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2025

YMCA OF METRO ATLANTA
ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION: Reflecting its Judeo-Christian heritage, the YMCA of Metro Atlanta is an association of volunteers, members, and staff, open to and serving all, with programs and services which build spirit, mind, and body.

OUR VISION: To build communities where everyone belongs.

OUR VALUES: Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility

OUR COMMITMENT STATEMENT: Our dedication to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment is evident in our team, our members, and our partners. We believe every individual brings unique value to our community. We are committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

-  ymcaatlanta.org
-  [MetroAtlantaY](https://www.facebook.com/MetroAtlantaY)
-  [atlantaymca](https://www.instagram.com/atlantaymca)
-  [atlantaymca](https://www.linkedin.com/company/atlantaymca)
-  [MetroAtlantaYMCA](https://www.youtube.com/MetroAtlantaYMCA)

YMCA OF METRO ATLANTA LEADERSHIP & LEARNING CENTER:
569 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive NW, Atlanta, GA 30314
404.588.9622

The YMCA of Metro Atlanta is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that has been impacting lives and strengthening communities for more than 168 years. By providing services and support networks, building bridges between people from all backgrounds and engaging stakeholders at various levels, the Y has maintained its relevance, helping to create stronger, more cohesive communities for all.

DEAR FRIENDS,

2025 marked the final year of our Y2025 Strategic Plan, a five-year commitment to deepen our impact and expand our reach across metro Atlanta. Because of your support, we were able to follow through on that commitment in meaningful ways. Every day at the YMCA of Metro Atlanta, we are reminded why this work matters. It might be a child walking into a classroom with confidence, a teen stepping into their first job, or a neighbor finding a place where they feel known and supported. These moments stay with you. They are simple, but they are powerful, and they are happening across our communities every day.

Over the course of our Y2025 strategic plan, we created more than 16 million experiences for children, families, and individuals across our region. In 2025 alone, we saw the strength of that work in clear and measurable outcomes. Ninety-three percent of children in our early learning programs entered kindergarten ready to succeed. Thousands of teens gained skills that will shape their future. More than 52,000 members turned to the Y for connection and well-being, and 93% told us they feel a sense of belonging here. We also continued to expand access to basic needs, providing more than 600,000 meals and reaching thousands of children with water safety programs.

Behind each of these numbers is a person, a family, a story that is still unfolding.

We are especially grateful for the role our donors, volunteers, and partners have played in this progress. Together, we celebrated the completion of more than \$25 million in community capital investments, alongside our continued investments in scholarships, programs, and essential services. That kind of commitment does not happen by chance. It reflects a shared belief in what the Y can be for this community.

As we closed out 2025, we also began the next chapter of this work.

In early 2026, we launched Catalyst for Connection, the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan for the YMCA of Metro Atlanta. This plan builds on what we have learned and responds to what we are hearing across our communities. Too many people are feeling isolated. Too many are searching for a place where they belong. The Y has a role to play in that.

Catalyst for Connection focuses on strengthening relationships, expanding our reach, and ensuring that every person who walks through our doors or engages with us in the community feels connected to something bigger than themselves. We believe the Y is a catalyst for community wellbeing and belonging. And our goal is simple and ambitious; we want people to experience the Y as a place where they belong and reach their goals.

This work is already underway, and we are encouraged by what we see. The world needs places like the Y. And the Y needs people like you.

With gratitude,



Lauren Koontz
President & CEO



Jeff Beckham
2025/2026 Board Chair



Clark Dean
2025 Board Chair

2025 BY THE NUMBERS



COMMUNITY FOOTPRINT

103	Locations Across Metro Atlanta, North Georgia, & Augusta
19	Membership Locations
4	Program Sites
19	Early Learning Centers
2	Overnight Camps
50	Community-Based Afterschool Sites
10	Early Learning Readiness Sites
239,000	People Served
3.7M	Experiences Provided Annually
20,168	Volunteer Hours

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT

728	Teen Leaders
1,308	Teens Employeed
4,300	Y Explore Afterschool Participants
9,593	Youth Athletes
17,286	Day Camp and School Break Campers
4,317	Overnight Campers



HOLISTIC WELLNESS

\$6.9M	Financial Assistance Scholarships = 25,367 Members
10,000	Visitors Per Day
21,789	Active Older Adults



EARLY LEARNING
3,238 Children
Across 18 Locations

HEALTH EQUITY

6,078	Water Safety Program Participants
307,000	Meals and Food Packs Served





EARLY LEARNING

We believe every child deserves a strong start. Our early learning programs serve thousands of children each year, providing safe, high-quality environments where they can build the skills needed for lifelong success. From infant care to preschool, Pre-K, and family engagement, we focus on language, literacy, and social-emotional development during the most critical early years. As one of the largest providers of early childhood education in the region, the Y ensures access to trusted programs that prepare children for kindergarten and support parents as their child's first and most important teacher.

