



The YMCA of Greater Houston: Legislative Priorities

The YMCA of Greater Houston, a private, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) charity, is a leader in providing services that enrich the lives of children and families, offering early childhood and youth developmental programs, child care, health and wellness services, programs for seniors, job training and more, while offering need-based financial assistance. *The YMCA welcomes opportunities to discuss legislative issues affecting children, families and communities. The YMCA of Greater Houston supports the following:*

Early Childhood Care and Education – Government funding, especially subsidized child care for working poor families, infant care and quality care provider subsidies.

- **Expand Access to Pre-Kindergarten:** Support expansion of integrated service among pre-k, child care and Head Start to increase access to full-day, full-year pre-k services.
- **Increase Child Care Subsidies:** Increase available state funding for child care subsidies by using a portion of the TANF Block Grant for child care.
- **After School Programs in Every Elementary School & Apartment Complex:** Expand after school care funding to ensure every elementary school & apartment complex has an after school program.
- **Improve Quality of Infant & Toddler Care:** Increase fund allocation to local workforce boards, targeting the learning & development of infants and toddlers in licensed child care centers.

Health Care – Support legislation to improve accessibility and delivery of health care to all persons in our community. Support funding for CHIP, Medicaid & other services for the uninsured, to ensure access to health care for low-income individuals & families.

- Restore Medicaid and CHIP physician provider payment rates to pre-2003 levels.
- Begin applying annual inflation increases to Medicaid and CHIP reimbursement rates.
- Enact plan to bring rates to Medicaid levels.
- Expand Medicaid and CHIP eligibility from six months to 12 months.

Nonprofit Issues – Strengthen governmental policies supporting nonprofit, community-based organizations seeking to protect their tax-exempt status. Ensure reasonable accountability measures considering the varying capacities of nonprofits. Protect the voice of the nonprofit sector.

2-1-1 – Fully fund 2-1-1 legislation, the universal dialing code providing free public access to information about organizations providing health and human services. Ensure the system's high quality is maintained.

Seniors – Support Community Care Independent Living Options, especially senior nutrition, case management, transportation services, direct care workers, service coordination, personal and community preparedness for healthy aging.

Protective Services – Support new funding for protection of children, seniors, persons with disabilities and families.

Lite-Up Texas/System Benefit Fund: Restore funding for Lite-Up Texas. Program funding continues to be collected while citizens pay electric bills but the money is placed in the general revenue fund.

