



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ENSURING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES



YMCA BOYS AND YOUNG MEN OF COLOR STRATEGY

Boys and young men of color live in a different America, an America that both sees and treats them differently, resulting in a unique set of barriers to reaching their full potential.

At the Y, we believe that all youth deserve the opportunity to thrive. That's why we're committed to building sustainable pathways for success through the YMCA Boys and Young Men of Color (BYMOC) Strategy.

OUR APPROACH

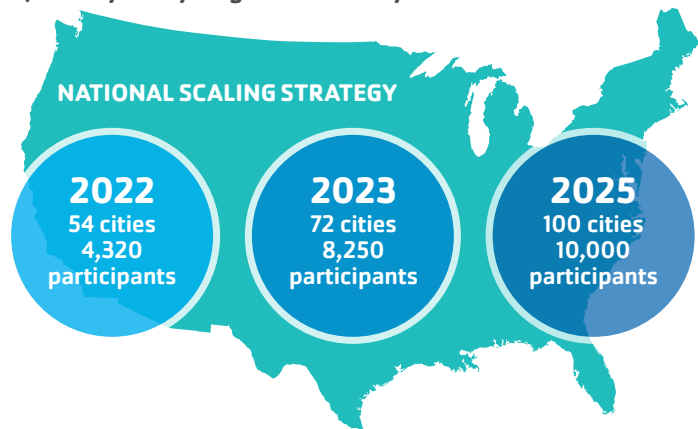
BYMOC focuses on youth during **critical transition points** in their lives, specifically the ages of 11-17. During adolescence, as boys of color mature and become more independent, their existing support systems in homes, schools and communities can often become distant or inaccessible to them, leaving them vulnerable and disconnected.

BYMOC is an intentional effort to shift attitudes and outcomes for the people, environments and systems that influence these young men's lives.

The support and advocacy of caring, reliable adults coupled with purposeful strategies will inspire and transform participants, equipping them with the tools they need to overcome obstacles. We are working to create a culture of care that believes in boys and young men of color and expects to see great things from them.

OUR REACH

Embedded in 10,000 communities across the country, YMCAs are uniquely positioned to operationalize this approach through frontline practitioners who are able to directly effect change in a culturally responsive manner. **BYMOC is operationalized through a cohort of local YMCAs that will grow to include 100 cities and engage 10,000 boys and young men of color by 2024.**



Comprehensive research from **Harvard economist and Opportunity Insights founder, Dr. Raj Chetty**, has found that boys of color in America are:

- 1 Twice as likely to grow up in poverty
- 2 More likely to live in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty
- 3 More likely to fall into poverty as adults, regardless of background



“Boys and young men of color face profound challenges growing up in America.”

– DR. RAJ CHETTY



[Watch a video](#) to see how the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago is putting the BYMOC strategy into action.

ymca.org/BYMOC

WHAT WE DO

BYMOC is designed for flexible implementation through policies, practices and programs that can be defined by the needs of each community and YMCA, including:



Education

- Impacts students' educational drive
- Empowers participants to believe in their capabilities
- Prepares them with the skills to achieve academic success



College & Career Readiness

- Develops college- and career-ready young people
- Creates pipelines to connect participants with post-secondary education and meaningful jobs
- Provides work-based learning experiences, financial education, skills development, career/college planning, resource navigation



Character Development

- Creates experiences and environments that strengthen social-emotional competencies
- Supports character development across core Y values: honesty, caring, respect and responsibility



Belonging/Community Building

- Helps young people build healthy relationship with peers and adults
- Fosters positive cultural identity and self-identity
- Supports community connections and civic engagement



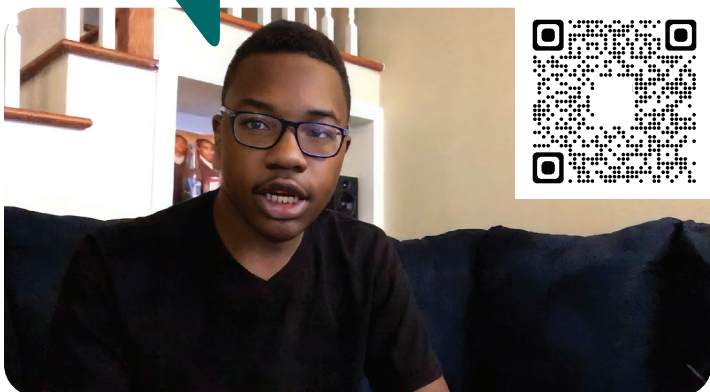
Health & Well-Being

- Works with young people to develop healthy physical fitness and eating habits
- Focuses on healthy lifestyle changes that can prevent chronic conditions in adulthood (diabetes, heart disease, etc.)
- Combats food insecurity

ELEVATING BYMOC VOICES: MAURICE'S STORY

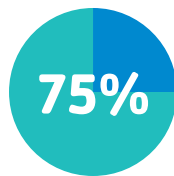
It is critical for boys and young men of color to develop the confidence and sense of belonging needed to make their voices heard and advocate for themselves. Listen to Maurice's experiences with BYMOC in his own words:

"Boys and Young Men of Color allows boys—specifically African American boys—to get information from people that look like us...information on life and life lessons."
 – Maurice Watkins, BYMOC participant, YMCA of South Raleigh

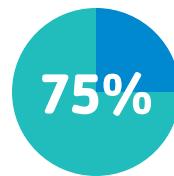


MEASURING SUCCESS

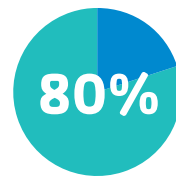
BYMOC tracks key external metrics for participants, especially as they relate to truancy and absenteeism, which studies have shown are linked to a range of outcomes, including academic achievement.



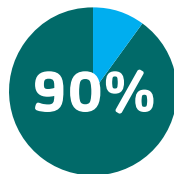
IMPROVED GRADES



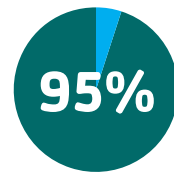
REDUCED SUSPENSIONS



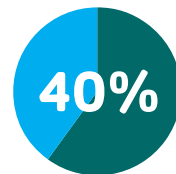
IMPROVED ATTENDANCE & REDUCED CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM



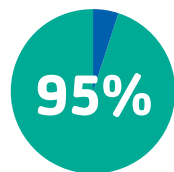
IMPROVE/MAINTAIN SOCIAL EMOTIONAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING



HAVE A POST-HIGH SCHOOL PLAN



AGED 17 OR OLDER WILL HAVE A FIRST JOB



WILL HAVE COMPLETED A LINKEDIN PROFILE, CONNECTING THEM WITH PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL NETWORKS OF PARTNERS AND BYMOC ALUMNI
 (Can enable long-term outcomes tracking)

PARTNER WITH US!

YMCA of the USA is seeking partners to improve the outcomes for 10,000 boys and young men in 100 cities across the country. To learn more about partnership opportunities, **please contact us:**

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