



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A BETTER US

The Y is a powerful community ally and advocate, collaborating with national and local leaders and policymakers to increase the resources and support that empower our neighbors. From safe spaces to academic achievement to well-being and more, the Y gives individuals, families and communities the support they need to learn, grow and thrive.

2016 Legislative Priorities

Support programs that nurture and enrich the lives of children and youth by ensuring safe spaces and quality, affordable child care and learning environments – As one of the nation’s largest providers of early childhood and afterschool programs, the Y provides environments where parents can feel confident that their children are safe and are engaging in enrichment activities that lead to positive outcomes.

- **Co-Sponsor the Child Protection Improvements Act (H.R. 4073/S.2332):** This legislation creates a national system that allows youth-serving organizations access to national FBI fingerprint background checks on potential volunteers and employees, and provides a solution for youth-serving organizations that do not have access to national FBI checks through their state’s system. **(PRIORITY REQUEST)**
- **Maintain investments in 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) at \$1.167 billion.**
- **Provide at least \$2.76 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).**
- **Maintain critical access to Head Start programs at \$9.168 billion.**

Support policies and programs that help to build positive futures for the most vulnerable youth and teens by cultivating the skills and relationships that lead to improved educational achievement, decision-making and personal expectations – The Y is committed to nurturing the potential of all teens and helping young people live stable, fulfilling lives, regardless of their background or where they live.

- **Ensure \$90 million of funding for the U.S. Department of Justice National Youth Mentoring Program.**
- **Maintain funding levels for youth employment programs authorized in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) including \$873 million for Title I and \$84.5 million for YouthBuild.**

Support funding at CDC that will help ensure the scaling of evidence-based programs to prevent diabetes, control arthritis and hypertension and reclaim health from the effects of cancer – As a leading nonprofit network for improving the nation’s health, the Y is committed to helping individuals and families reduce risk of and manage chronic disease, and is working in communities to support environments that promote healthy lifestyles.

- **Cosponsor the Bi-Partisan Medicare Diabetes Prevention Act (S. 1131 /H.R. 2102).** The legislation would give seniors across the country access to community-based diabetes programs, like the YMCA’s Diabetes Prevention Program. Programs like the Y’s have been shown to reduce the incidence of type 2 diabetes by 71 percent for at-risk people over age 60. In 2014, 86 million adults had prediabetes, a precursor to diabetes. A conservative CBO-like estimate by Avalere reported that the nation could save \$1.3 billion over a decade in Medicare by passing the MDPA. **(PRIORITY REQUEST)**
- **Support ongoing funding of \$25 million for the National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) at CDC with the goal of full funding of \$80 million.**
- **Support \$16 million for the Arthritis program at CDC.**
- **Support \$5 million for Million Hearts at CDC.**
- **Support a deeper federal investment in evidence-based cancer survivorship programs at CDC.**

Support programs that help meet the critical social needs of our communities – The Y has been listening and responding to our communities’ most critical social needs for 160 years. Whether developing skills through education and training, welcoming and connecting diverse demographic populations through global service or strengthening communities, the Y fosters the care and respect all people need and deserve.

- **Reauthorize the Child Nutrition Act (CNA) to increase access to summer and afterschool snack and meal programs and streamline childhood hunger programs.** Many Ys across the country utilize federal nutrition programs, including the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to provide healthy meals and snacks to thousands of youth alongside important afterschool and summer enrichment activities. YMCAs rely on these programs to help meet the needs of the whole child. Reauthorizing CNA and maintaining these important federal investments ensures that millions of low-income children will continue to have access to healthy meals and snacks after school and during the summer. **(PRIORITY REQUEST)**
- **Maintain funding for housing and homelessness assistance programs.**

Support programs and policies that strengthen the Nonprofit sector – Nonprofits play an important role in communities across the nation. Policies that encourage people to give their time and financial resource to nonprofits help to make communities stronger.

- **Support tax incentives that encourage charitable giving such as charitable deduction limits and caps.**
- **Support full funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service.**