

CEO Update
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May 2024

The NC General Assembly returned to Raleigh on April 24 to begin the short legislative session. Their priorities include teacher pay, NC's Opportunity Scholarship program, and child care. As you read last month, child care is a top priority for the NC Alliance of YMCAs in this short session.

Child care stabilization funding is due to run out in June, and child care centers, including many of our Y licensed child care programs, are trying to figure out how to stay afloat as these dollars dry up. The legislative leaders seem to be poised to at least pass a stop-gap measure for the 2024-25 fiscal year and pick the issue back up next spring during the long session for the next biennium budget negotiations.

On May 16, there will be a lobby day for anyone interested in supporting child care stabilization funding and our specific YMCA priorities. If you would like to participate, [register here](#).

The NC Alliance will host an advocates call on Tuesday, May 14th at 9 a.m. for anyone attending on May 16th to share talking points. Send an email to [me](#) or [Michele](#) to receive the call invitation. Our talking points will focus on the funding cliff as well as outcomes from the School-age Child Care Summit we held April 10th. You can read the Executive Summary and full Proceedings Report.

We may be calling on you to reach out to your elected officials as the short session heats up on the child care issues.

Also note this is an election year, and our officials need to get out onto the campaign trail in advance of the November election.

- Be on the lookout for Town Halls or other opportunities to engage with those running for state office in your area.
- Attend the town halls and ask questions relating to your work at the Y and how they might support our YMCAs and other nonprofits when they are elected.
 - What are their views on the child care crisis and how we solve that?
 - What are their views on the impact nonprofits like the Y make in the community?
- Invite candidates to visit your Y's outreach programming to learn what the Y is doing to benefit the community.
- Share our statewide [Community Benefit Statement](#) with them.

It's a great time to engage these community leaders and build relationships now, before they get into office. There are definite "dos and don'ts" for engaging candidates in election season. Follow [these guidelines](#) to keep your Y out of trouble for engaging in illegal activities, while doing your part to educate those who desire to lead us.