

August In-District Lobby Day Backgrounder

Congressional In-District Lobby Days Tuesday, August 5, and Thursday, August 7, 2025

Join us for our **collective Congressional In-District Lobby Days August 5 and 7**. Together, as ONE YWCA, we will speak out and show Congress why investing in YWCA programs is critical for women, families, and communities across the country. Get ready to raise your voice and make an impact—right in your own community.

These visits are a great opportunity for YWCA supporters who typically don't attend Capitol Hill Day in Washington DC to share powerful, personal stories that show the life-changing impact of YWCA programs. And because our strategy is to demonstrate public support and build political will for elected officials to fund YWCA programs in Fiscal Year 2026, **YWCA's are strongly encouraged to invite key stakeholders, such as board members, program directors, staff, and clients to attend their visits**. There's **no cost to participate**—just a commitment to register and complete the required trainings in advance. Preparation for this important event will consist of online issue education, skill-based and logistical focused trainings, office hours to provide personalized technical assistance to local or state delegations as they plan for their meetings and supporting resource materials.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FOR THE IN-DISTRICT LOBBY VISITS IS REQUIRED.

Registration Deadline Is Friday, July 18th.

To register, click [here](#).

When you register for lobby visits you are agreeing to:

- 1) Attend visits on Tuesday, August 5 and Thursday, August 7
- 2) Participate in at least one webinar live- and are strongly encouraged to listen to both sessions.

Please contact the YWCA USA via e-mail at advocacy@ywca.org if you have questions about registration, legislative visits, or would like general information.

CONGRESSIONAL ASKS:

YWCA's are meeting a higher demand with fewer resources. With Congress set to make major funding decisions this fall, now is the time to raise our voices. We're shining a spotlight on how YWCA brings its mission and vision to life—**in every community, for EVERYONE**—by advocating for the federal funding our programs need. These investments are vital to the health and well-being of women, families, and entire communities across the country. Specifically, we will focus on critical federal funding related to domestic and sexual violence, child care and early learning, and housing, including:

- Family Violence Prevention and Service Program (FVPSA).
- Victims of Crime (VOCA) Act; Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

- Head Start and Early Head Start.
- Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG); and
- Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care

We will also urge members in the House and Senate to support and pass the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act, which addresses the crisis with the Victims of Crime Act fund (VOCA).

GOALS AND STRATEGY:

This event furthers the goals of our collective work this year to urge elected officials to protect and invest in funding that supports Local Associations. **Specifically, we are continuing to call on Congress to:**

- **MITIGATE HARM:** Mitigate harm and **defend** the policies, programs, and funding streams that are most important to the work of Local Associations and our mission.
- **OPPOSE HARMFUL CHANGES:** cuts, caps, freezes, and harmful programmatic changes, including eligibility changes, to programs
- **SECURE ROBUST FUNDING** for vital YWCA programs

And as our strategy is to demonstrate public support and build political will for elected officials to protect and invest in YWCA programs in Fiscal Year 2026, YWCAs are encouraged to invite key stakeholders, such as board members, program directors, and clients to attend their visits- showing a wide range of community support for YWCAs.

SCHEDULING LEGISLATIVE VISITS:

YWCA USA will schedule congressional visits that will be with members of Congress or their staff. Advocacy Associates, a logistics firm specializing in organizing Hill Days in Washington, DC, state capitals, and in-district events, will assist us in scheduling. YWCA USA has worked with Advocacy Associates since the early 2000s, and they are very familiar with the YWCAs.

The process of how meetings will be arranged is as follows:

- The primary YWCA address will be used to match Local Associations with their appropriate corresponding House and Senate Members of Congress.
- Each attendee will have a total of 3 meetings: one Representative and two Senate meetings. Meeting times will take place any time during regular business hours based on the time zone in which the YWCA resides.
 - **Tuesday, August 5**, meetings with Representatives or their staff. These meetings will take place IN PERSON at the Member's district office.

- **Thursday, August 7**, meetings with Senators or their staff will take place. Attendees will meet as a YWCA state delegation (comprising all YWCAs from a state) with their Senators and staff VIA ZOOM. These meetings are held remotely to allow all YWCA CEOs, Executive Directors, Board Members, staff, and clients who will be attending to join the meeting without incurring travel costs or time. For these meetings, 2-3 speakers will be chosen to represent the group, with other participants being free to follow up via email post-event with information on their specific needs, etc. The Public Policy and Advocacy (PPA) Department can help state delegations identify speakers before the meetings. Please contact us at advocacy@ywca.org to set up a time.
- Please contact us at advocacy@ywca.org if you have a specific scheduling request. This can include meeting with a Representative or Senator you are personal friends with, and/or needing special accommodations.

REGISTER AND ATTEND AUGUST IN-DISTRICT PREPATORY TRAININGS:

Prior to the August legislative visits, YWCA USA will conduct two online webinar training sessions to prepare participating attendees. ***Registrants must participate in one session live to attend Congressional visits***- and are strongly encouraged to listen to all the sessions. All sessions will be recorded, with recordings provided to attendees and posted on this site for those who are unable to participate in the live webinars.

- **Webinar 1: July 11, 3 – 4 p.m. ET ([register](#))**
The first training will include an overview of the entire Week of Action, an in-depth issue briefing and overview on vital YWCA federal funding streams, current state of play in Congress, what is at stake for women, girls and communities, and how to make it personal to your Local YWCA.
- **Webinar 2: July 24, 3 – 4 p.m. ET ([register](#))**
The second training will focus on skills and logistics, providing tips and techniques for building relationships with your elected officials, as well as meeting and speaking with various types of elected officials. Participation in the session is essential for attendees participating in legislative visits as we will provide tailored messaging based on key audiences -messaging for champions, those who are undecided, and for those offices that may not share the same position as the YWCA. Finally, this webinar will cover day-of logistics and address any remaining questions.
- **Office Hours:**
The national office will also host office hours for attendees who would like more one-on-one personal assistance in preparing for their congressional visits. For more information on the office hours, please visit the August 2025 Week of Action and In-District Lobby Day [Webpage](#).

DOWNLOADABLE MATERIALS: *Coming soon on the August 2025 Week of Action and In-District Lobby Day* [Webpage](#)

Lobby Day participants will be able to download the Lobby Day materials, including:

- Background on YWCA Federal Funding Priorities and FY 2026 Appropriations Asks

- [Background on the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act](#)
- [Talking Points](#)
- [Talking Points Worksheet](#)
- [Tips and Tricks for Lobby Visits](#)
- [Lobby Day App](#)
- [Lobby Day App Download Instructions and Instructional Video](#)