» STANDING UP FOR HEAD START

In 2025, our commitment to early learning was tested in ways we could not have anticipated.

Head Start is a federally funded early childhood education program designed to support children from low-income families with school readiness, health services, and family support. As one of the largest providers of Head Start in Georgia, serving more than 3,100 children, we faced a year marked by unprecedented uncertainty. A proposed elimination of federal funding, followed by a government shutdown that froze grant renewals, put thousands of children, families, and educators at risk.

We knew what was at stake. Without Head Start, thousands of parents and caregivers would have been unable to report to work, putting their livelihoods at risk. The uncertainty also extended to the hundreds of educators and staff who dedicate their careers to serving these children and families.

In response, the Y stepped forward as a leader and convener. We worked with Head Start providers and advocacy groups across the state – including Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students, Sheltering Arms and Easterseals of North Georgia – engaged bipartisan leaders, and worked alongside philanthropic partners, led by the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, to act quickly.

Because of that collective effort, every one of our Head Start classrooms remained open. More than 3,100 children continued learning, and hundreds of educators remained in the classroom. In a moment of uncertainty, our community came together to protect what matters most.

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT

We know young people need more than a place to go. They need a place to grow. Through afterschool programs, camps, sports, and teen leadership opportunities, we serve thousands of youth across the region during the out of school times that matter most. These experiences build confidence, strengthen relationships, and help young people discover who they are and what they are capable of. From their first day at camp to their first job, the Y creates pathways that support academic success, social-emotional growth, and real-world skills that prepare youth for what comes next.



