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 Maine’s Students

A 2017 Market Decisions Research evaluation of 21st CCLC programs in Maine found that regularly attending low-performing students improved their math (71%) and English language arts (ELA) (64%) assessment scores, as well as their grades in math (53%) and ELA (48%). Based on surveyed teachers, students saw gains in positive classroom behavior and engagement in learning.

Among Maine parents:

- 54% agree that afterschool programs help their kids get excited about learning.
- 47% report that their kids have learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in their afterschool program and 58% agree afterschool programs can help kids gain STEM-related interests and skills.
- 67% agree afterschool programs help kids gain teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking skills.

Unmet Demand for Afterschool in Maine

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

Waiting: 68,777
Enrolled: 33,387
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 1 out of every 3 applications cannot be funded.
Supporting Maine’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 Maine parents:
- 74% say afterschool programs give them peace of mind.
- 76% agree afterschool programs help them keep their jobs. 71% believe afterschool reduces the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors.
- 85% support public funding for afterschool programs.

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

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