

21st Century Community Learning Centers

Inspiring Learning. Supporting Families. Earning Results.

June 2019

Afterschool programs inspire kids to learn, help them make better decisions, and give parents peace of mind. Programs spark greater interest in school so students attend school more often, get better grades, and are more likely to graduate.¹ But the demand for these programs far exceeds the supply. Nationwide, only 1 in 3 families who want afterschool for their children has access to programs.²

21st Century Community Learning Centers provide afterschool and summer learning opportunities in every state. Programs are selected for funding based on their ability to meet the needs of students and families and their connection to education priorities in the state. These Community Learning Centers provide:³



opportunities for new, hands-on, academically enriching learning experiences to meet the challenging state academic standards;



a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities, focusing on subjects like science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), physical fitness and wellness, drug and violence prevention, nutrition and health education, service learning, youth development, and arts and music;



activities that tie into in-demand industry sectors or occupations that are designed to reinforce and complement the academic program of participating students, including, but not limited to, financial and environmental literacy, career readiness, internships, and apprenticeships; and



families of students with opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children's education, including opportunities for literacy and related educational development.



Alumna of our BRIDGE for KIDS afterschool program in Charlotte, N.C.

"My afterschool program and the experiences I have had because of it have shaped me into who I am today: a young woman who is determined, confident, and not afraid to stand up for what she believes is right. The program helped me improve in English and other school subjects. It provided a safe space where I could thrive academically and socially. I am constantly seeking new opportunities to challenge myself to learn, grow, and stretch my horizon to become a better student, a better leader and, most importantly, a better human being."

— Susanna Pradhan

Community Learning Centers by the numbers

1,726,722 children and youth served in pre-K through 12th grade⁴

286,039 adult family members served⁴

9,592 school-based and community centers⁴

Programs stay open (on average):⁵

13.8 hours per week

5 days per week

32 weeks per year



**Afterschool
Alliance**

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Strong Results

Having afterschool choices helps students learn and grow, helps parents balance work and life, and helps employers hire the local workforce they need in the present and the future.

Supporting Academic Success

- ▶ Students who regularly participate in Community Learning Centers improved their school attendance, school engagement, health-related behaviors, and math and reading achievement.⁶
- ▶ Regular participation in afterschool programs helped narrow the achievement gap between high- and low-income students in math, improved academic and behavioral outcomes, and reduced school absences.⁷

Supporting the Workforce of Today and Tomorrow

- ▶ Businesses want to hire problem solvers and team players. Students learn by doing in afterschool programs and develop the skills they need for the jobs of tomorrow.
- ▶ Jobs in science, technology, engineering, and math are driving global economic growth. Seven million students are getting opportunities to develop an interest and explore STEM in afterschool.⁸
- ▶ 8 in 10 parents say afterschool helps give them peace of mind and helps them keep their jobs.²

Among students regularly attending a Community Learning Center:⁴



1 in 2
**improved their
math and Language
Arts grades**



More than 2 in 3
**improved their
homework completion
and class participation**



3 in 5
**improved their
behavior in class**



Image(s) provided by The 50 State Afterschool Network

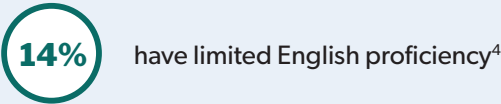
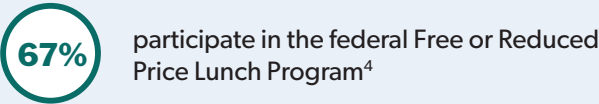
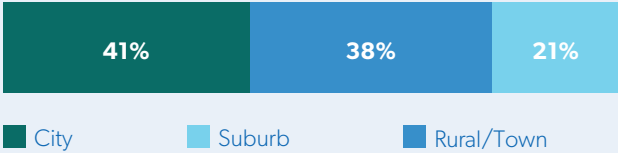
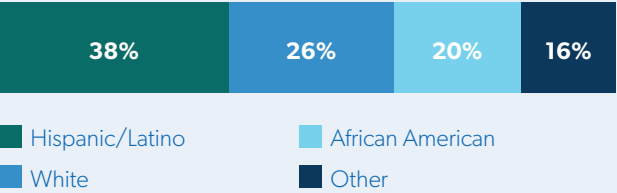
Regular attendance produces greater gains

A study of approximately 3,000 low-income, ethnically diverse elementary and middle school students found that those who regularly attended high-quality programs (including Community Learning Centers) for more than two years gained up to 20 percentiles in standardized math test scores compared with peers who were routinely unsupervised during the afterschool hours. Students with lower program attendance gained 12 percentiles compared with their non-participating peers.⁹

Reducing Barriers

21st Century Community Learning Centers provide essential support to students who are often underserved and offer creative, engaging learning opportunities to kids of all ages and backgrounds.