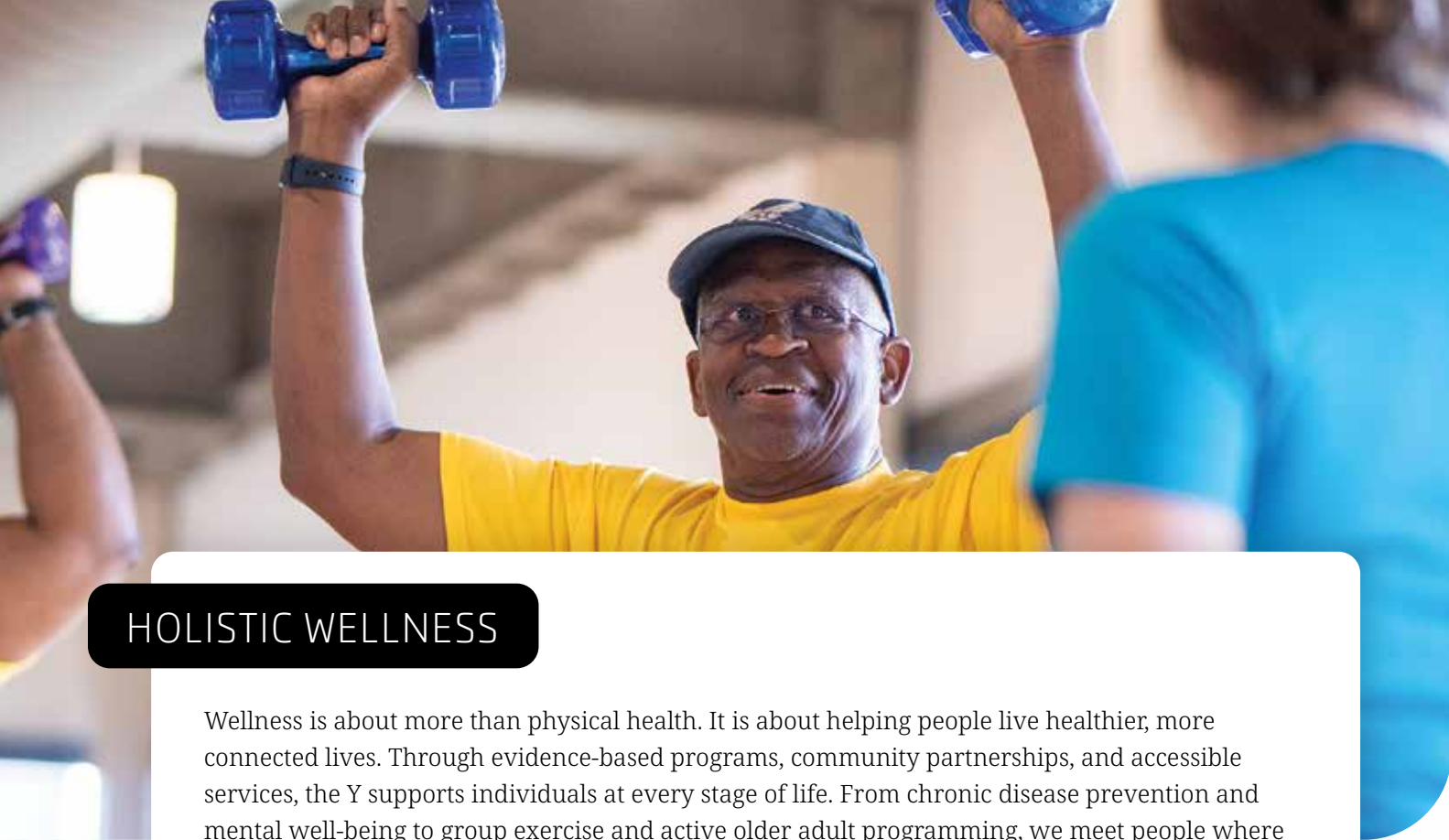
» A STORY OF TEEN LEADERSHIP

Every year, we host Color My World, a celebration of the remarkable young people in our teen programs. The event recognizes teens from across our Association who are growing into leaders through service, mentorship, advocacy, and character. Throughout the year, they mentor younger children, organize service projects, advocate for their communities, and take on meaningful responsibilities within their Y branches. Along the way, they develop the confidence, empathy, and leadership skills that will serve them for the rest of their lives.

New this year, Color My World also introduced the YMCA Character Values Awards, recognizing teens who consistently demonstrate Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility. These awards celebrate more than achievement. They reflect the everyday choices young people make and the kind of people they are becoming. At the Y, caring mentors and meaningful experiences help teens develop the character, confidence, and sense of responsibility that shape how they lead, serve, and show up for others.

In 2025, that collective impact was on full display. Across the Association, our teens contributed more than 5,000 hours of service, supporting food pantries, mentoring younger youth, organizing coat and toy drives, cleaning parks, serving meals, and leading initiatives that strengthened their communities. These hours represent more than volunteer service. They reflect thousands of moments when young people chose to step forward, take responsibility, and make a difference.

Behind every hour served is a network of YMCA staff, volunteers, families, and partners who believe in the potential of young people. Together, we are helping the next generation discover who they are, what they stand for, and how they can make their communities stronger.



HOLISTIC WELLNESS

Wellness is about more than physical health. It is about helping people live healthier, more connected lives. Through evidence-based programs, community partnerships, and accessible services, the Y supports individuals at every stage of life. From chronic disease prevention and mental well-being to group exercise and active older adult programming, we meet people where they are and walk alongside them on their health journey. By expanding access and removing barriers, the Y continues to be a trusted resource for individuals and families seeking to improve their health and strengthen their sense of belonging.

» A STORY OF COMMUNITY

In East Lake, a historic neighborhood in Atlanta, the YMCA is more than a place. It is part of the foundation of the community. When the East Lake Family YMCA opened in 2001, it was part of a broader vision to transform a community that had long been underserved. That vision brought together partners, residents, and organizations with a shared goal: create a place where families could live, learn, and thrive.

Today, that work continues through programs designed to meet the needs of the community, including Healthy Connections. Through this program, the Y works alongside the East Lake Foundation and other partners to connect residents to health insurance, primary care, and preventive services, helping individuals better manage chronic conditions and access the care they need. These services are available to the broader community, ensuring that support extends beyond the walls of the Y.

The impact of this work is made possible through strong partnerships and sustained investment. Events like the Y-CEO Golf Experience help generate critical support that allows programs like Healthy Connections to continue serving families and adapting to evolving needs.

