Support for afterschool is overwhelming and demand is growing. Nationwide, 9 in 10 adults say afterschool programs are important to their community—and more than 19 million kids are waiting to get in. Decades of research prove afterschool helps kids attend school more often, get better grades, and build foundational skills, like communication, teamwork, and problem solving.

School-age kids spend 80 percent of their waking hours outside of school. Afterschool and summer learning programs provide transformative learning experiences in unique settings that help young people discover what they love to do and reach their full potential.

Supporting Illinois’s Students

A 2018 Education Development Center evaluation of Illinois’s 21st CCLC programs found that, based on teachers surveyed, 61% of elementary schoolers improved their academic performance, 57% improved getting along with their peers, and 52% improved coming to school motivated to learn. Among middle and high schoolers, 70% improved their academic performance, 66% improved getting along with their peers, and 58% improved coming to school motivated to learn. Additionally, among grantees, 92% reported that they offered, “entrepreneurial, career development, and job skills programming.”

Among Illinois parents:

- 74% agree that afterschool programs help their kids get excited about learning.
- 65% report that their kids have learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in their afterschool program and 72% agree afterschool programs can help kids gain STEM-related interests and skills.
- 70% agree afterschool programs help kids gain teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking skills.

Unmet Demand for Afterschool in Illinois

For every Illinois student in afterschool, 2 more would participate if a program were available.

Waiting: 741,400 Students
Enrolled: 404,791 Students

21st Century Community Learning Center grants are the only dedicated federal funding source that support local communities’ afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programs is so great that 7 out of every 10 applications cannot be funded.

Afterschool Alliance  June 2019
Supporting Illinois’s Families

Families across America report that the gap between work and school schedules can be up to 25 hours per week. Parents lose 8 days of work, and businesses lose up to $300 billion a year due to parental concerns about afterschool care.

Among Illinois parents:

■ 79% say afterschool programs give them peace of mind.
■ 73% agree afterschool programs help them keep their jobs. 72% believe afterschool reduces the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors.
■ 84% support public funding for afterschool programs.

Nationally, children attend programs in:

- Public school districts: 7,892
- Community-based organizations: 959
- Charter schools: 386
- Faith-based organizations: 115

In a nationwide study of students who regularly attend a Community Learning Center, teachers report that:

- 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

Afterschool provides a solid return on investment. Research spanning several states shows that every $1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least $3 by:

1. Increasing kids’ earning potential
2. Improving kids’ performance at school
3. Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

“Caring staff who serve as mentors, leadership development opportunities, and future planning are just a few of the benefits I have been able to experience. None of these things would have been possible for me if not for my afterschool program. My afterschool experience has been nothing short of transformational. It has helped me stay on track to graduate and also helped me to realize what my future can look like.”

Kaleb Robertson
Afterschool program alumnus and current student at Fox Valley Technical College, Culinary Arts program

This is Afterschool
Helping students thrive.