After the school day ends in Rhode Island, 1 in 6 kids are alone and unsupervised. These hours—from 2 to 6 p.m.—are the peak time for juvenile crime in Rhode Island 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.

Fortunately for the 34,704 children in afterschool programs in Rhode Island, the hours after school are a time when programs help kids get excited about learning, attend school more often, get better grades, and build foundational skills, like communication, teamwork, and problem solving.

**Inspiring Learning**

- 52% of Rhode Island parents agree that afterschool programs help their kids get excited about learning.
- 59% of Rhode Island parents agree afterschool programs can help kids gain STEM-related interests and skills.
- 56% of Rhode Island parents agree afterschool programs help kids gain teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking skills.
- 55% of Rhode Island parents agree that afterschool programs help students improve school day attendance.

**Subsection: Keeping Kids Safe and Supported**

- 71% of Rhode Island parents believe afterschool programs reduce the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors.
- 61% of Rhode Island parents agree that afterschool programs provide access to caring adults and mentors.

**Unmet Demand for Afterschool in Rhode Island**

For every Rhode Island student in afterschool, 1 more would participate if a program were available.

**Enrolled:** 34,704

**Waiting:** 37,471

**Unmet Demand for Afterschool Programs**

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 in Rhode Island that 1 out of every 2 applications cannot be funded.

A 2014 statewide evaluation of Rhode Island’s 21st CCLC programs by the American Institutes for Research found that a high proportion of students participating in the programs believe that the programs have helped them with their academic skills as well as their social and personal skills.
A Lifeline for Working 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.

- 71% of Rhode Island parents say afterschool programs give them peace of mind.
- 69% of Rhode Island parents agree afterschool programs help them keep their jobs.

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

More than 3 in 5 improved their behavior in class

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.

21st Century Community Learning Centers

In Rhode Island, 21st Century Community Learning Centers—local afterschool, before-school and summer learning programs that serve students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools—provide services for 11,505 kids and 42 communities.

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

“I’ve very much fed off of the kindness I received from the group leaders at Boys & Girls Club. As a result, I’m probably going to be teaching and combining my love for music with my teaching. Afterschool is about having options and getting to experiment with all those different things to figure out what it is that you really want.”

Jazmyne McNair

Graduate of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lawrence, a 21st CCLC site in Lawrence, KS