



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA ALLIANCE OF NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND NEW HAMPSHIRE ADVOCACY STRATEGY GUIDE

How to use these documents:

The **Public Policy Issue Screen** provides criteria to determine the Alliance's level of engagement on specific pieces of legislation, rulemaking, or judicial cases. This document is for *internal* use by the NH YMCA Public Policy Committee.

The **Advocacy Priorities** document highlights the issues identified by the NH YMCAs as pressing needs in our communities on which the NH YMCAs collectively can or do make a positive impact. The Alliance is invested in policy decisions related to these issues. Strategies for advocating on these issues may vary depending on Alliance capacity, local Y capacity, community need, and other environmental factors. This document should be updated before each legislative session. This document may be used to help evaluate coalition/partnership opportunities, guide pursuit of funding opportunities (including private or government funding), and/or determine engagement on specific pieces of legislation. This document is for *external* use to communicate and advance Alliance priorities with community and/or government partners.

The issue screen was created by the New Hampshire YMCA Public Policy Committee and approved by the YMCAs of New Hampshire in December 2019. The Advocacy Priorities are updated at the beginning of each new legislative session by the Policy Committee and approved by the NH CEOs.

PUBLIC POLICY ISSUE SCREEN

[FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY]

Tier One: ALL HANDS ON DECK

Top legislative priorities. If legislation is designated Tier One, the Alliance will offer either written or verbal testimony, often both. The Alliance will meet with partners and legislators to pass or oppose, the legislation will be included in legislative priorities documents, advocates will be asked to communicate with their legislators about it, and the Alliance will participate in any legislative briefings or advocacy days held.

Criteria for Tier One:

- Falls within one of three Y priority areas of: Healthy Living, Youth Development, and Social Responsibility
- Impacts a significant majority, if not all, of the Ys in New Hampshire
- Significant financial impact on Ys
- Significant impact on the Y as a community service organization
- Significant impact on the Y as a business
- Has been written/filed by the Y
- Aligns with Alliance's commitment to being non-partisan

Tier Two: SUPPORT & COLLABORATE

Tier Two legislation is still a priority for the Alliance. If legislation is designated Tier Two, the Alliance will offer written testimony or verbal testimony, if time permits. Legislation will be included on the Alliance's legislative agenda. The Alliance will take part in coalitions trying to pass or oppose the legislation. Finally, the Alliance will sign onto letters in support or opposition.

Criteria for Tier Two:

- Falls within one of three Y priority areas of: Healthy Living, Youth Development, and Social Responsibility
- Minimal financial impact on Ys
- Does not threaten Ys
- Will directly affect the people we serve
- Another organization has taken the lead
- Aligns with Alliance's commitment to being non-partisan

Tier Three: MONITOR

While Tier Three legislation is still important legislation to the Alliance, it is not a top priority, and/or the Alliance is not strategically positioned to lead. If legislation is designated Tier Three, the Alliance will monitor hearings and work sessions related to the legislation, and report any relevant changes to the Public Policy Committee as needed.

Criteria for Tier Three:

- Falls within one of three Y priority areas of: Healthy Living, Youth Development, and Social Responsibility
- Does not pose significant threat to Ys
- Another organization has taken the lead



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YMCA ALLIANCE OF NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND NEW HAMPSHIRE 2023 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

We believe that all kids deserve the opportunity to thrive, and that investing in our youngest citizens sets them up to become happy, healthy, and engaged adults.

PRIORITIES:

- Partnering with the State and the business community to increase the availability of childcare to support working families and our economy.
- Addressing the childcare workforce shortage by advocating for increased funding to support compensation and career pathways for those entering and advancing in the field.
- Expanding programs that address the achievement gap and set kids up to succeed, including pre-kindergarten, resident camping, school readiness, and summer learning initiatives.
- Addressing the leading cause of unintentional death for children in New Hampshire by providing water safety education programs for youth.

FOR HEALTHY LIVING

We support holistic and collaborative efforts to improve New Hampshire residents' health, strengthen families, and promote active lifestyles for residents of all ages.

PRIORITIES:

- Increasing access to evidence-based wellness programs to prevent and address chronic health conditions, including diabetes, cancer, and obesity.
- Expanding programs that address food insecurity.
- Addressing mental health challenges by providing education, safe spaces, and community supports for individuals and their families.
- Helping seniors safely age in place and combat social isolation.

FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

We leverage our trusted position in the community, private funds, and volunteers to provide critical services that would otherwise fall to the government. We believe in working with our neighbors to address cross-sector challenges.

PRIORITIES:

- Protecting tax exemptions for charitable organizations that address community needs unmet by government.
- Increasing access to the New Hampshire YMCA Youth & Government™ program to build civic engagement and leadership skills in New Hampshire's youth.

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