

2022 YWCA USA Program Inventory and Impact Summary Impact Area - Childcare

About

YWCA USA is a strong network nationwide of 196 local associations. Local associations are asked yearly to provide program-level data for collective impact evaluations. In 2022, 135 (68.9%) local associations reported on their programs and impact. Impact data provided throughout recognizes those who submitted and is not the collective 196.

Summary

Access to quality childcare programming, rising childcare costs, and the lingering impact of COVID-19 concerning staffing shortages make childcare a burden for the people we serve. Twenty-five (25%) percent of associations reported experiencing difficulties retaining staff due to newly implemented COVID-19 restrictions such as social distancing, which reduced the number of clients centers can serve. These restrictions, with increased living costs, compounded an already tenuous situation. ¹Center for American Progress believes this trend will continue

Two associations closed childcare centers in 2022 due to lack of sustainable funding.

until the system pays a livable wage and improve work-life balance.

In the 2022 Program Inventory and Impact Survey (program survey), 60.7% of reporting local associations offered 153 childcare program services to children and their families, of which 31% live at or below the Federal Poverty level.

82 Local
Association(s)

153 Program(s)

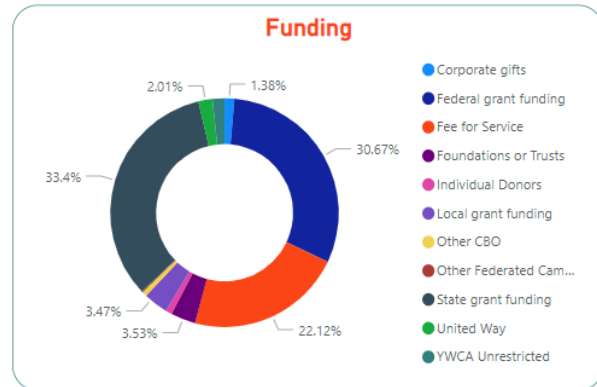
66,373 total
people served.

57.78% of
people served
are People of
Color.

63.95% of
people served
are Women and
Girls.

¹ President, J.C.V., et al. (2022) The child care sector will continue to struggle hiring staff unless it creates good jobs, Center for American Progress. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/z7e7vz>.

They also reported receiving over \$153M in funding for childcare; of that, 31% came from Federal support, and 33% came from the State.²Pew Trusts.org reminds us that “States have until 2023 to spend \$24 billion in childcare business grants and until 2024 to spend \$15 billion in childcare subsidy dollars.” Associations agree that if funding declines, it will be difficult to operate their programs at current levels, much less expand programming to meet the ongoing needs of working families looking for quality programming.



Expansion opportunities mentioned by local associations include:

- Renovating or relocating facilities to serve more people and compete with local competitors;
- Improving partnership reach to increase program offerings and broaden grant opportunities; and
- Strengthening the curriculum to include mental health, creative arts, and teen aftercare topics.

Twenty-eight (35%) associations identified staffing as the biggest hurdle related to paying a living wage. With 24% concerned about funding overall, these opportunities are unlikely to be realized. A shortfall will hurt 91 programs in the network.³This makes federal aid, slated to decline by 32% over the next decade, crucial.

Federal legislators recognize the need for quality childcare, but it is still being determined if their recognition will result in funding and solutions to the problem.⁴President Biden, in his Executive Order issued on April 18, 2023, charged federal agencies to identify strategies, best practices, and barriers to making childcare and Head Start more accessible for those families most in need. Until a sustainable plan is reached, YWCA USA and local associations will continue advocating for legislation impacting children and families.

² Quinton, S. (2022) Federal aid is propping up child care. it isn't a long-term fix., Stateline. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/u7e7vz>.

³ How much government spending goes to children? (no date) Peter G. Peterson Foundation. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/88e7vz>.

⁴ Executive order on increasing access to high-quality care and supporting caregivers (2023) The White House. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/i8e7vz>.