

YWCA YAKIMA PROGRAMMING

The primary focuses of the YWCA Yakima are: Empowering women and Girls; Building Self-Sufficient Women; Breaking the Cycle of Violence; Embracing Diversity; Eliminating Racism; and Maximizing Partnerships. The following programs are currently offered:

YWCA FAMILY CRISIS PROGRAM:

24-Hour Domestic Violence Shelter. Women and children escaping an abuser receive food, clothing, bedding and emergency local transportation. Clients stay an average of three to six weeks while undergoing counseling, developing a safety plan, obtaining a protection order through the courts, seeking permanent housing.

Legal Advocacy. Advocates attend weekly county victims' meetings to explain legal rights to survivors. This contact develops trust and ensures the advocate is able to continue providing support and education to the client. The YWCA also provides domestic violence legal clinics to help survivors complete the forms necessary to obtain a protection order.

Support Groups. The YWCA offers drop-in support groups to provide domestic violence survivors the emotional support needed to make the difficult choices faced when trying to leave an abusive relationship.

72-Hour Response. Following every reported domestic violence incident, Yakima law enforcement contacts the YWCA with the name and phone number of the survivor. Within 72 hours of the assault, a YWCA advocate contacts the survivor and provides information about resources available. By intervening in the cycle of violence, the program aims to prevent further abuse.

9-1-1- Cell Phone Program. Survivors of domestic violence and stalking who have protection orders against their perpetrators are offered a free cell phone programmed to dial 911 in an emergency. Having the comfort and security of the phones reduces fear of attack, allowing survivors to go about their daily lives with more confidence.

Housing. The YWCA offers housing assistance, providing assistance with rental, utilities and related expenses as well as support services designed to enable domestic violence survivors to locate and secure permanent housing and integrate into the community.

Working Women's Wardrobe. This program provides low-income women preparing for the work force donated professional clothing and accessories free of charge. For some women, even those with increased confidence and abilities, the biggest obstacle to getting a good job is finding appropriate attire for an interview or training program. Some women escape a violent home with nothing more than the clothes on their backs.