR 2022 APPROPRIATIONS

Federal grants and funding are a significant source of financial support for YWCA programs and services across the country that impact the health, safety, and economic well-being of our clients. In April 2021, YWCA CEOs and Executive Directors from 10 YWCAs conducted 15 virtual meetings with their Members of Congress to advocate for increased appropriations in the areas of gender-based violence, childcare, and housing. Staff also conducted hundreds of meetings, phone calls, and sent messages to Capitol Hill staff advocating for robust funding.

We are pleased to report that **all FY22 funding levels met or exceeded previous year levels**, recognizing the increased demands for assistance following the COVID-19 pandemic. A [detailed analysis is provided here](#) and below:

Family Violence Prevention and Service Act Program (FVPSA)

FY21 Appropriations	FY22 Final Appropriations
\$182.5M	\$200M

**Also allows up to \$5 million to focus on the development or enhancement of culturally specific services*

Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

FY21 Appropriations	FY22 Final Appropriations
\$5.911B	\$6.165B

**Also included \$11.036B for Head Start, \$3.3B for Community Development block Grant (CDBG) programs, and \$787M for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program. YWCA USA is pleased to see the inclusion of \$7million for the Adverse Childhood Experiences Research, and \$95.1 million for the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).*

Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims

FY21 Appropriations	FY22 Final Appropriations
\$40M	\$43M

Continuum of Care (CoC)

FY21 Appropriations	FY22 Final Appropriations
\$2.569B	\$2.809B (Including \$52M for DV bonus)

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program

FY21 Appropriations	FY22 Final Appropriations
\$290M	\$290M

COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING/"EARMARKS"

For the first time in 10 years, Congress provided Member-directed federal funding for a select number of Community Projects through the Appropriations Process. Each Representative was allowed to submit 10 project requests on behalf of their Congressional District, Senators had no limits. YWCAs as 501(c)3 nonprofits were eligible to submit project requests for almost all accounts. As a result, YWCA staff and their consultants held webinars, prepared [YWCA Earmark 'Cheat Sheets'](#) and hosted various one-on-one meetings with local leaders and their staff to strategize and strengthen application materials in preparation for the FY22 Community Project Funding process.

We are pleased to report that **\$7 million dollars was secured to support 13 projects led by 12 YWCAs.** These YWCAs include:

- **YWCA Columbus (OH)**
 - Project: Early Childhood Learning
 - Amount: \$500,000
- **YWCA Evanston/Northshore (IL)**
 - Project: Domestic Violence Shelter

- Amount: \$450,000
- **YWCA Greater Los Angeles (CA)**
 - Project: Sexual Assault Response Team Project (SART)
 - Amount: \$300,000
- **YWCA Greenwich (CT)**
 - Project: Facility Equipment under HRSA and NAEYC certification
 - Amount: \$75,000 and \$65,000
- **YWCA Harbor Area (CA)**
 - Project: San Pedro for Permanent Supportive Housing
 - Amount: \$2 million
- **YWCA Hawaii Island**
 - Project: Preschool Program & Technology
 - Amount: \$100,000
- **YWCA Northern New Jersey**
 - Project: Workforce Development Program
 - Amount: \$500,000
- **YWCA Oahu (HI)**
 - Project: Provide services & improve self-sufficiency and to reduce poverty
 - Amount: \$200,000
- **YWCA Union County (NJ)**
 - Project: Rebuilding Project
 - Amount: \$500,000

YWCA USA Public Policy and Advocacy are closely monitoring the FY23 Appropriations process, including applications for Community Project Funding requests. In anticipation of the upcoming cycle, we encourage you to review our March 2022 [webinar](#), [consult the slides](#) for additional information, and reach out to staff at advocacy@ywca.org with questions or discuss possible projects.