March 5, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House LHHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House LHHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee
2467 Rayburn House Office
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray; and Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

The local, state and national organizations listed below representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia thank you for supporting increased funding for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) (Title IV Part B of the Every Student Succeeds Act) last year (fiscal year 2020) allowing an additional 28,000 students to access quality afterschool, before-school and summer learning programs.

Unfortunately the President’s fiscal year 2021 budget request eliminates funding for the 21st CCLC program for a fourth year in a row potentially leaving 1.7 million students without an afterschool program to attend after the school day ends. This will particularly affect working families who depend on these programs. As a result, we call on your Committees to again work in a bipartisan manner to reject the Administration’s proposed elimination of 21st CCLC and instead provide a $100 million increase resulting in $1.35 billion in funding in the fiscal year 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) appropriations bill.

For every child in an afterschool program, two are waiting to get in. In rural communities, three children are waiting for every child enrolled. A modest increase of 8 percent in funding for 21st CCLC will be a first step to addressing the growing demand for afterschool and summer opportunities for young people. With $100 million in additional funding, local school and community-based providers of afterschool and summer learning programs will be able to extend the opportunity of quality programming to an additional 100,000 students (meeting 1% more of demand) in high-need rural, urban and suburban communities.

Federal 21st CCLC formula grants to states enable communities to leverage local resources by providing 3-5 years of funding to support community partnerships among community-based organizations, faith-based partners, private industry, and school partners (public, private, and charters). The funding from 21st CCLC provides a foundation of afterschool and summer programming and enables communities to
attract other partners and resources for students including access to mentors, new learning opportunities, nutritious snacks and meals, and in some places medical, dental and mental health programs. Funds also are used for training, evaluation, and assistance to ensure quality programming is offered. Block granting or consolidating these funds and providing them exclusively to schools as the President’s budget proposes would jeopardize program quality and would eliminate programs operated by community based, faith based, and local municipal providers.

While reflecting the needs of local communities, 21st CCLCs expand student access to activities and services designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program, such as: hands on learning, physical activity, workforce development opportunities including gaining knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, the arts, and more.

In addition, the outcomes of 21st CCLC funded afterschool and summer learning programs are unmistakable. Students who regularly participate in 21st Century Community Learning Centers improve their school attendance, class participation and behavior, homework completion, and reading and math achievement scores and grades. Quality afterschool programming prepares students for college and the workforce, as demonstrated through evaluation reports from 21st Century Community Learning Center programs across states. In fact the U.S. Department of Education’s most recent evaluation report, 2017-2018 21st CCLC Annual Performance Data, found:

“The performance data indicate that this broad-ranging program touches students’ lives in ways that will have far-reaching, positive impact” and concluded “Over the past year this program has resulted in over 2 million low-income students and family members having a safe place to receive academic enrichment. The students who participate in the 21st CCLC program are among the most at risk. The performance on the GPRA [Government Performance and Results Act] measures indicate that many participants are showing improved behavior and homework completion, student grades, and mathematics or reading/language arts assessment results.”

Given the tremendous need for and impact of quality afterschool and summer learning programs, we call on your subcommittees and Congress to pave the way for an appropriations increase for 21st CCLC without negatively impacting other education programs, by supporting a robust allocation to the Labor HHS Education subcommittee and adequately funding education within LHHS-Education.

Thank you for your ongoing support of children and families nationwide and for supporting an increase of $100 million for 21st CCLC in FY2021.

Sign by:

National Organizations

A World Fit For Kids!
Afterschool Alliance
After-School All-Stars
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
America SCORES
American Camp Association, Inc.
American Federation of Teachers
Association of Science and Technology Centers
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Campaign for Youth Justice
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Child Care Aware of America
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Advocacy Institute
City Year Inc.
Coaching Corps
Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)
Committee for Children
Communities In Schools, National Office
Council of Administrators of Special Education
EDGE Consulting Partners
First Focus on Children
Food Research and Action Center
Foundations, Inc
Girls Inc.
Institute for Educational Leadership
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
National AfterSchool Association
National Assn for Family, School and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform
National Girls Collaborative
National Recreation and Park Association
National Summer Learning Association
National Women's Law Center
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Save the Children
Save the Children Action Network
Share Our Strength
United Way Worldwide
YMCA of the USA

State and Local Organizations:

