



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

When we work together, we can move individuals, families and communities forward. The Y responds to society's most pressing needs by developing innovative, community-based solutions to help those in need reach their full potential. The Y is committed to inspiring a spirit of service by uniting individuals from all walks of life to participate in and work for positive social change.

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REINSTATE THE EMPLOYEE RETENTION TAX CREDIT (ERTC)

The ERTC was created with strong bipartisan support in the CARES Act and has been a lifeline for nonprofit organizations like the Y that are working to serve communities through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Rescue Plan Act added third and fourth quarters of ERTC to provide much-needed relief to nonprofits and small businesses, but the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act eliminated the fourth quarter of the ERTC in 2021 to serve as a “pay-for” measure. This retroactive elimination of ERTC has created significant hardships for many Ys, other nonprofits and small businesses. To address this, the bipartisan Employee Retention Tax Credit Reinstatement Act (H.R.6161) would retain the ERTC for nonprofits and small businesses in the fourth quarter of 2021, allowing organizations to keep critical staff on the payroll to continue meeting community needs. **Support the Employee Retention Tax Credit Reinstatement Act (H.R.6161).**

INCREASE CHARITABLE GIVING BY ENACTING THE UNIVERSAL GIVING PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACT (UGPRA)

An above the line “universal” charitable deduction will incentivize all American taxpayers – regardless of income - to give to charity, thereby ensuring that our country retains a strong and independent civil society. In 2020 Congress enacted a temporary non-itemizer deduction on charitable donations in the CARES Act. It included a \$300 cap for individuals and a \$600 cap for couples. This marked the first time in thirty years that all taxpayers were able to claim a deduction on at least part of their charitable giving, regardless of whether they itemized. The Fundraising Effective Project recently released a [report](#) on giving trends in the third quarter of 2021. Initial data in the report shows charitable giving was up 1.4 percent in the first three quarters of 2021, compared to the same time period in 2020—an encouraging sign given that 2020 was a banner year for charitable donations as a result of the pandemic. Unfortunately, that deduction expired at the end of 2021. UGPRA would raise the \$300/\$600 cap to roughly \$4,000 for individuals/\$8,000 for couples and extend the availability of the deduction to the 2022 tax year, helping to spur more giving as communities continue to recover from COVID-19 and its economic effects. It will also provide needed resources for charitable and faith-based organizations to continue providing vital services to families, workers and communities, especially those critically impacted by the ongoing pandemic.

Support the Universal Giving Pandemic Response and Recovery Act which would increase the cap on the temporary universal charitable deduction from \$300/\$600 to one-third of the standard deduction—and would extend the availability of the deduction through 2022.

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES THROUGH NATIONAL SERVICE

Volunteers distinguish the Y as a place where everyone can take an active role in bringing about meaningful, enduring change in their community. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is the largest federal agency supporting service and volunteerism. CNCS oversees national service programs including AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA, Senior Corps, National Civilian Community Corps, Foster Grandparent Program and more.

Local Y partnerships with national service programs provide critical volunteer human capital to help Ys build their capacity to run existing programs and develop innovative new ones. During their service, volunteers also work to generate resources from the nonprofit and private sectors to help Ys sustain their programs and recruit and train community volunteers, all of which collectively allow Ys to further advance their mission. **Support an increase for the Corporation for National and Community Service.**

NOURISHING CHILDREN AND PROMOTING HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT

. There are an estimated 17 million hungry children now in America. While pandemic relief and stimulus funding has drastically decreased child poverty and associated hunger, as these programs expire, these trends are reversing. In fact, according to the Food and Research Action Council, at the end of 2021, rates of food insufficiency were higher than they were over the summer and disparities by race, ethnicity, and gender persisted. Because no child should ever go hungry, the Y has partnered with Walmart for the last nine years, to increase local Y participation in the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for afterschool meals and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) for summer meals. Ys across the country serve as USDA food sponsors responsible for food distribution and administration, or partner with other USDA sponsors (e.g., schools, food banks, faith-based organizations) to nourish children.