East Lake looks different today than it did decades ago, but the need for connection, access, and support remains. The Y continues to show up, working alongside partners and residents to meet those needs in real and meaningful ways.

As the East Lake Family YMCA prepares to celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2026, it stands as a reminder of what is possible when a community comes together with a shared purpose and a long-term commitment to making lives better.

» A STORY OF SAVING LIVES

Water safety is a life-saving skill, yet too many children in our community lack access to swim lessons.

Over the last five years, we set an ambitious goal to provide 10,000 swim lessons to youth at the greatest risk of drowning. We did more than meet that goal. We surpassed it by expanding access, removing barriers, and rethinking how families engage with water safety.

That work is made possible through strong partnerships. As a leading member of the Atlanta Water Safety Coalition, the Y works alongside organizations across the region, including Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, to address drowning prevention from every angle. Together, and with philanthropic and volunteer support, we are reaching families with the skills and knowledge that saves lives.

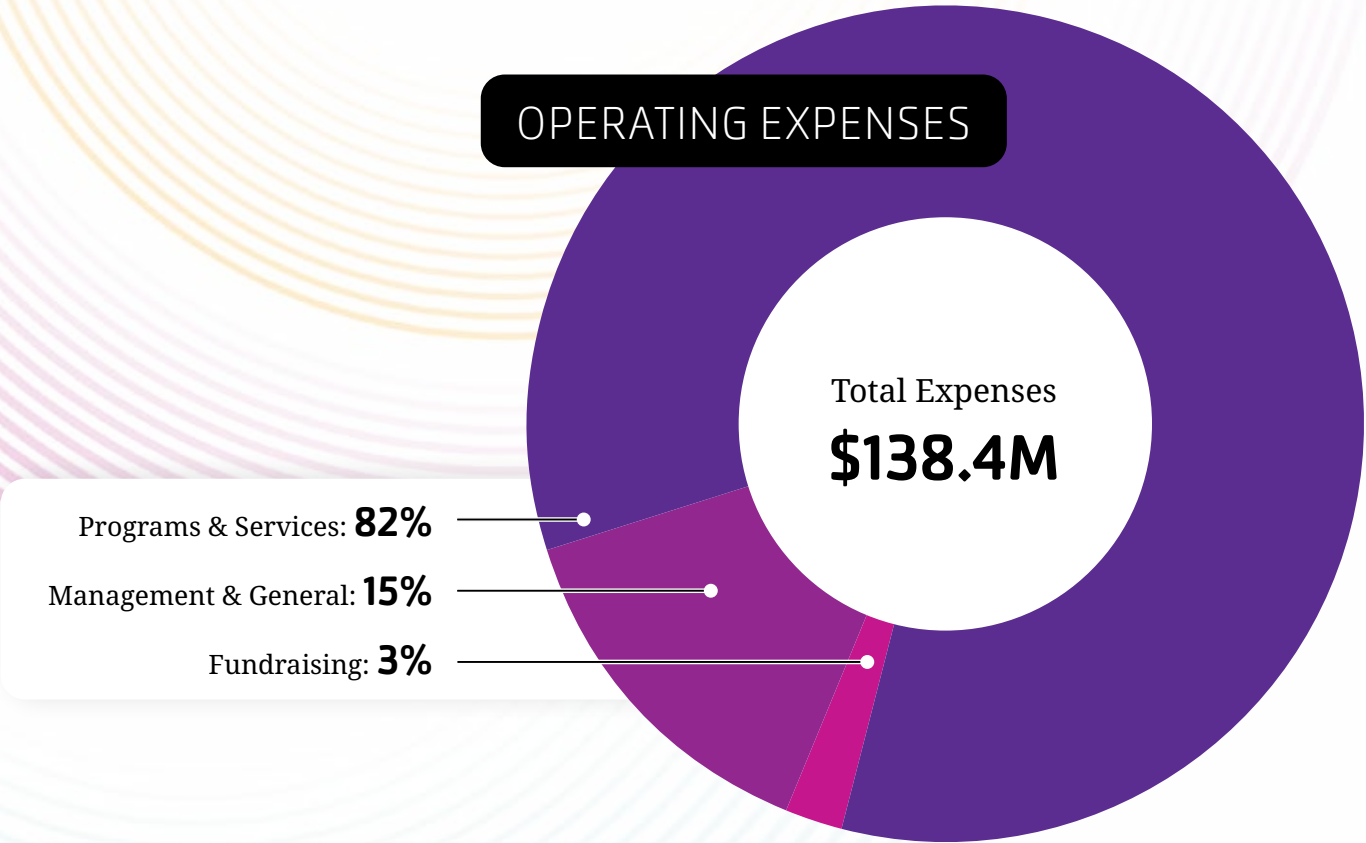
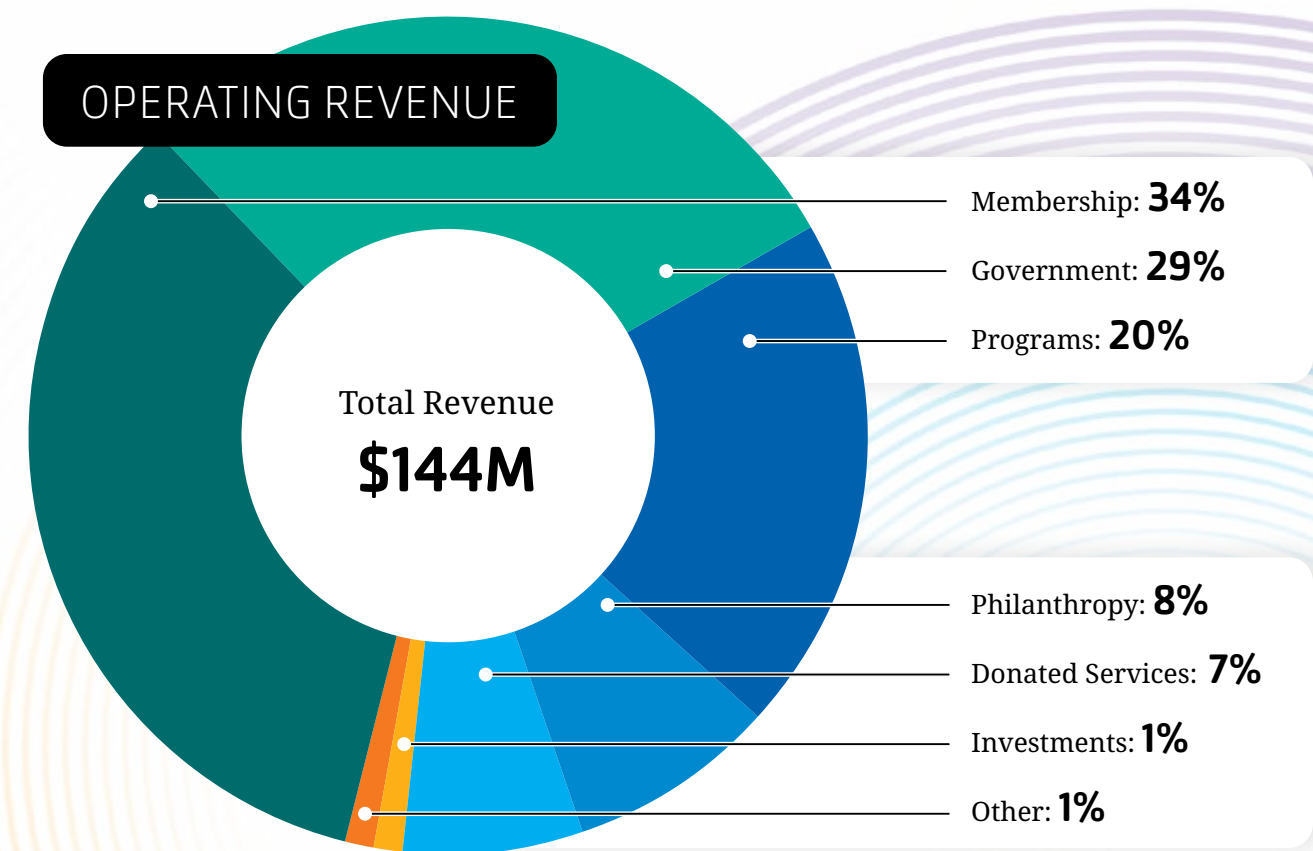
We are also using our voice to elevate this issue beyond the pool deck. In 2025, our President and CEO Lauren Koontz published an op-ed in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, highlighting the urgent need for water safety education and access to swim lessons across Georgia. It reinforced a simple truth we see every day: drowning is preventable. In that same spirit, the Y hosted the first-ever public swim lesson at the Georgia Governor's Mansion, bringing visibility to this critical issue and reinforcing that water safety is for everyone.

