

YMCA named one of the top two charities in the US

YMCA of the USA is one of the nation's top human services charities, according to a national charity watchdog service. The American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP), whose purpose is to help donors make informed giving decisions, awarded Y-USA an 'A' in its most recent ratings. Y-USA is one of only two national human services charities to receive an A grade or better.

AIP bases its grades on two factors: 1) how much it costs an organization to raise \$100 in public contributions and 2) the percentage of an organization's total expenses expended on services. For the 2006 fiscal year—the most recent year graded by AIP—Y-USA spent about \$1.37 million to raise nearly \$25.2 million through grants, corporate sponsorships and other forms of support, including contributions for World Service and the Jerusalem International YMCA. That translates to spending approximately \$5 to raise \$100. According to AIP, \$35 or less is reasonable for most charities.

Of Y-USA's \$66.6 million in total expenses for 2006, more than \$55.5 million, or 83 percent, was spent on services. In AIP's view, 60 percent or more is acceptable for most charities.

To calculate the grade, AIP analyzed Y-USA's IRS Form 990 and audited financial statements for the 2006 fiscal year. For more information, visit AIP's Web site at www.charitywatch.org.