

# **YWCA** **IS ON A** **MISSION**

September 13, 2019

Senator Dick Durbin  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Tammy Duckworth  
524 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

## **YWCA Associations Urge Full Funding for Crucial Federal Programs Supporting Survivors of Gender-Based Violence in Illinois**

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing 14 YWCA associations across the state of Illinois, we respectfully **urge you to provide full funding in FY20 for crucial federal programs that support survivors of gender-based violence in Illinois**. This includes the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and programs authorized through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA). Such funding streams are critical in our efforts to address the epidemic of gender-based violence and help Illinois women and families build the safety, stability, and security they need to achieve their full potential.

YWCA is the largest network of domestic and sexual assault services providers in the country. In Illinois, 14 YWCAs serve over 300,000 women, girls, and families each year through innovative and often life-saving programs that range from emergency shelter and affordable childcare to water safety instruction and financial literacy education. YWCA associations invest over \$45 million dollars into Illinois annually and have been serving the residents of this state for over 145 years. This work – while expansive – can only continue if certain, critical federal funding streams are protected and fully resourced. In particular, we urge you as our members of Congress to ensure that in FY20:

- **VAWA is fully funded at \$871 million;<sup>1</sup>**
- **The VOCA cap is set at an average of the past 3 years' deposits into the VOCA account;<sup>2</sup>**
- **CDBG is funded at \$3.8 billion, at minimum; and**

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<sup>1</sup> Including at least \$15 million towards the Consolidated Grant Program to Address Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Assault and Engage Men and Boys as Allies

<sup>2</sup> And maintain the tribal funding stream within VOCA

- **FVPSA is fully funded at \$175 million.**

YWCA's in Illinois rely on federal grants through CDBG, VAWA, VOCA, and FVPSA to support survivors of gender-based violence and to build – and maintain – healthy communities that thrive. Today, we urge you to ensure that these and other life-sustaining programs are fully funded in FY20.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Leslie Lina Paluch, Policy and Advocacy Manager at YWCA Evanston/North Shore, at (847) 864-8445 or [lpaluch@ywca-ens.org](mailto:lpaluch@ywca-ens.org).

Sincerely,

YWCA Evanston/North Shore  
YWCA Kankakee  
YWCA McLean County  
YWCA of the Sauk Valley  
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago  
YWCA Canton  
YWCA Elgin  
YWCA Lake County  
YWCA of the University of Illinois  
YWCA Northwestern Illinois  
YWCA Quincy  
YWCA of Alton  
YWCA of the Quad Cities  
YWCA Pekin

*Cc:* Representative Bobby Rush (1<sup>st</sup> District)  
Representative Robin Kelly (2<sup>nd</sup> District)  
Representative Dan Lipinski (3<sup>rd</sup> District)  
Representative Jesús "Chuy" García (4<sup>th</sup> District)  
Representative Michael Quigley (5<sup>th</sup> District)  
Representative Sean Casten (6<sup>th</sup> District)  
Representative Danny K. Davis (7<sup>th</sup> District)  
Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi (8<sup>th</sup> District)  
Representative Jan Schakowsky (9<sup>th</sup> District)  
Representative Brad Schneider (10<sup>th</sup> District)  
Representative Bill Foster (11<sup>th</sup> District)  
Representative Mike Bost (12<sup>th</sup> District)  
Representative Rodney L. Davis (13<sup>th</sup> District)  
Representative Lauren Underwood (14<sup>th</sup> District)  
Representative John Shimkus (15<sup>th</sup> District)  
Representative Adam Kinzinger (16<sup>th</sup> District)  
Representative Cheri Bustos (17<sup>th</sup> District)  
Representative Darin LaHood (18<sup>th</sup> District)