



# Afterschool Alliance

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

February 6, 2009

The Honorable

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

As Congress works to pass an economic recovery package to mitigate the devastating effects of the economic downturn on American families, we urge you to consider the importance of afterschool programs to working families. As the economy worsens, families are relying even more on afterschool supports as they work to keep their jobs, take on more hours, or struggle to feed and afford basic necessities for their children. Parents with afterschool care are more productive at work and miss fewer days. In addition, their children do better in school and are more likely to graduate.

A growing number of families, however, can no longer afford afterschool programs, or the cost to transport their children to programs. Just when families need their support most – programs are being forced to reduce services, increase fees or even shut their doors. In addition, many of these programs serving low-income children provide not only academic enrichment, but breakfast, snacks and even a hot supper. It is imperative to ensure that these supports, relied on by so many, not only continue functioning, but are able to respond to growing demands.

In addition to reaching children and families immediately, funding that bolsters afterschool programs also creates much-needed jobs in their communities. As such, we encourage you to vote for a final economic recovery package that would provide support to afterschool programs and to the families that depend on them. This includes:

- **\$79 billion for a State Stabilization Fund;** this fund will assist states in covering shortfalls in education and other critical services, including afterschool.
- **\$2 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant;** (CCDBG), some of which will help families access quality afterschool programs for their children.
- **\$726 million for afterschool meals;** this will help afterschool programs continue to provide children with breakfasts, snacks and even a hot dinner before and after school which is particularly critical as families struggle to feed their children.
- **\$13 billion for Title I;** afterschool programs are a crucial tool in advancing the academic achievement of disadvantaged students.
- **\$200 million for AmeriCorps Programs;** this will help increase the number of volunteers that help fill in the staffing gaps that afterschool programs are facing due to decreasing donations and rising needs.

Afterschool programs are an important resource for families and communities, especially as they struggle with the current economic downturn. Increasing supports to afterschool not only safeguards jobs, but contributes to the quality of our future workforce. Thank you for

*For more information, visit [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)*

1616 H Street NW, Suite 820, Washington, DC 20006 • 1440 Broadway, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10018

TEL: 202.347.2030 FAX: 202.347.2092 • [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org) • CFC # 31020

considering ways to support afterschool programs so that they can continue to serve children and families, while also responding to growing and changing demands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jodi Grant".

Jodi Grant  
Executive Director

*For more information, visit [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)*

1616 H Street NW, Suite 820, Washington, DC 20006 • 1440 Broadway, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10018

TEL: 202.347.2030 FAX: 202.347.2092 • [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org) • CFC # 31020

*Copy over this text...*

*For more information, visit [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)*

1616 H Street NW, Suite 820, Washington, DC 20006 • 1440 Broadway, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10018

TEL: 202.347.2030 FAX: 202.347.2092 • [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org) • CFC # 31020