



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Legislative Priorities 2011

About the YMCA

The YMCA is a community-based association of people committed to nurturing the potential of youth, promoting healthy lifestyles and fostering social responsibility to ensure that every individual has access to the essential resources needed to learn, grow and thrive. Anchored in more than 10,000 neighborhoods around the country, the Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver lasting personal and social change.

FIRST PRIORITY REQUEST: Healthy Living

Healthy Communities

We oppose the termination of the Healthy Communities Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the President's FY2012 budget and urge Congress to continue to maintain funding at **\$22.7 million** (a funding level that has not changed since FY2008 and is half of what it was in FY2005). This funding provides communities with *modest resources* or seed money to engage local leaders and provide them with knowledge, skills and tools to build environments rich in opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity. Since 2003, CDC – in partnership with national organizations like the Y – has scaled this work, funding hundreds of healthy community sites in all 50 states.

SECOND PRIORITY REQUEST: Youth Development

Child Care and Development Block Grant

The President's FY2012 budget proposes adding \$800 million in block grants toward the goal of giving 220,000 additional children access to quality child care. YMCA of the USA supports the White House's proposal and strongly encourages Congress to increase Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) over the current \$2.1 billion, to reach the Administration request for **\$2.9 billion**.

I. Healthy Living

In communities across the nation, the Y is a leading voice on health and well-being. With a mission centered on balance, the Y brings families closer together, encourages good health and fosters connections through fitness, sports, fun and shared interests. As a result, millions of youth, adults and families are receiving the support, guidance and resources needed to achieve greater health and well-being for their spirit, mind and body.

Funding

Priority Request: Maintain annual appropriations of \$22.7 million funding for the Healthy Communities Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

We urge Congress to continue to maintain Healthy Communities (HCP) funding at \$22.7 million (a funding level that has not changed since FY 2008 and is half of what it was in FY2005). The HCP provides modest funding to communities of all sizes--small, medium, large, rural, urban and suburban--and it places a strong emphasis on providing communities with the foundational knowledge to make policy changes that enhance healthy options, leading to improved health outcomes. The HCP has funded the Ys Healthier Communities Initiatives (Pioneering Healthier Communities and ACHIEVE) which have increased opportunities in communities nationwide for healthy eating and physical activity to offer kids and families more healthy options. Our modest investments have, on average, leveraged \$3 locally for every \$1 invested by the federal government and have leveraged additional government, nonprofit, and foundation funding. The HCP readies communities to transform.

The President's Budget proposes terminating the Healthy Communities Program at CDC and integrates the program into the newly authorized **Community Transformation Grants (CTGs)**. While we support CTG, we oppose the termination of the HCP and are concerned that CTGs appear to support only large cities. Of the more than 300 communities supported to date, more than half were convened and supported by local YMCAs. The President has proposed \$222 million for the CTGs in FY2012, which is more than a \$78 million increase in funding over FY2011 and more than enough to continue the CDC's Healthy Communities Program and ensure communities of all sizes are supported and that national organizations are able to continue to seed communities and ready them to transform themselves into true "healthy communities."

Legislation: FY2012 Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations, CDC, Healthy Communities Program and Community Transformation Grants (Funded through the Department of Health and Human Services)

FY2012 Request: \$22.7 m (Current FY2011 is \$22.7 million / Terminated by President's 2012 Budget)

Protect and preserve the mandatory Prevention Fund

that was authorized in the health care reform bill. This is a 10-year, \$15 billion mandatory fund that will help curb chronic diseases like diabetes and obesity. The costs of treating chronic diseases are the leading driver of health care spending. We cannot begin to be serious about deficit reduction or controlling health care spending without reducing and preventing chronic diseases. These mandatory funds could support the Ys key legislative priorities, including:

National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP): Congress passed the National Diabetes Prevention Program in health care reform to create the national infrastructure for a community-based diabetes prevention recognition program, training, quality assurance and the establishment of model sites throughout the country. Studies have shown that over HALF of all new cases of type 2 diabetes can be prevented with a structured lifestyle intervention program that helps individuals with prediabetes lose just 5-7 percent of their weight. Research funded by NIH and CDC and conducted at Indiana University with the YMCA show these interventions can be delivered for \$300 per person and will produce a costs savings within two to three years time. The Urban Institute reported that the nation could save \$191 billion over ten years if programs like this were scaled nationally, with 75% of the savings going to the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The Y and numerous other organizations, like the American Diabetes Association, are seeking full funding of \$80 million for the NDPP from the Prevention Fund.

