



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Pennsylvania State Alliance of YMCAs

2019-2020 Legislative Priorities

The YMCA strengthens the foundations of community through our focus on Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. Pennsylvania YMCAs are found in diverse communities around the state, serve urban, suburban and rural communities and bring together young and old, men and women, from all faiths, backgrounds and incomes.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- 1) We support legislation to change the age and experience requirements for child care assistants and aides to ensure a larger pool of qualified child care staff.
- 2) We support the full funding of early learning opportunities for children.
- 3) We support the establishment of a funded line item in the state budget for afterschool and out-of-school time programs.

HEALTHY LIVING

- 1) We support legislation to establish a Childhood Wellness Council within the Pennsylvania Department of Education to disseminate timely information on childhood obesity to schools throughout the Commonwealth.
- 2) We support legislation to increase access for children and families to healthy foods through evidenced-based anti-hunger programs.
- 3) We support legislation to scale chronic disease prevention programs, such as the YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program, as a way to reduce health care costs for families and taxpayers.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 1) We support legislation to provide one-time Drowning Prevention grants to nonprofit organizations to provide free swim lessons and other water safety programs to children and families.
- 2) We support legislation to provide Child Sexual Abuse Prevention grants to nonprofit organizations to train adults how to identify, react and respond appropriately to suspected cases of child sexual abuse.
- 3) We oppose language to expand the Pennsylvania Sales tax to include memberships and child care services.