

YWCA of Michigan 2018 Advocacy Agenda

The YWCAs of Michigan including: YWCA Great Lakes Bay Region, YWCA Greater Flint, YWCA Kalamazoo, YWCA Metropolitan Detroit and YWCA West Central Michigan – are leveraging our collective and unified voice to advocate for the communities we serve.

At the core of our mission – *eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all* – YWCA believes that no one should suffer from the negative impacts of institutional and structural racism.

The YWCAs of Michigan will focus our collective efforts on the unjust treatment of people of color in our communities. We believe that when community members come together, we can come up with solutions that benefit everyone and create safer communities for all. The below agenda was adopted after seeking input from community members and partners.

Eliminate the disproportionate disciplinary outcomes of youth of color in schools and community, by promoting equitable policies and mandating trainings for school officials and law enforcement.

Position: We aim to eliminate policies and practices that attribute to school push out and criminalize youth of color in schools and community. We support efforts to provide educators and law enforcement with tools and resources to address the role that biases, and institutional practices play in their interactions with youth of color. We encourage schools to adopt anti-racist, trauma informed, and restorative justice approaches. We support recent efforts by Michigan’s State legislature to cease zero tolerance policies. We support additional efforts that ensure youth of color can learn and thrive in safe, equitable spaces. We believe these efforts must be transparent and include accountability measures.

Mandated trainings

Goal: Garner support from school officials and law enforcement agencies to mandate implicit bias, trauma informed and cultural competency trainings.

Disciplinary Policies

Goal: All targeted schools will evaluate and revise disciplinary policies to ensure they do not disproportionately impact youth of color, particularly girls of color.

Strengthen SB 103 & SB 105

Goal: Garner support from state electeds to strengthen SB 103 and SB 105 by including aggregated data (relative to census data) on students’ demographics and include enforcement mechanism. Also, ensure agencies and school officials have the proper guidelines and resources to implement policies.