



2026 Legislative Agenda

IOWA ALLIANCE OF YMCAS

The Iowa Alliance of YMCAs exists to bring our Ys across the state of Iowa together and improve our effectiveness in strengthening our local communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. We will proactively and intentionally use our collective resources to achieve our common vision and goals by increasing the number individuals served through YMCA programs and membership.

WHO WE ARE

**Our Y,
Our Movement,
Our Community Impact**

We care about our communities. We've made a difference in people's lives for more than 175 years. We are joined with other Ys in making a difference across America – from small towns to the largest cities. We will continue doing what matters most for years to come. As our community, members' and families' needs and expectations change we are also making meaningful positive changes.



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

RURAL YMCA GRANT PROGRAM

Strengthen rural Iowa communities by investing \$250,000 in facility infrastructure projects to sustain and enhance YMCA programming services through an appropriation in the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund.

CHILD CARE

Increase the accessibility and affordability of quality child care to support working families by providing them with safe, supervised programs and engaging activities, giving parents peace of mind while they are at work.

WATER SAFETY

Strengthen Iowa's water safety education and drowning prevention by investing \$250,000 to provide grants to teach children how to be safe around water.

**OUR MISSION:
TO PUT CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE
THROUGH PROGRAMS THAT BUILD HEALTHY SPIRIT,
MIND AND BODY FOR ALL.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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CHILD CARE

REQUEST



Impact the accessibility, affordability and quality of child care.

- Codify Child Care Assistance for providers.
- Pay Child Care Assistance based on enrollment rather than attendance.
- Increase the CCA entrance income limit.
- Establish funding to support recommendations in the 2023 Iowa Child Care Workforce Study that raises the wages of our child care workers.
- Sustain the funding for child care solution funds, including a public investment match for locally-driven public-private partnerships.
- Ensure child care providers and early childhood programs are involved with preschool planning and decision-making as the state moves forward with additional preschool legislation.

For every **\$1** invested in quality early learning, there is a long-term savings of **\$14** based on increased tax revenue, crime savings, education savings and welfare savings.



OUR RESPONSE

Each **\$1** invested in afterschool programs saves up to **\$3** by improving learning potential, student performance and reducing crime and welfare costs.



As the state's largest nonprofit provider of early childhood, afterschool and summer programs, the Y knows that all kids need access to healthy environments, relationships and experiences to nurture their development.

