



FLORIDA ALLIANCE OF YMCAs

PREVENTING DROWNING IN FLORIDA

Safety Around Water

Drowning is the **leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 4** in Florida, with enough children drowning each year to fill 4 preschool classrooms. Drowning incidents are preventable. Constant, vigilant adult supervision of young children is critical around any type of water in and outside of the home, and during water play. **The use of barriers, alarms, locks, and 4-sided fencing** is essential to prevent unsupervised access to pools and other water outside of the home.



In 2019, YMCAs in Florida:

Offered **50,000** Swim Lessons

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Provided **41,000** Water Safety Lessons

.....

Trained **350** Lifeguards and Swim Instructors

.....

Owned and Operated **220** Pools Across the State

2021-2022 Funding Request

Seeking **\$2,000,000** to teach **10,000** lessons to at-risk children, reach **25,000** students in swim lessons, and educate **1 million Floridians** on water safety practices.



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Local Water Safety & Swim Lessons Grants

YMCAs and community partners will be asked to apply for mini-grants to deliver **25,000 swim lessons with 10,000 of those being water safety lessons to at-risk youth.**

Lessons will consist of at least 8 lessons, 30 minutes each, focusing on three main benchmark skills: **Submerge Underwater, Jump, Push, Turn, and Grab, and Swim, Float, Swim.** These benchmark skills will be tracked to show progression through lessons.

Children deemed “at-risk” will be given priority for these lessons. “At-risk” will be defined by access to a body of water, social-economical status, zip code/county, social determinates of health, drowning trends, and barriers of entry to swim lessons.

Local Task Force Partnership Grants & Awareness Campaign

YMCAs or community partners will receive mini-grants supporting WaterSmartFL’s public awareness to create local waterwatcher campaigns, implement community based education, and strengthen the support of drowning prevention on a local level.

WaterSmartFL – State Drowning Prevention Task Force

The WaterSmartFL State Drowning Prevention Task Force discusses strategy on combating drownings with key partners, supporting local drowning prevention task forces with education materials and a network of local task forces to drive sustainability.

Task Force Members

- Florida Department of Health
- Florida Department of Children & Families
- Florida Department of Education
- American Red Cross
- Center for Autism & Related Disabilities
- Families United Against Drowning
- Florida Swimming Pool Association
- National Drowning Prevention Alliance
- Prevent Child Abuse Florida
- United Lifesaving Association
- Florida Children’s Hospital Association
- Safe Kids Florida
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Local Drowning Prevention Task Forces