2024 Afterschool for All Challenge

Taking the Challenge from Afar
Agenda

• What is the Afterschool for All Challenge?
• How can you take action from outside Washington DC?
• The Policy Issues and “Asks”: 21st CCLC; Child Care; Youth Workforce; Development; STEM
• Leveraging social media to take action
• QUESTIONS!
All 50 States

Hundreds of afterschool advocates in meetings

Thousands Raising their voices in support of afterschool and summer programs
Why & How to Participate

• Establish a relationship with elected officials and staff; and yourself as a resource

• Get afterschool and summer learning on the radar

• Emphasize the impact of afterschool and summer learning
  • - Increase federal support through 21st CCLC
  • - Support funding for CCDBG for school-age programs
  • - Support older youth through WIOA and STEM
  • - Encourage participation in Afterschool Caucus and Lights On Afterschool
The Context

• FY 2025 Appropriations decisions happening now – spending caps are in place
• Partisanship still dominant – election this November
• WIOA reauthorization passed House, Senate HELP Committee
Reaching Out

- District/State meetings and calls
- Site Visits
- Email and Social Media
Tips for Effective Advocacy

• Be flexible!
• Staff are an important audience
• Courtesy and friendliness are key
• You are the expert
• Stay on task and make the ask

*Remember you are building a relationship!*
Tell the Afterschool Story

- Impact of afterschool and summer programs – challenges, successes, the need to sustain investments
- 21st CCLC – critical infrastructure for quality and in high demand
- CCDBG – vital for school age care and additional resources are needed
- WIOA and STEM
- Afterschool Caucus – Join to show support
- Participate in Lights On Afterschool and/or visit a program
21st Century Community Learning Centers

Among students attending a community learning center:

- 7 in 10 improved their engagement in learning
- More than half who had a GPA below 3.0 the previous year improved their GPA
- Approximately 2 in 5 demonstrated growth on their state assessments in reading/language arts or math

Funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers

2014 appropriations level, adjusted for inflation

- $1,497,386,318
- $1,329,673,000

Afterschool Alliance
45% of children served through subsidy are school-age.
Youth Workforce Development Matters

• **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) - HB 6655**
  - Invests in Labor Department job training and other programs
  - Proposed changes address opportunity youth and how to serve them
  - Bipartisan bill passed the House in Spring 2024
  - Senate HELP Committee working on WIOA reauthorization with goal of passing Committee and Senate this year

• **Youth Workforce Readiness Act (YWRA) - S. 454/HB 3416**
  - Establishes a competitive grant through the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment & Training Administration for eligible national, youth-serving out-of-school time organizations providing youth workforce readiness programs for youth between the ages of 6 to 18.
  - Programs will focus on four overarching pillars that support youth workforce readiness.
Support Informal STEM Education

Maintain Funding for the National Science Foundation and its STEM Education Directorate

- In FY2024 the NSF had a 15% cut to its STEM Education Directorate
- As the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act is implemented nationwide, investments in STEM education and workforce development are more important than ever
- Funding for NSF and the STEM Education Directorate should be maintained
Lights On Afterschool and Afterschool Caucus

Join the Afterschool Caucus!

Visit a program on or around Lights On – October 24, 2024
Available Resources

• Digital Action Toolkit
• Site Visit Toolkit
• State-specific data
• 21st CCLC, CCDBG, WIOA, STEM
• Sample talking points
Send messages to your members via 3to6.co/Congress

- Enter your name, email, and zip code
- Customize draft language or send as is
- Tweet away!
Using Social Media

✓ Find member’s social handles via 3to6.co/lookup
✓ Sample social posts available on Digital Action Toolkit:
  • For every child in an afterschool program, 4 more are waiting to get in. @InsertRepHandle, keep afterschool strong in [STATE]! #AfterschoolWorks
  • Thank you @InsertRepHandle for investing in afterschool and summer programs that are so critical for kids in [STATE] today! Sadly, there are still nearly 25 million children left out. Please expand investments in afterschool in [STATE] so our kids can thrive! #AfterschoolWorks

✓ Don’t forget to use #AfterschoolWorks
✓ Encourage your followers to express support for afterschool
Questions? Reach out to Erik: epeterson (@) afterschoolalliance.org