



Oregon Alliance of YMCAs Summer 2024 Newsletter



YMCAs in OREGON

The Y is the leading nonprofit committed to strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose and each other. We focus on empowering young people, improving health and well-being, and inspiring action in and across communities. By bringing together people from different backgrounds, perspectives and generations, we ensure that we all have access to the opportunities, relationships and resources necessary to learn, grow and thrive.

Ashland Family YMCA
Athena-Weston YMCA Afterschool Programs
Baker County YMCA
YMCA of Columbia-Willamette
YMCA of Douglas County
Eugene Family YMCA
Grants Pass YMCA
The YMCA of Klamath Falls
Family YMCA of Marion and Polk Counties
Mid-Willamette Family YMCA
Milton-Freewater YMCA Child Care Center
Rogue Valley Family YMCA
Tillamook County Family YMCA

STRENGTHENING OUR YMCAs

The Alliance advocates and educates on behalf of the Y and its mission and serves as a resource for YMCA staff.

Advocacy in Oregon and US government
Strategic Planning
Collaborative opportunities
Operational and board support
Statewide funding opportunities
Negotiations with third-party payers
Voice for childcare and out-of-schooltime
Shared services
Training and professional development
Staff support and peer networks

BETTER TOGETHER.....>

OREGON YMCA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Advocated for the highest level of funding possible for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) – Oregon YMCAs serve over 50,000 youth ages 0 - 18. More than two-thirds of our 12 YMCA Associations have waiting lists for their childcare and afterschool programs. YMCAs support 15% to 58% of their low income families with financial assistance for childcare and afterschool.

Supported the Oregon 2024 Childcare Infrastructure Fund (HB 4098A) – Business Oregon is working with the Department of Early Learning and Care, other state agencies, and private and non-profit entities to implement this grant and loan program. The first round of funding will award a total of \$10 million in grants to selected applicants. YMCAs are preparing their applications due August 15. Projects eligible under this program are restricted to fixed, immovable assets including new construction, repairs, renovations, modernizations, retrofitting, property acquisition and planning projects.

Championed legislation for Oregon HB 4082 in the 2024 short session that was passed to provide \$30 million in state funding for summer learning and to create a workgroup to develop recommendations for sustainable long-term funding for summer learning in the future. Alliance Director Marisa Fink was appointed to this workgroup and will moderate a panel of successful state programs across the country at the Summer & Afterschool Summit for Oregon Student Success on August 15.

National Advocacy for the Youth Workforce Readiness Act (H.R. 3416/S.454) – This legislation seeks to create federal investments and partnerships that will increase opportunities for youth to build knowledge and skills in critical real life work experiences. More than 80% of Oregon YMCAs are still struggling to fill childcare and afterschool staff positions. Thanks to a two-year state grant, we are currently recruiting, training, and placing young people ages 14 - 24 in a Future Ready Youth Development workforce training program for childcare and youth workers across the Alliance.

ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP

Tim Sinatra, Alliance Chair

Brad Russell, Public Policy Chair

Tyler Wright, YMCA-CW, Alliance Fiscal Sponsor

Derek Smith, Pacific Alliance CEO

Marisa Fink, Executive Director, Oregon Alliance

FINDING FUNDING for OREGON Ys

\$174,101 secured in a 2023-25 Oregon Future Ready Grant to recruit, train, certify, and hire lifeguards and swim instructors ages 16-24. Eighty-one were certified as lifeguards 34 as swim instructors, resulting in 90 new hires at six YMCAs and YMCA Camp Collins.

\$64,666 secured in an additional 2023-25 Oregon Future Ready Grant to recruit, train, certify, and hire lifeguards and swim instructors ages 16-24 statewide.

\$250,000 secured in a 2023-25 Oregon Future Ready Grant to recruit, train, certify, and hire childcare and youth workers ages 14-24.

\$1,600 Grant from the Pacific Power Foundation to support the statewide Oregon YMCA Youth and Government program.

\$20,000 Grant from the Y-USA/Mission Square Foundation to support the statewide Oregon YMCA Youth and Government program.

2024 Proposals Submitted

\$2 million FY25 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request to Senators Wyden and Merkley to provide statewide support for behavior and mental health services at Oregon YMCAs to support youth, families, and Y staff.

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR OUR ALLIANCE

- Alliance Strategic Plan implementation
- YMCA Youth & Government - forming new delegations in Beaverton and Medford
- Multi-year negotiations for third-party payers for membership

STRENGTH IN PARTNERSHIPS

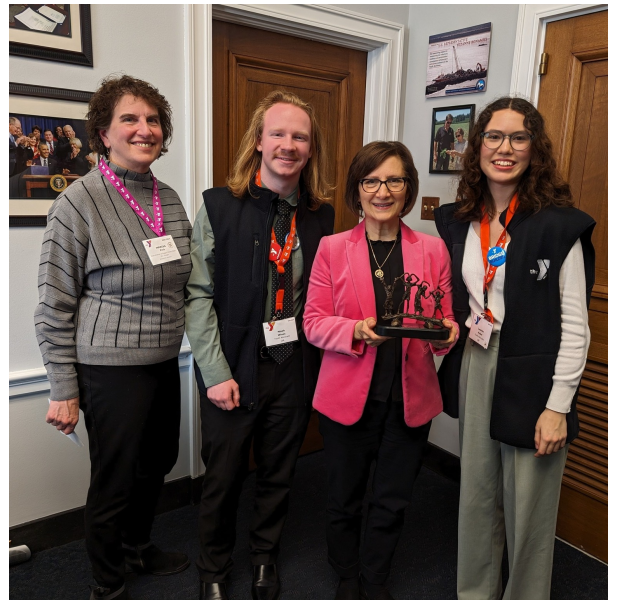
- Alliance of Oregon Camps
- Age+Oregon
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Oregon
- OregonASK
- Our Children Oregon
- Nonprofit Association of Oregon
- UPLIFT Leadership



SPOTLIGHT ON OREGON YMCA TEENS



Cash Yount, Dayton High School Junior, was elected Oregon YMCA Youth and Government program's 78th Youth Governor. He attended the YMCA Governor's Conference in Washington, DC in June and the Conference on National Affairs at Blue Ridge Assembly in North Carolina in July.



In February 2024, National Youth Advocates Noah Wines of West Albany, and Lauren Huber of West Salem represented Oregon in Washington, DC, met with staff and members of Congress. They presented Rep. Suzanne Bonamici with the YMCA of the USA Congressional Champion Award, recognizing her work passing the Child Tax Credit, advocating for a strong public education system, ending child hunger, supporting youth experiencing homelessness, and protecting food programs such as SNAP and WIC.



15 Oregon youth attended the Conference on National Affairs at Blue Ridge Assembly YMCA in North Carolina in July to share their proposals on national concerns and issues.

OREGON ALLIANCE OF YMCAs
www.oregonymcas.org
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