Today, more children and families are entering the water with confidence. Through expanded swim lessons, family-based learning, and adaptive programs, we are creating safer communities and helping ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn this essential life skill.

HEALTH EQUITY

We believe health outcomes should not be determined by ZIP code. Through our health equity work, we deliver programs and resources that address the most pressing needs in our communities. From hunger relief and access to healthy food to water safety and preventive health services, the Y is committed to removing barriers and expanding access to care. By working alongside community partners and investing in underserved neighborhoods, we are helping individuals and families live longer, healthier lives and creating stronger, more equitable communities across our region.





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2025 COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Andre Greenwood & Louise Garcia Andrew & Walter Young Family YMCA	Tonya Riddick G. Cecil Pruett Community Center Family YMCA
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Jana Waln Carl E. Sanders Family YMCA at Buckhead	Kim Blass McCleskey-East Cobb Family YMCA
Anthony Compton Covington Family YMCA	Harli Grawronski Northwest Family YMCA
Louis Profumo Cowart Family YMCA	Nick Lazaroff Robert D. Fowler Family YMCA
Elizabeth Hearn Decatur Family YMCA	Jason Eaker Summit Family YMCA
Derrick Montgomery East Lake Family YMCA	Tolton Pace The Villages at Carver Family YMCA
Nikke Lande Ed Isakson/Alpharetta Family YMCA	Jackie Knotts YMCA Camp High Harbour at Lake Allatoona & Lake Burton
Alex Holloman Forsyth County Family YMCA	

MEMBERSHIP LOCATIONS

- 1. Andrew and Walter Young Family YMCA
- 2. Carl E. Sanders Family YMCA at Buckhead
- 3. Covington Family YMCA
- 4. Cowart Family YMCA
- 5. Decatur Family YMCA
- 6. East Lake Family YMCA
- 7. Ed Isakson/Alpharetta Family YMCA
- 8. Forsyth County Family YMCA
- 9. G. Cecil Pruett Community Center Family YMCA
- 10. J.M. Tull-Gwinnett Family YMCA
- 11. McCleskey-East Cobb Family YMCA
- 12. Northeast Cobb Family YMCA
- 13. Northwest Family YMCA
- 14. Robert D. Fowler Family YMCA
- 15. Summit Family YMCA
- 16. The Villages at Carver Family YMCA
- 17. Wade Walker Park Family YMCA
- 18. YMCA at Good Sam
- 19. YMCA at Morehouse School of Medicine

PROGRAM SITES

- 20. Arthur M. Blank Family Youth YMCA
- 21. Cherokee Outdoor YMCA
- 22. South DeKalb YMCA
- 23. YMCA Youth and Teen Development Center

OVERNIGHT CAMPS

- 24. YMCA Camp High Harbour at Lake Allatoona
- 25. YMCA Camp High Harbour at Lake Burton

EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

- 26. Andrew and Walter Young Family YMCA Early Learning Center
- 27. Arthur M. Blank Early Learning Center at E.A. Ware
- 28. Arthur M. Blank Family Youth YMCA Early Learning Center
- 29. East Lake Family YMCA Early Learning Academy
- 30. YMCA Academy of South DeKalb Early Learning Center
- 31. YMCA ATC Head Start Early Learning Center
- 32. YMCA Barrow County Early Learning Center
- 33. YMCA Bert T. Thomas Early Learning Center at Pathways
- 34. YMCA Chattahoochee Early Learning Center
- 35. YMCA Collins Head Start Early Learning Center
- 36. YMCA Dean Rusk Early Learning Center
- 37. YMCA Deans Bridge Early Learning Center
- 38. YMCA Early Learning Center at Hollis Innovation Academy
- 39. YMCA Floyd Head Start Early Learning Center
- 40. YMCA Greene County Early Learning Center
- 41. YMCA Morgan County Early Learning Center
- 42. YMCA Paulding Early Learning Center*
- 43. YMCA Slater Elementary School Early Learning
- 44. YMCA Woodson Park Early Learning Center

*location closed in 2025

50 COMMUNITY-BASED AFTERSCHOOL SITES: Located across Cobb, DeKalb & Gwinnett counties

10 EARLY LEARNING READINESS SITES: Located across Coweta, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett & Newton counties

