COVID19 EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR CHILD CARE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

As the nation struggles to contain the health and economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, YWCA child care centers and domestic violence service providers face an immediate funding, staffing, and safety crisis that threatens their critical role as community partners. YWCAs across the country are essential partners to local, state and federal government, but report:

- Increased demand for child care and domestic violence services
- Closure of child care and domestic violence programs
- Staffing and salary shortfalls
- Inability to access safety equipment and supplies such as thermometers, disinfectants, hand sanitizers, and masks
- Significant revenue shortfalls as fee-for-service programs, annual fundraising events, and other fundraising activities are canceled

Congress can ensure the health and safety of our nation’s children, first responder families, and individuals who are experiencing domestic violence by including the following in the third COVID19 Stimulus/Relief package:

**Need:** Keep Child Care Available for First Responders and Working Families During Coronavirus/COVID19 Health Crisis

**Ask:** Provide $4 billion in Emergency Funding through CCDBG to Support Child Care Providers

- Ensure maximum flexibility to enable child care providers to:
  - Purchase additional supplies or services necessary to keeping centers and homes safe and sanitary
  - Remain in operation even as attendance fluctuates, such as by:
    - Authorizing direct assistance to programs based on enrollment, not attendance
    - Providing payments to programs to continue to serve children when parents or caregivers are financially unable to make co-payments or pay tuition
    - Covering the cost of substitute educators
    - Providing payments to programs and workers in the case of COVID-19 related closures, including back-up care

- Increase child care provider access to emergency equipment and supply streams

**Need:** Ensure Domestic Violence Service Providers Can Keep Survivors Safe and Meet Increased Demand for Services During Coronavirus/COVID19 Health Crisis

**Ask:** Provide $500 million in Domestic Violence Emergency Response Funding to Domestic Violence Service Providers
- Utilize existing funding streams to distribute
  - $100 million through Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)
  - $100 million through VAWA/Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)
  - $100 million DV bonus through HUD/Continuum of Care
  - $100 million through VAWA/Services, Training, Officers Prosecutors (STOP)
  - A designated $100 million DV bonus through HUD/McKinney-Vento Emergency Solutions Grant

- Ensure maximum flexibility so that domestic violence service providers can utilize funds as needed to
  - Expand capacity to safely house individuals experiencing domestic and sexual violence
  - Purchasing additional supplies or services necessary to keeping centers and program sites safe and sanitary
  - Cover increased expenses for staffing, safety equipment, alternative housing, or other emergency needs
  - Remain in operation

- Increase domestic violence service provider access to emergency equipment and supply streams

**What's Happening in the Field:**

*From YWCA Pierce County, Washington State*

I am so exhausted as the CEO trying to keep our shelter open and programs running. Washington State was the epicenter and we have been hit hard. Restaurants, bars, barbers, nail salons, hair salons are all closed here. Grocery store shelves are empty. We cannot get sanitizer, toilet paper, paper products and so much more. We need help because most businesses have shut down and schools are closed through the end of April so family stressors are high and as a result domestic violence will increase at a time we are barely able to keep our doors open. We are the DV agency for our community. We won't make it without help.

*From YWCA Minot, North Dakota*

YWCA Minot has two staff members. One of the staff members is already facing major childcare challenges, our schools and her daycare are closed. With three kids this provides a major barrier to be able to come to work. Finding safe, healthy friends or family to watch the children while serving our clients will become increasingly difficult as COVID19 spreads. YWCA Minot staff is doing all they can to stay healthy, we cannot afford to have one of us get sick. Running a domestic violence shelter that has a 30 women capacity with one staff member is near impossible.

*From YWCA Great Falls, Montana*

We took two women to the hospital on Saturday to be tested for COVID-19. They tested negative and we took them back to the shelter after filling prescriptions. We immediately got called back to the ER to see a terribly beaten woman that needs to come to our shelter to use the last available bed. The Dr. said we then had 6 positively documented cases in Montana. We might be the last state with a positive test result, but we are seeing much more stress, crises, and violence.
From YWCA of Central Alabama

Our largest fundraiser of the year, close to a $1 million revenue, has to be scaled back, and our second fundraiser is in danger of being cancelled. Our child development center operations are now suspended.

From YWCA El Paso del Norte Region, Texas

I spent Monday morning at one of our Early Learning Academies training the staff there on how to use the no-touch thermometers to take temperatures of every child and parent who attended the academy. Because it is spring break, there were more “school age” children than usual, as parents bring their students back to the academy for the holiday. One mom, who I know is a single mom, was wearing scrubs with the logo of a local hospital embroidered on her top. As we took the temperature of her and her two children, her daughter Annabelle said, “We’re here because my mom has to go to work, because she’s a nurse and she’s important!” The mother asked us if we were going to be open all three weeks now that spring break had been extended. Our response was that we are planning to unless the city shuts us down. I shared that we had been working with the city and local hospitals to keep at least something open for the parents who absolutely have to work. She said, “That’s me, I have to go to work and I have nowhere else to leave them.”

If we do not have enough children to cover the cost of running a center, it will likely have to close. Our Health Department recently came out with recommendations that only 20 children should be in a room at a time. If we cannot afford to keep our centers open and staffed, nurses, like the one above, doctors, police officers, health department workers, and so many other essential community workers will have nowhere to leave their children.

From YWCA New Britain, Connecticut

“Staff began panicking when their childcare (not with us) fell through and we had to accommodate work from home. However game changer for us when health dept required temp checks. We use fever strips in first aid kits that aren’t accurate enough for job so we closed. There were 100 children in our care.”