



## 2019 ADVOCACY PLATFORM FOR ACTION

YWCA Union County believes that the following themes are central to the empowerment of women and girls in Union County, and intersect with one another. Therefore the YWCA Union County is committed to raising awareness, providing education, promoting inclusion and building coalitions for all people, regardless of race, gender, class, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, immigration status, as well as underrepresented populations and protected classes. We will provide advocacy on the following:

### **RACIAL JUSTICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS - INCREASING EQUAL PROTECTIONS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS**

- Advocate for legislation and policies that support initiatives that help safeguard the rights of people who have been historically discriminated against on the basis of race;
- Raise awareness of and address racial disparities among underrepresented groups through community education and collaborations with organizations in Union County and beyond that advocate for meaningful and systemic positive change;
- Advocate for comprehensive immigration reform/support for immigration-related issues;
- Ensure voter access and remove barriers to voting for all people;

### **ADVANCE EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

- Advocate for legislation and policies that address the gender wage gap;
- Advocate for strengthened, available, affordable and accessible child care as well as flexible workplace policies that promote work-life balance for women;
- Support and advocate for increased opportunities for education and employment for women and girls;
- Support and advocate for policies that address workplace harassment and discrimination;

### **IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

- Advocate for legislation that strengthens domestic violence protections and addresses legal loopholes in existing domestic violence protections;
- Advocate for policies that keep families safe from gun violence;
- Collaborate with other domestic violence organizations in NJ to advocate for increased funding for services to support DV victims;
- Promote and support women's rights to access affordable and comprehensive health care and legislation that respects bodily autonomy;
- Advocate for the removal of legal barriers for victims of gender based violence who are seeking assistance from the courts and the police;
- Advocate for affordable housing availability and policies that do not exclude victims of DV and other people living in poverty.

# **YWCA IS ON A MISSION**