

Talking Points
Advocacy Month 2022

Staffing Shortages/YMCA Workforce Development Fund:

- Provide \$5 million in funding to the New York State YMCA Foundation to distribute grants to Ys so that they can design and implement workforce development strategies.
- Ys are the largest provider of childcare in New York, the YMCA delivers early childhood education, afterschool, and summer camp programs to 539,093 youth annually.
- YMCAs employed 36,000 New Yorkers prior to the pandemic. At its height, we lost about 70-90 percent of our workforce due to furloughs and layoffs.
- Nearly 60 percent of YMCAs have job openings in early education programs, 80 percent in afterschool programs, and 85 percent in aquatics departments.

Childcare:

- Barriers to staffing; available and affordable childcare and salary competition.
- YMCAs simply do not have the funds to support their programs and services until the payment is received.
- A lack of payment means that Ys who are already cashed strapped are paying these expenses out Y operations budget.
- Childcare subsidies do not cover the actual full cost of care; causing financially strapped organizations to limit their subsidy seats.
- Problem of only getting paid for actual attendance not program registration.
- Unlicensed programs not held to the same expectations and safety requirements.

YMCA License Plate Legislation:

- This bill, by creating distinctive plates for the YMCA, will help expand the public's awareness of the YMCA program in New York State.
- Annual service charge for the license plate \$25.
- Annual service charges collected in excess of six thousand dollars shall be deposited NYS YMCA Foundation.
- Money will be used for the benefit of YMCA programming. Examples, homeless housing, emergency childcare, substance misuse treatment and rehabilitation, and chronic disease prevention programs.