



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Kansas State Alliance of YMCAs 2016 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

The Kansas Alliance of YMCAs represents the collective voice and impact of 10 Kansas Y Associations that serve 536,000 Kansans. Kansas Ys work together and in partnership with other organizations and coalitions to strengthen communities by advancing youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility through advocacy, programming and collaboration.

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

As the largest provider of childcare, preschool and afterschool programs in Kansas, the Y believes that all kids deserve the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve.

Increase access, affordability and quality of early learning, childcare and after school youth programs and services to help every child in Kansas reach their full potential.

Create greater awareness of the education achievement gap that exists in Kansas and explore opportunities for best practice policy implementation and increased funding for out-of-school programs aimed at closing the gap. One in two Kansas youth come from low-income families and communities, and often start school unprepared. Gaps widen each summer, and students fall farther behind their peers—culminating in low H.S. graduation and college attainment rates, limited job prospects, and negative economic impact.

FOR HEALTHY LIVING

In communities throughout Kansas, the Y is a leading voice on health and well-being. The Y provides programs and opportunities for families to be active together, supports seniors staying strong and living independently, teaches healthy living practices, and fosters connections through fitness, sports, healthy eating, fun and shared interests.

Expand and promote evidence-based chronic disease prevention programs that promote quality of life for all, while lessening the burden on the state budget from skyrocketing costs associated with diabetes, heart disease, cancer and arthritis—all of which can be positively affected with evidence-based prevention and management strategies.

Encourage coverage for evidence-based diabetes prevention programs by KanCare MCOs and the state employee health plan.

Increase access to and affordability of healthy foods to all Kansas citizens.

Support and adequately fund programs that promote healthy living among seniors, children, and families, including increased access to safe and convenient places to walk, exercise, and play.

FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Y is a cause driven organization that provides accessible and affordable services to everyone regardless of their ability to pay. Implementing taxes and fees on charitable organizations limits our ability to relieve the burden of government and provide services to those who need us most.

Preserve the tax exempt status of charitable organizations and incentives for donating to and volunteering for such organizations.