Center on Injury Prevention and Control: Support the President's Budget for **CDC's National Center on Injury Prevention and Control** to prevent unintended falls and injuries among older adults and to reduce youth violence.

Legislation: FY 2012 Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations, CDC. The President's Budget recommends a \$19 million increase for a total of \$168 million

PEP Grant Program: Maintain dedicated funding to the **Carol White Physical Education for Progress (PEP) Grant Program**. Many YMCAs have applied for, and secured, PEP funds to provide children in their communities with opportunities for physical activity and education. We must maintain the ONLY federal funding and program that supports physical education and activity.

Legislation: FY2012 Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations FY 2011 \$79 m (Funded through the Department of Education)

Legislation

Support legislation addressing the epidemics of chronic disease and obesity such as: The Fit Kids Act, the Physical Act, Safe Routes to School Funding, Complete Streets Act, Moving Outdoors in Nature Act, the Healthy Choices Act and the HELP Act.

II. 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, millions of youth today are cultivating the values, skills and relationships that lead to positive behaviors, better health and educational achievements.

Funding

Maintain critical investments in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). The CCDBG program provides child care assistance to low-income families with children, including those who use their subsidies to utilize the Y's child care programs. Child care provides millions of young children with the early learning experiences they need to be successful in their later school years. Finding affordable and quality child care remains a daily struggle for working families across the country. Given the current state of the nation's economy, parents are losing their jobs and waiting lists for access into affordable quality child care facilities are increasing. Because the \$2 billion CCDBG subsidy in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding is not likely to be continued, it is more critical than ever that additional funds be allocated to continue to cover as many children in high-quality child care as possible. As the nation's largest non-profit provider of child care, we encourage Congress to increase funding for CCDBG over the current \$2.1 billion. **Legislation: FY2012 Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations** *(Funded through the Department of Health and Human Services)*
FY2012 Request: \$2.9 billion (\$800 million over current level)

21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) as authorized in the U.S. Department of Education's Budget. The current funding level for the 21st CCLC program provides an opportunity for only one million children to participate in safe and supervised programs after school, while more than 15 million children are left to take care of themselves after the school day ends. The President's budget for FY2012 increases funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers by \$100 million. We also ask that any effort to expand Expanded Learning Time legislation does not come at the expense of overall funding for afterschool learning and enrichment activities like 21st CCLC. **Legislation: FY2012 Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations** *(Funded through the Department of Education)*
FY 2012 Request: \$1.266 billion

Maintain critical access to Head Start programs. We are grateful for the additional \$1 billion in Head Start funding provided through the American Recovery and Investment Act (ARRA), and we support the increase of an additional \$866 million from the FY2010 enacted level for a total of \$8.1 billion. This will allow more than 968,000 children nationwide to participate in Head Start, maintaining the historic investments made and providing critical assistance to programs to institute reforms that produce the highest quality outcomes and to sustain Head Start enrollment gains made possible through ARRA. Approximately 100 YMCAs across the nation are Head Start providers. We encourage Congress to maintain its bipartisan support for the Head Start program and approve an \$866 million increase to maximize enrollment slots made available to low-income children and families through Ys all across the nation. **Legislation: FY2012 Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations** *(Funded through the Department of Health and Human Services)*
FY 2012 Request: \$8.1 billion (\$866 million increase over FY2010 enacted)

Legislation

Support the Child Protection Improvement Act -- *The Background Check Bill*. [Pending reintroduction in the 112th Congress] This bill amends the Child Protection Act of 1993 and builds on the lessons learned from the Child Safety Pilot Program to create a permanent, nationally-accessible background check solutions for YMCAs and other youth-serving organizations. This bill ensures that FBI fingerprint checks can be made available to organizations that work with children in a timely manner and at a reasonable price.

