



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

STATE ALLIANCE OF MICHIGAN YMCAs

2019 ADVOCACY AGENDA AND PRIORITIES

The Y is committed to nurturing the potential of youth, promoting healthy lifestyles, and fostering social responsibility to ensure that every individual has access to the essential resources needed to learn, grow, and thrive. Anchored in over 60 communities across Michigan, the Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence to not just promise but deliver lasting personal change.

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Youth Development

We believe that all kids deserve the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve. Thousands of young Michiganders are active in their local Ys, cultivating the values, skills, and relationships that lead to positive behaviors, better health, and educational achievements.

Specifically, Michigan YMCAs support early youth development efforts, including affordable childcare, afterschool programs, literacy, and active play.

The Y supports:

- Safety Around Water The Y can teach Michiganders to be safe around water, giving them the freedom to enjoy our states natural resources without the fear of drowning.
- Expansion of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers so that Michigan’s most vulnerable children have access to robust opportunities to support success.
- Programs that promote educational success through after school and early learning programs. The Y supports programs that help close the summer learning gap, to which children from low income families are most vulnerable.

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Healthy Living

In communities across Michigan, the Y is a leading voice for health and well-being. With a mission centered on balance, the Y brings families closer together, encourages good health, and fosters connections through fitness, sports, fun, and shared interests. As a result, thousands of youth, adults, and families are receiving the support, guidance, and resources needed to achieve greater health and well-being for their spirit, mind, and body.

Specifically, Michigan YMCAs support efforts and legislation to fight obesity, encourage physical activity for all, and address prevention as a means to help curb chronic diseases.

The Y supports:

- Community placed evidence-based health interventions to help reduce the burden of chronic disease and promote a good health for Michigan residents.
- Increased access to nutritious food in all communities.

Social Responsibility

The Y has been listening and responding to our communities' most critical needs for 160 years. Whether developing skills or emotional well-being through education and training, welcoming and connecting diverse populations, or building healthier communities, the Y fosters the care and respect all people need and deserve. The staff and volunteers are serving Michigan communities to empower everyone to be healthy, confident, connected, and secure.

Specifically, Michigan YMCAs support tax exemption for non-profit entities that provide a community benefit.

The Y supports:

- Expanding access to Y programs and camps for families and children enrolled in the foster care system.
- Supporting our communities to be connected with others, combating social isolation and promote civic engagement.
- Supporting walkable communities to encourage non-motorized transportation where we learn, work, and play.



For more information, contact:
State Alliance of Michigan YMCAs
michiganymca.org
734.430.9622