



# FOR A STRONGER NEW YORK STATE

## ALLIANCE OF NEW YORK STATE YMCAS 2019 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, so we can deliver on our promise of ensuring equal opportunities so all New Yorkers may flourish.

### YMCA 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.
- Allot \$1 million in the State Budget for statewide YMCA Youth Development programs that teach teens the principles of democratic government and the significance of civic engagement.



# 2019 YMCA STATE BUDGET PRIORITIES

## 1. 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 impactful 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.

## 2. 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 only growing. **Implementation of the YMCA of USA's evidence-based HEPA standards in youth programming will help decrease obesity rates statewide and help the children of New York State thrive.** While 96% of New York State Ys have committed to implementing the HEPA standards, many lack the necessary resources to achieve full implementation.

State funding provides Ys in New York State the ability to bring youth programming into full HEPA compliance and improve the health and quality of life of the children we serve.

## 3. ALLOT \$1 MILLION IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR STATEWIDE YMCA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS THAT TEACH TEENS THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

YMCA Youth Development programming provides a safe place for children and teens to learn foundational skills, develop healthy, trusting relationships, and build independence. These critical life skills and confidences are developed as kids explore new interests and passions through programs like, **Youth and Government which teaches teens the principles of democratic government and the importance of civic engagement through experiential learning, leadership training and social awareness opportunities.** With learning and development opportunities throughout the year, the Y works to improve students' educational readiness, engagement and outcomes, while helping them grow emotionally and physically.

Through state funding, the Y can expand its reach and ensure that every child in New York State has the opportunity to envision and pursue their best possible future.