Support the Full Service Community School Act. [Pending reintroduction in the 112th Congress] The Full-Service Community Schools Act of 2009 is authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and supports significant programs to improve the quality of elementary and secondary education at the state and local levels, and help all children meet challenging academic content and achievement standards. This bill supports strengthening student success through a public elementary, middle or high school that coordinates and provides students and families with comprehensive services through partnerships with community based organizations such as YMCAs and other public/private partnerships.

III. Social Responsibility

The Y has been listening and responding to our communities most critical social needs for 160 years. Whether developing skills or emotional well-being through education and training, welcoming and connecting diverse demographic populations through global service, or preventing chronic disease and building healthier communities, the Y fosters the care and respect all people need and deserve. Through the Y, 500,000 volunteers and thousands of donors, leaders and partners across the country are empowering millions of people in the U.S. and around the world to be healthy, confident, connected and secure.

Nonprofit Issues

Support Tax Incentives to Encourage Charitable Giving.

YMCA of the USA supports congressional efforts to continue to provide tax incentives that will help stimulate charitable giving. We support legislation that will make permanent the IRA Rollover provision from the Pension Protection Act of 2006 that was extended in 2010 but will expire at the end of the calendar year 2011.

Jobs Legislation to Include Parity for Nonprofits. Any further economic stimulus legislation, particularly "Jobs bills" that would give organizations a federal tax credit for every new employee must allow nonprofits to qualify. Nonprofits account for five percent of GDP and provide more than eight percent of wages and salaries paid in the United States. Thus, as an important employer of millions of workers that has also faced tremendous hardship due to the downturn in the economy, the nonprofit sector should be able to take advantage of such a credit, by applying the credit to federal payroll taxes that employers pay on behalf of their employees rather than a credit off of federal income taxes (since nonprofits are exempt from paying income tax).

Charitable Deduction Limit in FY2012 Budget. In the budget outline for FY2012, President Obama has renewed his proposal to limit to 28% (from 35%) the tax break couples earning \$250,000 (or individuals earning \$200,000) could receive for their itemized deductions, including gifts to charity. Many studies on the impact of the deduction limit have shown that it could discourage giving to nonprofits. Therefore, Y-USA opposes this change for fear that it would lower charitable giving, especially at a time when charities are being asked to do more with less.

Legislation: President Obama's FY2012 Budget

Safety Issues

Motorcoach Safety Legislation. The safety of our children and staff is the number one priority of every YMCA Association and camp. However, it is important that Members of Congress understand the potential impact to local nonprofits if the provisions outlined below are contained in the motorcoach safety legislation: (1) all drivers of 9-15 passenger vans will be required to have a Commercial Drivers License, (2) all drivers of vehicles are required to be involved in the vehicle inspection process, (3) and, a requirement that an electronic incident monitor (black box) must be in all passenger vans designated as commercial vehicles.

Legislation: Motorcoach Enhancement Safety Act (to be introduced again in the 112th Congress)

Service Issues

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is the largest grantmaker in support of service and volunteering. It oversees Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, VISTA, NCCC, Learn and Serve America, the Volunteer Generation Fund and the Social Innovation Fund. We believe these initiatives tap the energy and talent of citizens to solve problems in their communities, many of which are occurring at local YMCAs. The House majority has proposed eliminating funding for CNCS and its programs. However, the President's FY 2012 budget requests \$1.26 billion for CNCS, which represents a \$109 million increase over current funding levels. We support full funding for CNCS and continue to work with coalitions like ServiceNation, Voices for National Service, and SaveService to ensure that the CNCS continues to receive robust funding to deliver these essential services.

Legislation: FY2012 Labor/HHS/Education and Related Agencies Appropriations (*CNCS is included under "Related Agencies"*)

International Issues

Provide Full Funding for Youth Programs at International YMCAs.

YMCA of the USA serves as a responsible, effective partner in the process of building a worldwide YMCA community for children, youth and families by supporting youth development and leadership capacity building. YMCA programs around the world use a variety of activities and volunteer opportunities to develop the character of youth to become active leaders and responsible citizens. YMCA of the USA asks Congress to increase funding within the State Department and USAID to promote youth volunteerism, civic engagement and good governance as well as cultural exchange programs for young people.

Legislation: FY2012 State, Foreign Operations Appropriations