



State Alliance of Michigan YMCAs

State Advocacy Day, May 8 2019

Priority Issue: Protect Appropriation for Healthy Out of School Time Funds

The current year Michigan Department of Health and Human Services budget contains funding for health and wellness programs designed at improving the health of Michigan citizens. **The budget also contains boilerplate language that specifically directs \$1 million of that funding toward a “school children’s healthy exercise program.”** Y’s around the state receive portions of those funds to provide these programs.

Governor Whitmer’s proposed budget kept this funding intact. However, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported out a version of the budget that reduced this to a “placeholder” of \$100 (placeholders are tools that the Appropriations Committees use to indicate an item for which the final funding decision is yet to be made). The House Appropriations Committee has not reported its version of the budget yet, but is expected to do so in the next week.

The funding for the school children’s healthy exercise program is found in Section 1226 of the DHHS budget.

The funds in Section 1226 are used to:

- Support Before- and After-school programs that combat childhood obesity and educate children on better nutrition and exercise habits;
- Provide healthy food options for children, particularly in summer months when access to school-based nutrition is less available;
- Improve educational performance and reduce the achievement gap between high- and low-income children.

Please ask your legislators to support the school children’s healthy exercise programs and vote to restore and continue funding contained in Section 1226 of the Department of Health and Human Services budget.