



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

State Alliance of Michigan YMCAs 2020 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.

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 & Fidelity** The Y is committed to keeping kids safe and healthy during out of school time by delivering safe quality community based programming serving the whole child.
- Expanding opportunities for out of school time programs to children with greatest need. The Y supports continued funding for for the school children's healthy exercise program is found in Section 1226 of the DHHS budget so that Michigan's most vulnerable children have access quality out of school time programming in their communities and neighborhoods.
- Increased state support for childcare reimbursement. Recent changes in Michigan have increased rates and expanded eligibility allowing Y childcare programs to have greater population stability and to provide services for more families
- Expanding access to Y programs and camps for families and children enrolled in the foster care system.

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

- **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
- 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, including the support of the Healthy Food Assistance Act which would provide financing for local retailers to expand access to healthy food options. Is this still relevant

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

- **Civic Engagement** by offering opportunities for communities to engage in the civic process
- **Nurturing Future Change Makers-** through Youth in Government and the Youth Voice initiatives the Y supports youth to develop the skills required to become future leaders.
- **Safe Routes to School and walkable communities** to encourage non-motorized transportation where we learn, work, and play.