



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Kansas State Alliance of YMCAs

2022 POLICY PRIORITIES

The Kansas Alliance of YMCAs represents the collective voice and impact of 11 Kansas YMCA associations serving almost 550,000 Kansans in 24 communities. Kansas Ys work together and in partnership with other organizations and coalitions to strengthen the foundation of our communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Nurture the potential of every child and teen

- Increase access, affordability and quality of early learning, child care and out-of-school time youth programs and services to help every child in Kansas reach their full potential.
- Invest in research-based early childhood and school-age programs and support services.
- Create greater awareness of the education achievement gap and explore opportunities for best practice policy implementation and increased funding for out-of-school time programs.
- Expand eligibility for the existing employer tax credit for child care to create an incentive for small businesses to cover the cost of child care for their employees.
- Support the early education and out-of-school time program workforce.
- Increase the amount of child care assistance a family can receive so child care providers are appropriately compensated for working with families that have difficulty affording care.

HEALTHY LIVING

Improve communities' wellbeing

- Increase access to and affordability of healthy foods for all Kansans.
- Encourage evidence-based chronic disease prevention and management 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.
- Explore opportunities to encourage healthy initiatives in early childhood and school age programs.
- 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.
- Support Tobacco 21 and antivaping policies which promote healthy choices for teens.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Giving back and providing support to our neighbors

- Support any funding opportunities and regulatory relief for nonprofit organizations as a result of the pandemic.
- Support funding opportunities for drowning prevention programs, such as Safety Around Water.
- Support child abuse prevention policies that promote a positive, nurturing environment while protecting youth.
- Preserve the tax-exempt status of charitable organizations and incentives for donating to and volunteering for such organizations so they can stay strong, effective and responsive to the needs of their local community.