



Afterschool Alliance

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

November 10, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As organizations representing millions of individuals committed to advancing opportunities for our nation's young people, we thank you for your support and appreciation of the critical role that before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs play in keeping children safe, inspiring learning and helping working families. We are writing to request your support for an increase of \$250 million in funding for these programs through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program in the FY 2011 budget.

Students across America depend on 21st Century Community Learning Centers for high-quality, safe afterschool learning activities critical to their success in school and in life. Working families rely on this program to provide children with the academic, social and professional skills they need, delivered in a safe and familiar environment. Through hands-on activities like robotics, gardening, music, cooking and art, students in many 21st Century Community Learning Centers are supplementing what they learn in science, math and other subjects during the school day. Students who regularly attend quality afterschool programs have better grades and behavior in school, better peer relations and emotional adjustment, and lower incidences of drug-use, violence and pregnancy.

The current funding level for the 21st Century Community Learning Center program allows just over 1 million children to participate, while research shows well over ten times that number have no safe, supervised place to go when the school day ends. While parents from all socio-economic backgrounds contribute 76% of the funding for afterschool programs, federal grants only provide 11% of afterschool program budgets. An increase of \$250 million in 21st Century Community Learning Center funding would be an important down payment toward the full \$2.5 billion funding of the program and would result in an additional quarter of a million children having access to quality afterschool programs.

Thank you again for your commitment to our nation's children and your leadership in striving to give our students the best possible education and learning opportunities. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding the 21st Century Community Learning Center program.



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After-School All-Stars

America's Promise Alliance

Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence

BEACON After School Program, Grand County School District (Utah)

Boys & Girls Club of Utah County (Utah)

Child Welfare League of America

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Citizen Schools

Children's Defense Fund

Children's Service Society (Utah)

Collaborative for Building After-School Systems

Community Education Partnership of West Valley City, Inc. (Utah)

Coalition for Community Schools

Delaware AfterSchool Alliance

First Focus

Food Research and Action Center

Georgia Afterschool Investment Council

Higher Achievement

Knowledge Learning Corporation

Maryland Out of School Time Network

Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership



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Michigan After-School Partnership

National 4-H Council

National AfterSchool Association

National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies

National Association for Regulatory Administration

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

National Black Police Association

National Council of Jewish Women

National Council of La Raza

National Head Start Association

National Organization for Women (NOW)

National PTA

National Summer Learning Association

National Women's Law Center

New Frontiers for Families (Utah)

New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network

Oregon After School for Kids

Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool Youth Development Network

RESULTS

Rhode Island Afterschool Plus Alliance

Salt Lake County 4-H After-School (Utah)

Save the Children



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Service Employees International Union

The Afterschool Corporation (TASC)

Utah Afterschool Network

Voices for America's Children

West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network

The YMCA of the USA

YMCA of Greater Salt Lake and Ogden

Youth Service America