



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## Alliance of Massachusetts YMCA's Newsletter

**April 2014**

### **Legislative Update**

#### Act Improving Quality Education in Early Education Centers

This bill is currently in the Public Service Committee. The committee has until June 30 to make a decision to either bring it to a vote or not. Similar legislation was passed for family care homes two years ago. A lawsuit has been filed by family home care providers against the state regarding this legislation. While we do not have any definitive word yet, and we will continue to monitor the legislation in committee, we do believe that the lawsuit is discouraging, at least for now, any forward progress of legislation so similar.

Active Streets: The Transportation Bond Bill with the \$50 million for Active Streets over five years has been signed by the Governor. We are the first state with PHC funding to get policy enacted. Thank you for all your support and great work on this.

Anti Bullying Legislation: This has been signed by Governor. It has been a long three year battle with many of our Ys providing testimony and support of this historic legislation. Job well done at working to protect children!

Healthy Kids Act-This legislation did come out of the Education Committee and has been sent to the House and Senate Ways and Means Committee. Unfortunately the mandatory minimum amount of Physical Education or Physical Activity was taken out of the bill. While the most critical piece of this legislation has been removed, we continue to support the passage of this legislation. A determination will have to be made by the end of June.

Christians Law Draft Regulations have been written by the Department of Public Health. Ys testified at a public hearing on April 16. Final rules are expected by June. These regulations are for any open water (beach front not pools) where children are present.

Minimum Wage The Senate version of the bill, which calls for minimum wage to \$9 1.1.14 and then to \$10 and \$11 over the next two years with subsequent years adjusted for inflation was sent to the House. The House opted to draft its own bill. The House passed a bill which includes a sub minimum wage exemption for student summer workers and caps the wage at \$10.50. Both bills must now be reconciled. While the House bill calls for implementation as of July 1, 2014 it is doubtful that the bills will be reconciled before July 1. We encourage Ys to prepare for the possibility of a raise in minimum wage in the summer.

Child Abuse Task Force We have every indication that this legislation will be passed. Ys will be involved in the process which includes requiring every provider of services to children to have a prevention and protection plan in place.

#### Changes in Exempt Employee Status

President Obama has ordered Labor Secretary Perez to come up with a plan that will expand the number of workers who are eligible to receive overtime. There have been no recommendations made at this time. When done it will appear in the Federal Register. An Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is published in the Federal Register. There is usually a period of time allocated for public comment. We are continuing to monitor this on the federal level.

#### EEC

The House budget did not include adequate funding for providers of subsidized early childcare. For many of our Ys this is a significant portion of their childcare budgets. We, along with other organizations, are advocating on several amendments that will add or increase funding for administrative rates, training and transportation. The total ask is over \$28 M. There are increasing numbers of sponsors of these amendments.

Additionally, the EEC is advocating for a change in summer rates. This is an administrative decision and does not involve the legislature. We have been talking with the Commissioner and others making our case that changing rates now will have a detrimental impact on Ys and others. No decision has been reached but the Department is understanding of our argument.

#### Youth At Risk

This line item in the House budget was significantly less than last year. An amendment with, thanks to all of your efforts, over 60 sponsors is being debated by the House. We continue to monitor the progress of the amendment and have received a lot of verbal support from legislators. What we have heard, however, is that many legislators do not understand how we use these funds and the benefits provided. That is why we are asking for your help in providing outcome data from the summer literacy programs.

#### **Leadership for Quality - 2104 Administration and Management Conference**

Great conference on May 5&6 through our partners MADCA. If you are interested in attending register through [sharonfmacdonald@madca.org](mailto:sharonfmacdonald@madca.org) or (508) 755-2238 ext: 15.

#### **Workforce Training Fund**

The Office of Labor and Workforce Development are providing funds through the Commonwealth Corporation for Workforce Training Funds. These are grants that any Y can apply for as long as you have been paying unemployment insurance in the contributory method.

These grants are good for any sort of non-state mandated training (OSHA does not qualify) and provide up to \$250,000 in funds. The Y must match the funds either in cash or in-kind (employee wages that are paid during the training are considered "in kind").

If you would like to apply or learn more please click [here](#).

### **Vendor for Workforce Training Funds**

The Y can also be approved as a vendor for trainings provided by the workforce training funds. In order to qualify you must:

1. Have been in business for 2 years
2. Not provide state mandated trainings

To become part of the vendor approval database please contact Cara O'Donnell-Galvin at [617-717-6919](tel:617-717-6919).

### **Mass In Motion**

For those Ys with communities that participate in this program all funds have stopped from the federal level. The Department of Community Health has released a new process to apply for funding. We are part of an effort to get additional state funding to replace the lost federal funding as well as with CDC to see if other funds could be freed up to help this effort.

The Department has posted an application for Mass in Motion Municipal Wellness and Leadership initiative. See link below for the procurement.

<https://www.commbuys.com/bs0/external/bidDetail.sdo?docId=BD-14-1031-BCHAP-BCH01-0000000217&external=true&parentUrl=bid>

### **Continuing Education Opportunity**

The Institute for Nonprofit Management and Leadership (INML) at Boston University is now accepting applications for its Core Certificate Program beginning in September!

The Core Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership (click [HERE](#) to learn more) is a one-year, highly practical course of study for nonprofit executives and managers. Now in its seventh year of operation, the Core Certificate Program features a unique blend of classroom learning, small group case-based conversation, mentoring, and networking opportunities that set it apart from other nonprofit education programs.

### **Funding opportunities:**

#### **QRIS**

Grant funding is now available for Early Childhood and ASOST programs in Massachusetts to support quality improvements linked to the QRIS. The Department of Early Education and Care, in collaboration with United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, has now released a Grant Solicitation for the 2014 QRIS Program Quality Improvement Grants. This grant application's purpose is to provide grants to eligible programs/educators in the mixed delivery

system to make program quality improvements, in pursuit of upward progress on the levels defined in the state's Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS).

All programs in the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care's mixed delivery system are eligible to participate in this round of QRIS Program Quality Improvement Grants; the mixed delivery system includes center-based programs, Head Start, independent and system-affiliated family child care providers, public and private school preschool programs, and out-of-school time programs. Using this link you may also request translation services and accommodation. More information about this year's grant program is available at: <http://cybergrants.com/qrigrants>.

### **Capital Funding**

The legislature passed a capital bonding bill that for the first time includes child care facilities. There is \$5 million available in this funding cycle. Bidding regulations are being developed by EEC, which will administer the funds. We are currently in the public comment period on the regulations. Child Care Committee members have received the draft regulations and have been asked to forward comments for a combined Alliance response.

### **Cooking Demonstrations**

Simple Cooking with Heart program is to encourage families to cook low-cost, heart-healthy meals at home by giving them tools, basic skills and techniques to get started, be inspired and have fun. The program consists of a heart healthy cooking demonstration including giveaways for participants like cookbooks, measuring spoons and recipe cards/booklets. For more information contact: Penny McGuire, MPH, Director Community Health Strategies, American Heart Association |American Stroke Association, [781.373.4510](tel:781.373.4510) | f. [781.373.4567](tel:781.373.4567).

### **CEO Strategy Planning Session**

From my visits around the state I have consistently heard that CEOs want to be more involved in determining our statewide agenda and strategy. We are currently working on a time in September for us to meet and dive into this important work. Be on the look out for an email with more details.