Students served^{4,10}



Among Community Learning Centers⁴



4 in 5 are school districts



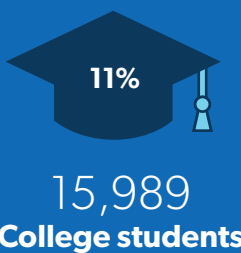
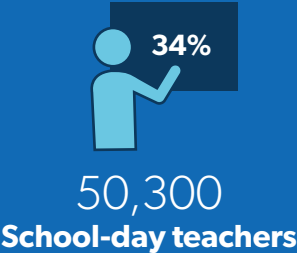
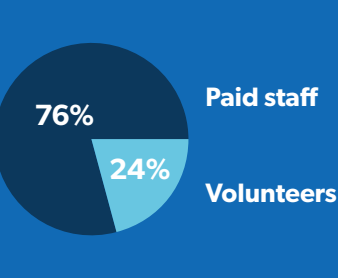
1 in 5 are community-based organizations, charter schools, colleges or universities, or faith-based organization

Driven by Local Needs

21st Century Community Learning Centers work closely with schools, youth and community groups, faith-based organizations, and businesses. Each program is shaped by the local community to best meet the needs of the people and organizations it serves. Grantees have an average of 9 partner organizations.⁵ A typical program receives \$67,000 from partners.¹¹

Between 2006 and 2010, partners contributed more than \$1 billion.

Staff Profile⁴ (based on 148,902 total staff)



Funding and Unmet Demand

America values afterschool. Parents nationwide want afterschool and summer programs for their children...¹²

89% of adults overall agree that afterschool programs are important to their community

88% of adults agree that school-age children should have opportunities outside of the school day to:



explore topics that interest them



try out new things



gain skills like communication and teamwork

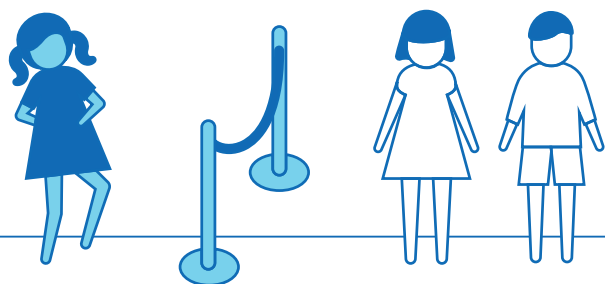
67% of parents say they are more likely to vote for an elected official who supported public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs

For every child in an afterschool program, two are waiting to get in.²

...but cost and lack of available programs stand in the way.

21st Century Community Learning Center grants are the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to providing afterschool and summer learning opportunities for children and youth.³ More than 21 million youth are eligible to attend Community Learning Centers, but funding allows only 1.7 million to participate.^{4,13}

Only 1 in 3 requests for funding Community Learning Centers is awarded. Over the span of 10 years, \$4 billion in local grant requests were denied because of intense competition and lack of adequate federal funding.¹⁴



Annual cost of Community Learning Center programs

► **\$298,000**
per grant⁵

► **\$1,495**
per regular
attendee⁴

► **\$122,000**
per center⁵

Every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves \$3 by¹⁵

- Increasing kids' earning potential
- Improving kids' performance at school
- Reducing crime and welfare costs

Sources

¹ Afterschool Alliance. (n.d.). Afterschool Alliance Research.

² Afterschool Alliance. (2014). America After 3PM: Afterschool Programs in Demand.

³ Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. S. 1177—182, Part B—21st Century Community Learning Centers.

⁴ U.S. Department of Education. (2018). 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) analytic support for evaluation and program monitoring: An overview of the 21st CCLC performance data: 2016–17 (13th report).

⁵ Learning Point Associates. Profile and Performance Information Collection System (PPICS). Data retrieved May 1, 2014.

⁶ Neild, R.C., Wilson, S.J., & McClanahan, W. (2019). Afterschool programs: A review of evidence under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

⁷ Pierce, K. M., Auger, A., & Vandell, D. L. (2013). Narrowing the Achievement Gap: Consistency and intensity of structured activities during elementary school. Unpublished paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Seattle Wa.

⁸ Afterschool Alliance. (2015). Full STEM Ahead: Afterschool Programs Step Up as Key Partners in STEM Education.

⁹ Vandell, D. L., Reisner, E. R., & Pierce, K. M. (2007). Outcomes Linked to High-Quality Afterschool Programs: Longitudinal Findings from the Study of Promising Afterschool Programs. Policy Studies Associates, Inc.

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Education. (2015). 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) analytic support for evaluation and program monitoring: An overview of the 21st CCLC performance data: 2013-14.

¹¹ Griffin, S. S. & Martinez, L. (2013). The Value of Partnerships in Afterschool and Summer Learning: A National Case Study of 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Expanding Minds and Opportunities: Leveraging the Power of Afterschool and Summer Learning for Student Success.

¹² Afterschool Alliance. (2018). National Poll on Afterschool.

¹³ National Center for Education Statistics. (n.d.). Title I.

¹⁴ O'Donnell, P. & Ford, J. R. (2013). The Continuing Demand for 21st Century Community Learning Centers Across America: More Than Four Billion Dollars of Unmet Need. Expanding Minds and Opportunities: Leveraging the Power of Afterschool and Summer Learning for Student Success.

¹⁵ Brown, W. O., Frates, S. B., Rudge, I. S., Tradewell, R. L. (2002). The Costs and Benefits of After School Programs: The Estimated Effects of the After School Education and Safety Program Act of 2002. The Rose Institute of Claremont-McKenna College.



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The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs.