After the school day ends, 1 in 5 kids across America are alone and unsupervised. These hours—from 2 to 6 p.m.—are the peak time for juvenile crime according to the latest report by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a national organization of law enforcement leaders. Afterschool programs turn that time of risk into opportunity. They keep kids safe and help them realize their full potential. Nationwide, 9 in 10 adults say afterschool programs are important to their community, yet more than 19 million kids are waiting to get in.

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.

Students who regularly participate in quality afterschool programs:

- Develop strong social skills
- Are excited about learning
- Improve work habits and grades
- Improve school day attendance
- Have higher graduation rates
- Explore career paths and gain workforce skills

After going to afterschool programs:

- 69% of students improve their homework completion and class participation.
- 62% of students improve their behavior in class.
- 1 in 2 students improve their math and reading grades.

More than 70% of students in STEM afterschool programs express more interest in and knowledge about careers in science. They also build essential skills, such as perseverance and critical thinking.

America needs more afterschool

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

STUDENTS ENROLLED: 10.2 MILLION

STUDENTS WAITING: 19.4 MILLION
21st Century Community Learning Centers

21st Century Community Learning Center grants are the only federal funding source exclusively dedicated to support local communities’ afterschool and summer learning programs, which are serving close to 1.7 million children in 10,249 communities. Demand for programs is so great that 2 out of every 3 applications cannot be funded.

Community Learning Centers bring together diverse partners to meet community needs. A typical program receives $67,000 from partners to supplement its federal funding. Nationwide, partner contributions totaled more than $1 billion between 2006 and 2010.

Nationally, children attend programs in:

- **8,417** Public school districts
- **1,012** Community-based organizations
- **462** Charter schools
- **122** Faith-based organizations

For many parents, afterschool is a lifeline that helps them work without worry and balance their schedule.

- **8 in 10** parents say afterschool programs give them peace of mind and help them keep their jobs.
- Close to **3 in 4** parents believe afterschool reduces the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors.
- **5 in 6** parents support public funding for afterschool programs.

Afterschool provides a solid return on investment. Research 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

“Being able to go to Tiger Academy every day and make a difference in a child’s life helped to bring meaning back into my own life and pushed me to work harder in my own education. I earned confidence that’s given me the ability to push through nearly every difficult thing I’ve faced.”

**Bailey Glass**
Alumna of Tiger Academy, a 21st CCLC site in Hollister, MO

This is Afterschool
Helping students thrive.