

# SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Providing support and inspiring action in our communities.

## HELPING NONPROFITS ADDRESS COMMUNITY NEEDS

**Support a universal deduction that allows ALL Americans to deduct charitable contributions from their income before calculating tax obligations.**

The Y is pleased that the charitable deduction was retained in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act; however, the doubling of the standard deduction is decreasing the number of people who will itemize deductions and creates an unintended consequence of fewer individuals making charitable donations. Please ensure that tax reform unlocks more charitable giving by supporting legislation that includes a universal deduction (H.R. 651, H.R. 5293).

## Support \$1.35 billion for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

CNCS is the largest grant maker in support of service and volunteering. It oversees Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, VISTA, National Civilian Community Corps and the Volunteer Generation Fund. These initiatives tap the energy and talent of citizens to solve problems in their communities and many Ys nationwide draw upon these programs to meet community needs. The Y supports full funding for CNCS and continues to work with other coalitions to ensure that CNCS receives robust funding to deliver these essential services.

## NOURISHING CHILDREN AND ENSURING WELL-BEING

### Cosponsor the Summer Meals Act (S. 1908/H.R. 2818).

The Summer Meals Act will improve child nutrition and enhance learning in underserved areas during the summer. This bill will streamline summer and afterschool meal coordination to support year-round feeding, allow an additional meal or snack to be served during the summer, align program eligibility to match other federal programs, and provide transportation resources for hard to reach areas.

## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

### Support \$11 million for the National Park Service (NPS) Youth Partnership Programs at the Department of Interior.

The Youth Partnership Programs inspire future generations to be stewards of the land through environmental education, conservation, recreation and civic responsibility. These resources have enabled partnerships between national parks and YMCAs to create youth employment programs and provided nearly 50,000 children and youth their first opportunity to attend camp or visit a national park.

### Support programs and funding streams that advance the community schools model.

This model promotes school-community partnerships and strategies that coordinate and integrate local services—including health, nutrition and social services—to enhance children's academic and non-academic outcomes and support family wellness. Grant programs, including Full-Service Community Schools and 21st Century Community Learning Centers, as well as funding under Title I of ESSA can be used to support this model.

## CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

### Cosponsor the Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Act (H.R. 3120/S. 520).

The Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Act will establish a new pilot program at the U.S. Department of Energy to provide financial grants to non-profit organizations to help make buildings they own and operate more energy efficient. It will enable YMCAs, schools, houses of worship, hospitals, etc. to reduce their operating costs, lessen impact on the environment and bolster America's energy independence.

## CONNECTING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES TO NEEDED RESOURCES

### Support meaningful, bipartisan deliberations on comprehensive immigration reform.

Creating bipartisan legislative solutions that address immigration reform is imperative. The future of the nation depends on our collective ability to create meaningful opportunities for all, including new Americans and immigrants, to make social and economic contributions. America's communities are stronger and more cohesive when everyone can contribute and neighbors from all backgrounds work together toward a shared vision for the future.

### Cosponsor the SOAR Act (S.1665, H.R. 3879).

The Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation Act would increase guided recreational access to federal public lands by improving and streamlining the outfitter-guide permitting systems of the federal land management agencies. This bill would help increase outdoor opportunities for young people and families to experience the outdoors with the assistance of an outdoor leader, educator, guide, or outfitter. In many cases, youth organizations, like the Y, and even schools will either be able to access guide services for the first time or do so with less expense and red tape.

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the

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# EVERY COMMUNITY THRIVING

## YMCA of the USA Legislative Priorities 2020

The Y effects global change from the ground up. Together, we help young people develop into tomorrow's leaders, we help everyone improve their well-being, and we create strong, vibrant communities for all. Our legislative priorities support federal investments in places and programs that are open to people of all generations, backgrounds and perspectives, and expand access to the resources, opportunities and relationships that everyone needs to thrive.



# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Empowering young people to reach their full potential.

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH

**Support \$1.35 billion for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), which fund engaging academic enrichment opportunities before school, after school and during the summer.**

These opportunities inspire kids to learn and make better decisions, and give parents peace of mind. Research shows that quality programs give students the academic, social and career skills they need to succeed; can lead to improvements in attendance, class participation and behavior, and homework completion; and can narrow the achievement gap.

**Support increased funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).**

CCDBG supports economically disadvantaged families by increasing the availability, affordability and quality of childcare. These funds help secure early childhood and after-school opportunities for children under the age of 13, providing parents the comfort of knowing their children are in safe, healthy environments while they work or pursue training opportunities.

**Support increased investments in Head Start, which promotes the healthy development of young children.**

Head Start prepares young children for school and life by providing a comprehensive set of services to families including education, nutrition, health care and social services to enhance child well-being. Head Start also supports parents' engagement in their child's learning and development. Together, comprehensive services and parental engagement ensure the cognitive, social, and emotional development of young children and prepare them for future success.

