



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# MAKING COMMUNITIES STRONGER

## Legislative Priorities 2019-2020

### Youth Development

We believe that all kids deserve the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve. That's why, through the Y, thousands of youth today are cultivating the values, skills and relationships that lead to positive behaviors, better health and educational achievement. SC Ys are one of the largest providers of Out of School Times programs in the state. We advocate for legislation that increases access, affordability and quality of youth development programs and services to help every child in SC reach their full potential.

**Quality Out of School Time** We support funding to enable South Carolina to create a tiered, voluntary recognition program for SC Out of School Time programs that integrate best practice quality safety, healthy eating active living (HE/AL) and academic enrichment standards into practice.

**Youth and Government** We are committed to ensuring that the SC General Assembly fully supports the Youth in Government Annual Conference held at the SC Statehouse.

### Healthy Living

In communities throughout South Carolina, the Y is a leading voice on health and well being. The Y is a place that brings families closer together, encourages good health and fosters connections through fitness, sports, healthy eating, fun and shared interests. We advocate for legislation to support evidence-based strategies to reduce chronic diseases – the nation's leading causes of death and major drivers of health care costs – including obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

**Complete Streets** At the state level, require that all road construction and reconstruction create complete streets that are safe and convenient for diverse users and all modes of transportation.

**Tobacco Tax and E-Cigarettes** Significantly increase tobacco excise taxes and support legislation that limits the sale of E-cigarettes to minors and limits the usage of e-cigarettes in public places.

**SNAP** Support allowing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to use their benefits at the market and/or funding for programs that significantly increase SNAP benefits when used on fruits and vegetables. Fund the infrastructure development and technical assistance needs of establishing or expanding SNAP incentive programs.

**Chronic Disease Prevention** We support efforts that would expand access to community based, evidence based chronic disease prevention programs through the SC health care system.

## Social Responsibility

The Y has been listening and responding to our communities' most critical social needs for nearly 160 years. Whether developing skills through education and training, welcoming and connecting diverse demographic populations through community service, or preventing chronic disease and building healthier communities, the Y fosters the care and respect all people deserve.

**Child Protection** We support best practice programs that protect children and teens from those who would do them harm and are committed to the safety and well-being of our children by establishing statewide practices and policies to keep children safe including establishing a child abuse prevention committee, self assessment and implementing 8 best practices to prevent child abuse.

**Water Safety** We support legislation that keep children safe around water including public and private pools and increasing access to water safety instruction to provide the life skill of swimming and prevent drownings.

### About the SC Alliance of YMCAs

The SC Alliance of YMCAs represents the interest and concerns of 21 independent YMCA Associations throughout the Palmetto State. We are a grassroots driven and governed organization that advocates and educates on behalf of the YMCA and its mission to promote youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

For more information, please contact Amy Splittgerber, Executive Director, at 803-465-6115 or [amy@scymcas.org](mailto:amy@scymcas.org) or visit the Alliance website at [www.scymcas.org](http://www.scymcas.org).