Alabama Community Education Association    AL
Alaska Children's Trust (ACT)      AK
Hot Springs YMCA                  AR
Valley of the Sun YMCA            AZ
After School All Stars, Los Angeles CA
Arc                                CA
| California State Alliance of YMCAs | CA |
| California AfterSchool Network | CA |
| California School Age Consortium | CA |
| California Teaching Fellows Foundation | CA |
| Children's After School Arts (CASA) | CA |
| East Los Angeles Rising | CA |
| EduCare Foundation | CA |
| Girls Inc. of Alameda County | CA |
| Girls Inc. of Greater Los Angeles | CA |
| Girls Inc. of Orange County | CA |
| Girls Inc. of West Contra Costa County | CA |
| LA's BEST Afterschool Enrichment Program | CA |
| Santa Clara Afterschool Collaborative | CA |
| Think Together | CA |
| United Way Fresno Madera Counties | CA |
| United Way of Stanislaus County | CA |
| YMCA of San Diego County | CA |
| Colorado Afterschool Partnership | CO |
| Girls Inc. of Metro Denver | CO |
| Connecticut After School Network | CT |
| CT Alliance of YMCAs | CT |
| United Way of Western CT | CT |
| After-School All-Stars DC | DC |
| YMCA of Delaware | DE |
| Boys & Girls Clubs of Bay County | FL |
| Capital Preparatory | FL |
| Florida State Parks Foundation | FL |
| Gallop's Family Center | FL |
| Girls Inc. of Lakeland | FL |
| Prime Time Palm Beach County | FL |
| Communities In School of Cochran/Bleckley County & Family Connection Community Partnership, Inc. | GA |
| Communities In Schools of Atlanta | GA |
| Communities In Schools of Douglas County, Inc. | GA |
| Georgia Recreation and Park Association | GA |
| Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network | GA |
| Voices for Georgia's Children | GA |
| After-School All-Stars Hawaii | HI |
| Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii | HI |
| Hawaii Afterschool Alliance | HI |
| Hawaii Arts Alliance | HI |
| Hawaii Alliance for Arts Education dba Hawaii Arts Alliance | HI |
| Honolulu Community Action Program, Inc. | HI |
Jarrett Middle School  HI
KALO  HI
Kohala Elementary School  HI
Kohala High School  HI
Kohala Middle School  HI
Lehua Elementary School  HI
Nanaikapono Elementary  HI
Parents And Children Together  HI
YMCA of Honolulu  HI
Iowa Afterschool Alliance  IA
Iowa Alliance of YMCAs  IA
Treasure Valley Family YMCA  ID
After School Matters  IL
Afterschool for Children and Teens Now (ACT Now)  IL
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council  IL
Carole Robertson Center for Learning  IL
Girls Inc. of Chicago  IL
Illinois AfterSchool Network  IL
Illinois State Alliance of YMCAs  IL
Metropolitan Family Services  IL
Southwest Organizing Project  IL
WeGo Together for Kids/West Chicago Elementary School District 33  IL
YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago  IL
Youth Guidance  IL
Boys & Girls Club of Huntington County  IN
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS IN INDIANA INC  IN
Communities In Schools of Clark County  IN
Communities In Schools of Lake County  IN
Girls Inc. of Shelbyville & Shelby County  IN
Indiana Afterschool Network  IN
Indiana Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs  IN
Marion County Commission On Youth, Inc.  IN
Communities In Schools of Mid-America  KS
Kansas State Alliance of YMCAs  KS
Valley Heights Community Education  KS
Covington Partners  KY
Kentucky Out of School Alliance  KY
Kentucky/West Virginia Regional Alliance of YMCAs  KY
Communities In Schools of the Gulf South  LA
YMCA of Northwest Louisiana  LA
Girls Inc. of the Valley  MA
Advocates for Children and Youth  MD
Girls Incorporated of Washington County  MD
Maryland Out of School Time Network  MD
Lewiston 21st Century/ Lewiston Public Schools  ME
Michigan Association of United Ways  MI
Michigan's Children  MI
Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota  MN
Minnesota Alliance of YMCAs  MN
Camdenton R-III Afterschool Services  MO
Eldon Learning Enriched Afterschool Program  MO
Eldon R-1 Schools  MO
Missouri AfterSchool Network  MO
Mississippi Gulf Coast YMCA  MS
Boys &Girls Club of the Hi-line  MT
Gallatin Valley YMCA  MT
Montana Afterschool Alliance  MT
The Missoula Family YMCA  MT
Communities In Schools of Brunswick County, Inc.  NC
Communities In Schools of Cape Fear  NC
Communities In Schools of Durham  NC
Communities In Schools of North Carolina  NC
W.A.M.Y. Community Action, Inc.  NC
Wade Edwards Foundation (WELL)  NC
Western Youth Network  NC
North Dakota Afterschool Network  ND
North Valley Extended School Program  ND
North Valley Career and Technology Center  ND
Red River Regional Council  ND
South East Education Cooperative  ND
Girls Inc. of Omaha  NE
Nebraska Alliance  NE
New Hampshire Afterschool Network  NH
New Jersey School Age Care Coalition (NJSACC)  NJ
Explora/New Mexico Out of School Time  NM
Girls Inc. of Santa Fe  NM
Lovington Youth Center  NM
Children’s Advocacy Alliance  NV
YMCA of Southern Nevada  NV
BestSelf Behavioral Health  NY
Children’s Aid  NY
ExpandED Schools  NY
Girls Inc. of Long Island  NY
Greater Rochester After School Alliance  NY
Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of WNY  NY
New York State Network for Youth Success  NY
The Children's Agenda  NY
YWCA of Syracuse and Onondaga County Inc.  NY
Afterschool Programs of Lancaster  OH
Akron Public Schools  OH
Avenues for Success  OH
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Western Reserve  OH
Children's Hunger Alliance  OH
Delaware City Schools Pacer SACC  OH
Graham Local Schools  OH
Horizon Education Centers  OH
Lead The Way Learning Academy  OH
Lighthouse Ministries of Canton  OH
New Dimension Learning Center Inc  OH
New Lexington High School 21st Century Project Y.O.U.  OH
Nusken Associates LLC  OH
Ohio Afterschool Network  OH
Park-Martinez Consulting, LLC  OH
St. Johns JEC  OH
United Way of Youngstown and Mahoning Valley  OH
Warren City Schools  OH
Western Buckeye ESC  OH
YWCA Alliance  OH
Oklahoma Alliance of YMCAs  OK
OregonASK  OR
Our Children Oregon  OR
Communities In Schools of the Lehigh Valley  PA
Pennsylvania State Alliance of YMCAs  PA
United Way of Erie County  PA
United Way of Lebanon County  PA
Connecting for Children and Families  RI
DownCity Design  RI
New Urban Arts  RI
Newport Community School  RI
Providence After School Alliance  RI
Rhode Island Afterschool Network  RI
United Way of Rhode Island  RI
Communities in Schools Greenville  SC
Richard W. Riley Institute at Furman  SC
South Carolina Alliance of YMCAs  SC
EmBe - Empowering you to Be  SD
Lutheran Social Services of SD  SD
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate  SD
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