## ENSURING CHILD SAFETY

**Finalize Reauthorization and fully fund the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).**

CAPTA is dedicated to the prevention, assessment, identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect by providing the necessary resources states need to help develop, implement, and evaluate strategies that prevent child maltreatment, reduce entry into the child welfare system and enhance the overall well-being and outcomes of children and families.

## BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES AND RESILIENCY

**Cosponsor the RISE from Trauma Act (S. 1770/H.R. 3180).**

This legislation expands trauma-informed training and workforce development in social service organizations, schools, health care settings, child welfare and justice systems and among first responders. It will also increase resources to bolster community response to those affected by trauma. The RISE Act seeks to mitigate the effects of childhood trauma by training parents, teachers and others to provide safe, stable, nurturing environments for children and evidence-based interventions to foster coping and resilience skills.

**Support the Youth Workforce Readiness Act (H.R. 5236/S.3144).**

This legislation seeks to create federal investments and partnerships that will increase opportunities for youth to build knowledge and skills and connect to critical real-life work experiences and learning opportunities. The bill also re-establishes Youth Councils to work in coordination with local workforce boards to elevate youth voice on critical issues.

**Support \$120 million for the Youth Mentoring Program at the U.S. Department of Justice.**

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)'s Youth Mentoring Program provides grants to youth-serving organizations to fund quality mentoring programs, grounded in evidence-based research, to improve outcomes for at-risk and high-risk youth. Mentoring is a critical component in young people's lives, helping them make the decisions and connections that lead to opportunity.



# HEALTHY LIVING

Improving individual and community well-being.

## SAVING LIVES BY PREVENTING DISEASE

**Support no less than \$1.73 billion for CDC's Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. CDC's "Chronic Center" provides resources, technical expertise and program implementation at the state and community level to prevent or control chronic disease.**

Preventing and controlling disease drives down costs while saving lives. CDC supports evidence-based initiatives that address the nation's leading causes of death and disability—diabetes, cancer, arthritis, heart disease, and obesity, including support to the Y over the last decade to advance evidenced-based programs and policy strategies addressing the major causes of chronic disease and disability.

**Support \$35 million for the National Diabetes Prevention Program and \$185 million for the CDC's Diabetes Division.**

These funds help make diabetes prevention programs available to more adults living with prediabetes and help control type 2 diabetes. National Institutes of Health research has shown that diabetes prevention programs prevent the incidence of type 2 diabetes for adults by 58% and older adults by 71%, saving lives and producing enormous costs savings.

**Support \$160 million for CDC's Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Division.**

These resources enable community partnerships in all 50 states to prevent and control heart disease and stroke. They help the more than 80 million Americans living with high blood pressure and support the YMCA Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program—an evidence-based hypertension program that trains participants to use a blood pressure cuff and encourages measurement of blood pressure.

**Support \$125 million for CDC's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO).**

DNPAO supports and implements efforts that promote physical activity, walking, healthy eating and reduce obesity. The work helps states promote policies that support walkable and bikeable communities as part of CDC's Active People, Healthy Nation initiative.

**Support \$10 million for a CDC National Childhood Obesity Control Program.**

The CDC National Childhood Obesity Control Program would scale evidence-based childhood obesity programs like the Y's Healthy Weight and Your Child Program (HWYC). HWYC has been implemented in 32 states.

**Support \$76.95 million for CDC's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program.**

REACH establishes community-based, culturally tailored interventions to ensure healthy living opportunities for all, especially among racial and ethnic populations who have higher disease and mortality rates.

## CREATING HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENTS FOR YOUTH

**Support \$5 million for Drowning Prevention at CDC's National Center on Injury Prevention and Control.**

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death among children 1-4 and disproportionately affects minority populations. These funds would help CDC support national organizations in scaling proven drowning prevention programs; support state and local drowning surveillance; and, support a national plan on water safety.

**Cosponsor the Stopping Appealing Flavors in E-Cigarettes for Kids Act (SAFE Kids Act) (S.655).**

Youth tobacco use is on the rise, with 27.5%, or 5.3 million high schoolers reporting to use e-cigarettes, an increase of 135% since 2017. Much of this increase is attributed to the use of fruit and candy flavored e-cigarette products. The SAFE Kids Act would eliminate flavors in e-cigarettes and cigars, unless proven to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that the flavors do not cause children to start smoking and actually help adults quit smoking.

## SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS

**Support \$50 million for CDC's Comprehensive Cancer Program, for a deeper federal investment in evidence-based cancer survivorship programs.**

States can use these dollars to support LIVESTRONG® at the YMCA, an evidence-based physical activity program for cancer survivors to reduce fatigue, improve quality of life, cardiovascular function and strength.

**Support \$54 million for the Arthritis Program at CDC.**

This program supports state and community-based organizations in scaling evidence-based programs that could help some of the 50 million Americans living with arthritis, like the Y's Enhance@Fitness arthritis program which has shown reduced costs by \$945 per participant.

