



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## **ILLINOIS STATE ALLIANCE OF YMCAs PRIORITY ADVOCACY ITEMS**

### **Support for Child Care & Youth Enrichment Programs**

#### Support the Governor's Proposed *Smart Start Illinois* Initiative

*Smart Start Illinois* aims to expand and strengthen early care and education services to help ensure all expecting families, infants, toddlers and preschoolers across the state have what they need to be happy, healthy and ready to learn. Smart Start is a multi-year plan to provide every child with access to preschool by increasing funding to childcare providers to raise wages and quality. It also allows for capital investments to child care facilities.

Over 3700 infants, toddlers & preschool children were served by YMCAs Illinois in 2022. These investments will allow YMCAs to invest in our workforce and our infrastructure.

#### Support Out of School Time Programs

In 2022, Ys served nearly 35,000 youth in Out of School Time programs, providing safe spaces, supportive environments, academic enrichment and nutritious meals and snacks.

We are asking for:

- Continued support of Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) for school age children at IDHS
- \$19M in funding for the Teen Reach Program through IDHS
- Increased funding for After School programs at ISBE
- Funding for Community Schools at ISBE

#### Co-Sponsor SR 11 – Support for Out of School Time Programs

Please consider co-sponsoring Senate Resolution 11. SR 11 recognizes that Out of School Time Programs serve as a key component to supporting violence prevention, academic achievement, social/emotional well-being, nutritional needs, and a strong workforce. The Chief Sponsor is Senator Neil Anderson and it is assigned to Senate Committee on Early Childhood Education.

### **Support HB 2471/SB 1931: Healthy School Meals for All**

Healthy School Meals for all ensures all Illinois schools are hunger-free and able to grow, learn, and thrive. Federal school meal waivers that kept K-12 students fed during the COVID-19 pandemic expired in June 2022. HB 2471/SB 1931 will:

- Support any Illinois school to provide a free breakfast and lunch to all students as well as improving nutritional security and quality and reducing stigma
- Maximize federal funding to expand access to school meals in Illinois
- Provide state funding to make up the difference in costs not covered by federal funds

### **Contact**

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**Additional Bills Supported by Illinois State Alliance of YMCAs**  
*(listed by bill number order)*

**SB 1349 - Nonprofit Lobbying Fee Waiver**

This bill seeks to allow the Secretary of State to grant a waiver to the lobbyist registration fee for any qualifying nonprofit, including a fee waiver for any lobbyist registered to lobby under that entity.

**SB 1486 - Increase Eligibility for SNAP**

This bill seeks to increase the categorical eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) if the gross income of the household is at or below 200% (rather than 165%) of the Federal nonfarm income poverty guidelines.

**SB 1874 - Illinois Farm to Food Bank Program**

This bill seeks to create the Illinois Farm to Food Bank Program within the Illinois Department of Human Services to expand the availability of nutritious, locally grown, raised or processed foods for Illinois' emergency food system.

**SB 2252 - Data on Breakfast After the Bell Programs**

This bill would require ISBE to collect information on whether schools are operating a breakfast after the bell program, and if so, what model they are using, and allows ISBE to make grants of up to \$7,000 to schools/districts for nonrecurring expenses related to starting breakfast after the bell programs.

**SB 2278 - Pedestrian Safe Intersections**

This bill seeks to give more local control to designing intersections to not all intersections have to meet current requirement of being big enough for semi-trucks to turn: can help support pedestrian safety at intersections.

**HB 1346 - Provide Flexible Funding for Employers and Improve Workforce Benefits -**

This bill would amend the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) to ensure grants do not restrict administrative costs to less than 20% and eliminate any caps on fringe benefits in state contracts, which include but are not limited to the costs of leave (vacation, family-related, sick or military) and employee insurance.

**HB 2138 - End Automatic Transfers of Juveniles to Adult Court**

This bill seeks to repeal a provision excluding certain minors accused of committing specified crimes from the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. It would eliminate an 'automatic transfer' of juveniles to adult court.

**HB 2328 - Raise Age of Detention to 14**

This bill seeks to limit juvenile detention to cases of adolescents age 14 & older (from 10 & older) who present a serious threat to the physical safety of person(s) in the community or to secure minor's presence in court based on a record of willful failure to appear. Clarifies that placement of a minor away from home must be a last resort and the least restrictive alternative available.

**HB 2347 - Raise the Age of Incarceration to 14**

This bill seeks to amend the Juvenile Court Act of 1987. Provides that a minor found to be guilty may be committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice if the minor is at least 14 (rather than 13) years and under 20 years of age, provided that the commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice shall be made only if the minor was found guilty of a felony offense or first degree murder.

**HB2379 / SB1720 - Human Services Professional Loan Repayment Act**

The Human Services Professional Loan Repayment Program provides loan repayment assistance to qualified human services professionals to recruit and retain them to work in community-based human services organizations.

**HB 3132 - Human Service Compensation Parity Act**

This bill seeks to eliminate the pay disparity that exists between the salaries of human service professionals employed by community-based human service providers and state employees holding similar job titles who perform similar work, and establish a Human Services Compensation Taskforce to provide recommendations for workforce recruitment and retention.

**HB 3450 - Support Medicaid Food Prescription Programs**

This bill would support a 2-year pilot program administered by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to provide medically supportive food to people using Medicaid via food prescription programs.