From September 2020 through August 2021, YMCAs served over 39 million healthy meals and snacks to more than 505,000 children at 5,700 sites through USDA's child nutrition programs.

USDA waivers created important flexibilities that enabled the Y, and other community organizations, to rapidly respond to increases in hunger due to the pandemic. Unfortunately, the pandemic and its disruptive impact on regular learning and food distribution scheduling is far from over. Congress must ensure that USDA has the clear authority to expand waivers and apply them nationally during times of crisis to prevent disruptions in feeding programs or increases in hunger.

The Summer Meals Act (S.1170/H.R.783) will fix longstanding challenges to improve child nutrition programs by streamlining summer and afterschool meal coordination to support year-round feeding, allowing an additional meal or snack to be served during the summer, aligning program eligibility to match other federal programs and providing transportation resources for hard-to-reach areas. Many of the provisions included in the Summer Meals Act have been utilized during the pandemic, demonstrating their effectiveness in increasing participation. **Support the Summer Meals Act (S.1170/H.R.783).**

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: ENGAGE CHILDREN, YOUTH, MILITARY FAMILIES AND VETERANS IN HEALTHY OUTDOOR SPACES

In partnership with the National Park Service, the Y works to increase access to national parks, promote recreation, grow public-private partnerships and help ensure military readiness through youth recreation and employment programs and by providing thousands of youth their first chance to attend camp and visit a national park. In the last five years, the has Y served almost 65,000 youth with their first camp and park experience. Increased funding would enable more Ys and youth-serving organizations to deliver the program. **Support \$100 million for the National Park Service Youth Partnership Program.**

The Y supports the creation of a national Outdoor Equity Initiative that would increase access to public lands for underserved youth and communities of color. According to a 2020 report by the Center for American Progress, nearly 75% of people of color live in areas where natural spaces aren't accessible. This initiative, led by Black, Indigenous and other leaders of color from states and organizations across the country, would address the chronic and systemic inequities that prevent underserved youth and communities of color from engaging in meaningful outdoor recreation and educational experiences on public lands. **Support the creation of a national Outdoor Equity Initiative.**

The Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation (SOAR) Act would increase guided recreational access to federal public lands by improving and streamlining the outfitter-guide permitting systems of the federal land management agencies. This bill would help increase outdoor opportunities for young people and families to experience the outdoors with the assistance of an outdoor leader, educator, guide or outfitter. **Cosponsor the SOAR Act (H.R.3670/S.1229).**

ENSURING STABLE HOUSING AND CRITICAL SUPPORTS

Research shows stable housing contributes to better health, educational outcomes for children, and financial security. Currently there are only 36 affordable rental homes available for every 100 very low-income renters, leaving a gap of 7 million units. Despite this great need, federal housing expenditures have declined over the past 20 years. COVID-19 has exacerbated this crisis.

More than 60 YMCAs in 17 states provide housing and wraparound social services to stabilize and reverse the cycle of poverty for adults, youth and families. Increased funding for homeless services will help house vulnerable populations experiencing the trauma of homelessness, enable Ys and other community organizations to expand their services and respond to growing housing needs, and cover emergency expenses related to COVID-19. Substantial additional funding to tenants and landlords to prevent evictions will keep people stably housed in safe, affordable homes. **Increase funding to the highest allocation possible for emergency shelter, transitional and affordable housing, facility infrastructure and social services to address social and health inequities.**

CREATING MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Support meaningful, bipartisan deliberations on comprehensive immigration reform. Creating bipartisan legislative solutions that address immigration reform is imperative. The future of the nation depends on our collective ability to create meaningful opportunities for all, including new Americans and immigrants, to make social and economic contributions. America's communities are stronger and more cohesive when everyone can contribute and neighbors from all backgrounds work together toward a shared vision for the future.