

afterschool WORKS!



For the third year in a row, the administration's budget proposal eliminates the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative—a dedicated funding stream supporting local afterschool and summer learning programs. Without federal support, 1.7 million students will lose their afterschool and summer programs and the impact will be devastating to local communities. We respectfully request the following of Congress:

1

Protect and increase funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative to \$1.32 billion—an increase of \$100 million over the current level—to provide access to quality afterschool, before-school, and summer learning opportunities for an additional 100,000 students across all 50 states.

While 21st CCLC currently serves 1.7 million students, millions more low-income students are eligible for 21st CCLC programs. Students who regularly participate in 21st Century Community Learning Centers improve their school attendance, class participation and behavior, homework completion, reading and math achievement scores and grades.

2

Maintain or increase federal funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to ensure access to quality school-age care. Roughly one-third of children served through the Child Care and Development Fund are school-aged, including those who participate in afterschool and summer learning programs.

3

In reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, strengthen the commitment that federal work study support students working in community service including community based and afterschool programs; support teacher pipeline programs that include afterschool programs; and emphasize other policies that build on the strong partnership between colleges and universities and afterschool programs.

4

In reauthorizing the Child Nutrition Act, adjust the area eligibility test for afterschool and summer nutrition to match the eligibility level for 21st Century Community Learning Centers funding. Federal nutrition programs offer reimbursement for snacks and meals for all children in an afterschool or summer program in a low-income area, defined as an area with more than 50 percent of children eligible for free or reduced price school meals. Lowering the threshold to match the eligibility for 21st Century Community Learning Centers funding (40 percent) would better serve children, and ease the administrative burden for programs.

5

Join the Afterschool Caucus and participate in the 20th Anniversary of *Lights On Afterschool* in October.

Stand with the 100+ Members of Congress who have committed to support the 30 million students who are enrolled or waiting for afterschool, before-school, and summer learning program opportunities.

More than 8,000 *Lights On Afterschool* events are expected this fall to celebrate the achievements and outcomes of afterschool programs. We encourage members and staff to attend their local event.

For more information about joining the Senate Afterschool Caucus, contact Brenna Barber in Senator Smith's office or Karen McCarthy in Senator Murkowski's office. For the House Afterschool Caucus, contact Katelynn Thorpe with Representative Lowey's office.



Afterschool Alliance

Visit afterschoolalliance.org to learn more.