



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Kansas State Alliance of YMCAs **2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

The Kansas Alliance of YMCAs represents the collective voice and impact of ten Kansas YMCA associations serving over 561,495 Kansans in 27 communities. Kansas Ys work together and in partnership with other organizations and coalitions to strengthen the foundation of our communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Nurture the potential of every child and teen

- Increase access, affordability and quality of early learning, child care and after school youth programs and services to help every child in Kansas reach their full potential.
- Preserve and grow the Children's Initiatives Fund to advance early childhood learning and invest in research-based early childhood programs and support services.
- Create greater awareness of the education achievement gap and explore opportunities for best practice policy implementation and increased funding for out-of-school time programs.

HEALTHY LIVING

Improve communities' wellbeing

- Encourage evidence-based chronic disease prevention and management programs that promote quality of life for all, while lessening the burden on the state budget from skyrocketing costs associated with diabetes, heart disease, cancer and arthritis.
- Explore opportunities to encourage healthy initiatives in early childhood and school age programs.
- Support and adequately fund programs that promote healthy living among seniors, children, and families, including increased access to safe and convenient places to walk, exercise, and play.
- Support Tobacco 21 policies which promote healthy choices for teens.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Giving back and providing support to our neighbors

- Support child abuse prevention policies that promote a positive, nurturing environment while protecting youth.
- Preserve the tax-exempt status of charitable organizations and incentives for donating to and volunteering for such organizations so they can stay strong, effective and responsive to the needs of their local community.