

## **YWCA OLYMPIA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION**

YWCA Olympia is ON A MISSION to eliminate racism and sexism to advance the political, social and economic status of all women and girls. Our vision is a world where all people are valued, live free from oppression and thrive in a just society.

Purpose: The YWCA Olympia Advocacy Committee serves as the association's key resource for determining and promoting public policy advocacy and carrying out actions that advance our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. The Committee also positions the association as a credible, visible and connected community organization whenever contact related to YWCA public policy is made with the media and/or elected officials.

Qualifications of Members:

- Commitment to the YWCA Olympia's mission, goals and programs
- Understanding of the intersection of the YWCA mission with public policy and/or programming
- Knowledge of the local community and state as it relates to potential coalition partners, elected officials and issues
- Ability to analyze information relating to policy issues
- Ability to communicate clearly
- Interest in taking action (attending committee hearings, meeting with legislators, sending materials, etc.)

Representation: Members of the committee may include YWCA Board Members as well as community members. Membership should reflect the community, particularly as it relates to racial and ethnic composition. Young women and students should also be represented.

Accountability: The Advocacy Committee reports to the Advocacy Committee Chair and YWCA CEO. The Chair is always a member of the YWCA Olympia Board of Directors.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Committee:

- Recommends annual advocacy agenda (including public policies priorities, action plans) for presentation to the YWCA Board of Directors for approval. Steps include collection of basic information, including materials provided by YWCA USA, on relevant issues, related legislation, and potential action steps, discussion and analysis of the information
- Development of recommendations for legislative priorities and actions

- Supports/guides implementation of adopted agenda (including participation in action items)
- Prepares fact sheets and opinion papers as needed
- Determines process and systems for information dissemination
- Recommends participation in coalitions and campaigns that relate to mission and programs
- Recommends spokesperson for advocacy-related items and keeps Board apprised of statements to media
- Stays apprised on non-profit lobbying guidelines (federal and state)
- Implements advocacy training for the Board of Directors and committee members as needed

*Update 01/07/17 crs*