



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# FOR STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES

## 2018 Alliance of New York State YMCAs State Budget Priorities

At the Y, everything we do focuses on strengthening the communities and bettering the lives of the families that make up New York State.

Please support our state budget priorities, which will allow us to deliver on our promise of ensuring equal opportunities for all New Yorkers to flourish.



### YMCA 2018 State Budget Priorities:

- Allocate \$30 million in funding for YMCA Capital Projects as an economic driver that will support services and job training opportunities for New Yorkers.
- Support \$1 million in the state budget for resources to extend the implementation of Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Standards (HEPA) in YMCA programs.
- Modify the Empire State Afterschool Program to require school partnerships with nonprofit providers and restore Advantage Afterschool funding to \$22.3 million.

# 2018 YMCA STATE BUDGET PRIORITIES

## Allocate funding for YMCA Capital Projects as part of a \$30 million statewide initiative.

Each year, the Y provides New Yorkers with \$80 million in free or subsidized programs and services. These beneficial services are delivered by 30,000 cause-driven employees and another 50,000 volunteers across New York State. **Capital Project funding for the YMCA is not just an investment in a charitable nonprofit, it is an investment toward the betterment of communities and families that they so diligently serve.** The current approach to fund capital projects does not lend itself to YMCAs, which are in need of capital improvements to ensure the continuation of high quality child care, chronic disease prevention and job training programs.

As part of this request, Ys with capital projects will provide a match of \$3 to every \$1 received in public funds, thereby generating over \$120 million in projects.

## Sustain \$1 million of funding in the Senate budget to extend the implementation of Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (HEPA) for existing YMCA programs.

One in every three of New York's children are obese, and the obesity epidemic is growing. **Implementation of the YMCA of USA's evidence-based HEPA standards in afterschool programs will help decrease obesity rates statewide and help the children of New York thrive.** Although 96% of New York State Ys have committed to implementing the HEPA standards, many lack the necessary resources to achieve full implementation.

State funding would allow the New York State Ys to bring these afterschool programs into full HEPA compliance and improve the health and quality of life of the children we serve.

## Modify the Empire State Afterschool Program to require schools to partner with nonprofit providers and restore Advantage Afterschool funding to \$22.3 million.

Effective afterschool programs bring a wide range of benefits to youth, families and communities. **Participation in afterschool programming can improve academic performance; reduce participation in risky behaviors such as drug use and criminal activity; promote physical health; and provide a safe and structured environment for children of working parents.** We support the modification in the Empire State Afterschool Program to mandate partnership with nonprofit providers and the restoration of funding to the Advantage Afterschool Program. These actions will result in a higher quality of services provided and afterschool programming, and increase opportunities for children throughout the state to succeed.

Through partnerships with NYS Ys, schools will render more impactful programming to children by utilizing resources that only partnering with the Y can provide.