



2026 National Advocacy Days Top Legislative Priorities

For 175 years, the YMCA has been a place where meaningful connections help build stronger communities. As the nation's leading nonprofit committed to helping people and communities learn, grow, and thrive, the Y engages more than 17 million members across 10,000 communities, in every Congressional district, across the United States. We provide comprehensive programs and services in fulfillment of our mission to build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

The Y prioritizes federal policies that support the work of local Ys nationally, and connect individuals to the resources, opportunities, and relationships everyone needs to thrive.

CHILD CARE FUNDING

Support the highest level of funding possible for early learning and school-age child care programs

- Access to quality, affordable child care supports businesses with the workforce they need, contributes to economic growth, helps parents work and pursue education or training opportunities, and benefits the education and healthy development of youth.
 - The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is the primary source of federal funding for child care and is a federal-state partnership that supports each state's child care subsidy program.
 - Head Start is a federal program that promotes school readiness by providing a comprehensive set of services to families to enhance child well-being.
 - The 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to quality, locally designed before-school, afterschool and summer academic enrichment programs.
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- As the nation's largest nonprofit provider of child care, the Y plays an important role in offering communities quality, affordable early education, before- and afterschool, and summer programs.

HEALTH PROMOTION FUNDING

Support the highest level of funding possible for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) efforts to prevent chronic disease and drowning

- Today, more than 7 in 10 Americans are impacted by chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension, cancer, and arthritis. Investing in the prevention and control of chronic disease at the CDC allows Ys to advance evidence-based programs that promote healthier lifestyles and curb overall health spending.
- Drowning is the leading cause of death among children aged 0–4 years. Investing in proven, community-based water safety and swim instruction strategies at the CDC helps Ys deliver programs that save lives and reduce costs associated with near drowning incidents.



- Ys are leading providers of proven programs that prevent and manage chronic disease and reduce drowning risk, helping improve health outcomes, enhance quality of life, and lower health care costs.

MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION

Cosponsor the Community Mental Wellness and Resiliency Act (H.R. 4744 / S. 2445) introduced by Reps. Tonko (D-NY) and Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Sen. Markey (D-MA)

- Our nation is facing a crisis of loneliness and isolation. 40% of adults say they feel lonely sometimes or more often, and 1 in 3 U.S. high school students report their mental health was not good most of the time or always during the past 30 days.
- This legislation would provide funding to nonprofits to convene and host cross-sector "resilience coordinating networks" and to establish, operate,



or expand community mental wellness and resiliency programs that address isolation and loneliness, helping build stronger, more connected communities.

YMCA RECOGNITION LEGISLATION

Cosponsor the Congressional Resolution in recognition of the YMCA's 175 years of service to the nation, which:

- Expresses appreciation to the Y for 175 years of service to the nation;
- Recognizes the Y's role in responding to community needs, connecting people, fostering support, building relationships, and creating a true sense of belonging;

- Commends the hundreds of thousands of staff and volunteers who create connected communities and advance the Y's mission to build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all; and
- Encourages continued support of the Y's efforts to address social isolation and loneliness by creating places and spaces that help people achieve their goals, build relationships, and promote well-being and a sense of belonging.

If you have any questions, please email Y-USA at advocacy@ymca.net.

Scan this code to access the complete YMCA 2026 Advocacy Agenda.

