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YWCA Greater Cincinnati Awarded \$1.5 million Grant
Funding from bi3 to support shelters, racial justice, and advocacy work

CINCINNATI (For Immediate Release) -- The YWCA Greater Cincinnati announced today that it has been awarded a \$1.5 million grant from bi3 to fund its domestic violence shelters and housing programs, as well as expand racial equity training and establish partnerships to advocate for policy change.

The three-year grant from bi3, is one of four in a total of \$6.5 million recently awarded to Black-led non-profits in Greater Cincinnati to accelerate health equity. The funds will support efforts to reduce infant mortality, improve birth outcomes for Black families and address social barriers to better health.

“We are grateful to bi3 for this transformational grant,” said **Rickell Howard Smith**, President and CEO of YWCA Greater Cincinnati. “The funds will support our mission to assure women have safe shelters, while giving them long-term housing options for themselves and their families. It also supports our racial justice, equity, and advocacy work to impact systems change in the region to create a just society for all.”

“bi3’s purpose is to lead the way to a day when every person has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible,” said **Jill Miller**, President & CEO of bi3. “Partnering with the YWCA Greater Cincinnati to invest in their equity work and support families who need access to domestic violence shelters and housing will improve health outcomes throughout our community.”

Ohio Department of Health data shows Black and Brown women in Ohio are statistically more likely to endure health disparities. The grant will accelerate the YWCA’s position as a leader in a regional initiative to close gaps in health equity by developing a path to system-level change for the health and safety of women and children in Southwest Ohio.

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About the YWCA of Greater Cincinnati

Founded in 1868 as the fifth YWCA association in the United States, YWCA of Greater Cincinnati is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. The agency was at the forefront of racial justice advocacy in the region, establishing the first integrated cafeteria in Cincinnati in the 1950s. Since the 1970s, YWCA has provided direct services to families surviving intimate partner violence and operates the only domestic violence survivor shelter serving Hamilton, Clermont, Brown and Adams counties. The organization executes its mission through programming and advocacy that advances the health and safety for women and girls, women's economic empowerment, and gender and racial equity in the Greater Cincinnati area. For more information, visit www.ywcacincinnati.org.

About bi3

bi3 is on a mission to transform health for all people in Greater Cincinnati by fueling innovation and health equity through grantmaking. It leverages its strategic partnership with TriHealth to spark and scale new approaches to healthcare and partners with community-based organizations to fuel new solutions to deep-seated community health issues. Learn more at bi3.org.