

# Critical Issues Facing New Jersey Women



## Economic Insecurity

Low-income New Jersey families cannot afford the high cost of sequestration. For example, 13.3% of New Jersey families are female-headed, and a single mother in your state earns an average of \$30,707 annually. This means that 43% are living in poverty. Without childcare subsidies, care for one infant costs, on average, 35.7% of a single mother's entire income. Sequester cuts worsen the effects of the recession by driving these families deeper into poverty.

## Need for Immigration Reform

The lack of comprehensive immigration reform (CIR) has taken a devastating toll on countless immigrant families. Across the U.S., 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. In New Jersey, women make up 51.4% of the immigrant population; a national cap of 10,000 U-Visas limits the number of immigrant survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking who are able to escape abuse. Without CIR, immigrant women are needlessly endangered.

## Gun Violence

From 2001-2010, 280 women were murdered in New Jersey as a result of firearms. Current state law does not authorize law enforcement to remove firearms at the scene of a domestic violence incident, and does prohibit abusers who have been issued protective orders to purchase or possess a firearm. New Jersey ranks 47th for the overall prevalence of gun-related violence amongst 50 states.

For more information, email: [advocacy@ywca.org](mailto:advocacy@ywca.org).

### Sources:

Economic Insecurity: US Census Bureau; ChildCare Aware

Immigration Reform: Migration Policy Institute; Public Law 113-4; Immigration Policy Center

Gun Violence: Center for American Progress; Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

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# YWCA 2014 Legislative Priorities

## Pass a Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) Budget to End Sequestration

YWCAs and the communities we serve are adversely impacted by sequestration caused by the Budget Control Act of 2011. The YWCA encourages the passage of an FY15 budget that supports women and families by ending sequestration, which will protect Social Security, SNAP and Medicare/Medicaid, and restore funding to discretionary domestic programs, such as CDBG, CCDBG, VAWA and VOCA. Congress must pass an FY15 budget that repeals the sequester entirely. Failure to do so will drive families further into poverty.

## Enact Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR): Co-Sponsor H.R. 15

Women make up 51% of the immigrant population in the U.S. The YWCA supports the bipartisan, Senate-passed CIR bill S. 744, which includes a roadmap to citizenship, the DREAM Act, and protections for trafficked and immigrant victims of sexual and domestic violence. The House has yet to pass a similar measure, such as H.R. 15, which would make modest improvements to S. 744. We urge Representatives to co-sponsor H.R. 15 and sign the discharge petition to bring the bill to the floor for an immediate vote. Failure to enact CIR this year puts immigrant women and their families at risk.

## Stop Domestic Violence-Related Homicides: Co-Sponsor H.R. 3566

The YWCA remains committed to addressing violence against women through a renewed focus on domestic violence-related homicide reduction. The YWCA supports H.R. 3566, the Domestic Violence Criminal Disarmament Act, which encourages states to develop and adopt legislation and/or policies around firearms that are essentially similar to or stronger than current federal firearms laws. Abusers with access to guns are five to eight times more likely to kill their partners than those without firearms. H.R. 3566 will effectively reduce domestic violence homicides by preventing perpetrators from accessing firearms once a protective order has been obtained.

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The YWCA is the voice for every woman. For more than 150 years, the YWCA has spoken out and taken action on behalf of women and girls.

