



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
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Massachusetts YMCAs serve thousands of Youth at Risk

Received \$1.15million from the Department of Public Health

[MASSACHUSETTS] – The Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs has received \$1.15million from the Department of Public Health to serve thousands of youth that have been deemed “at risk”. \$950,000 of this funding has been evenly distributed to all 31 YMCA Associations in Massachusetts. These YMCAs match this funding, using \$46,000 each to provide scholarships for after school, early education, and camp programs as well as providing summer literacy and other programs to these youth. The remaining \$200,000 is being used to support a substance abuse speaker series and program across all 14 counties in the Commonwealth.

Each YMCA dedicates \$20,000 of this funding each summer to provide a summer literacy program during their camp session. These programs range from daily reading and journaling to daily classroom instruction in the morning from a teacher for struggling readers. These programs have shown a 76% success rate of improving students grade level by one grade during the summer. Peter Doliber, Executive Director of the Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs, said “This funding, provided by the Department of Public Health, has allowed our 31 Y Association and 82 branches to reach out and help even more youth than we could in the past. If not for this funding, our Ys would not be able to make such a large effort to combat the achievement gap during the summer months”

The remaining \$200,000 is being used to support the creation of substance abuse groups for teens which will be peer lead. These groups will have the opportunity to host Chris Herren, former Celtic player, as a motivational speaker during the school day and in the evening for the community as part of a speakers series on drug abuse. According to Carlene Pavlos, Director of the DPH Bureau of Community Health and Prevention, “It is through this funding that the YMCAs can change children’s lives, whether it be through addressing youth violence, providing a place to go after school, or offering a program to help them improve their reading abilities, the Department is pleased to be supporting YMCAs to help create safe and supportive environments for children”.

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About the Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs

The Y is one of the nation’s leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the Commonwealth 31 Ys in over 200 locations engage 370,000 children– regardless of age, income or background – to nurture

the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. Anchored many communities, the Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. www.maymca.com