



PREPARING FOR *LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL*

The 10th annual nationwide rally for afterschool programs, *Lights On Afterschool*, is almost here! On October 22, communities across the country will engage in events and activities as diverse, fun and exciting as the programs themselves. *Lights On Afterschool* 2009, organized by the Afterschool Alliance, will feature reading, astronomy, gardening, cooking and much, much more.

“The time children spend in afterschool programs is invaluable, and *Lights On Afterschool* gives them the opportunity to showcase the amazing things that they’re learning and doing,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “The 2009 *Lights On Afterschool* events represent not only diverse people and issues, but also diverse interests – whether those interests run to the sciences, the arts, community service, sports or the environment. We are delighted that so many children can access the quality afterschool programs that keep them safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families, but we also know that too many kids are unsupervised and at risk after the school day ends. *Lights On Afterschool* shines the spotlight on the unmet need, and sends a powerful message that we need more afterschool programs in this country.”

Lights On Afterschool Kicks Off

The official kickoff celebration for *Lights On Afterschool* 2009 took place on October 6, at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan celebrated with afterschool students. Five federal agencies *Preparing continued on page five...*

TOP 10 STATES FOR AFTERSCHOOL

Comparatively strong participation in afterschool programs by youth, along with high satisfaction rates among their parents, has landed a handful of states in the Afterschool Alliance’s newly named “Top 10 States for Afterschool” list. The ranking is based on data from the landmark *America After 3PM* study, conducted for the Afterschool Alliance and sponsored by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. It is being released this month in conjunction with *Lights On Afterschool*, a nationwide rally for afterschool set for October 22.

The “Top 10 States for Afterschool” in the new report are: Hawaii, Arizona, New York, California, New Jersey, Virginia, New Mexico, Florida, Texas and North Carolina.

“These states are ahead of the curve on afterschool, and can be proud of that,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “But the data also show another side of the story. The majority of parents who want their kids in afterschool programs aren’t able to find them, usually because programs aren’t available, they can’t afford the fees, or transportation issues make it impossible. These are all barriers we can and should overcome. Every family that needs an afterschool program should have access to one.”

In key respects, the “Top 10” results from the *America After 3PM* study reflect national findings. Some include:

- The number and percentage of children participating in afterschool programs in the nation has increased significantly in *Top 10 continued on page five...*

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELEASES PROPOSED CRITERIA FOR INVESTING IN INNOVATION (i3) FUND

Earlier this month, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the Department's priorities for grants under the \$650 million Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund, which is part of the \$5 billion investment in school reform included in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)*, [<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policyEconRecovery.cfm>]. It is designed to support local efforts to start or expand research-based innovative programs that help close the achievement gap and improve outcomes for students.

Individual school districts or groups of districts can apply for the i3 grants, and entrepreneurial nonprofits can join with school districts to submit applications. Applicants must demonstrate their previous success in closing achievement gaps, improving student progress toward proficiency, increasing graduation rates, or recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers and principals.

Under the proposed priorities, [<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/document/s/Policy%20and%20Action/draft-federal-register-10062009.pdf>] grants would be awarded in three categories:

- Scale-Up Grants: The largest possible grant category is focused on programs and practices with the potential to reach hundreds of thousands of students. Applicants must have a strong base of evidence that their program has had a significant effect on improving student achievement.
- Validation Grants: Existing, promising programs that have good evidence of their impact and are ready to improve their evidence base while expanding in

their own and other communities.

- Development Grants: The smallest grant level, designed to support new and high-potential practices with impact that should be studied further.

Grant recipients will be required to match federal funds with public or private dollars. Successful applicants will need to demonstrate how their programs will be sustainable after their federal grants are completed.

The U.S. Department of Education is collecting public comments on the proposed priorities until early November. The Afterschool Alliance intends to submit comments that emphasize the role of community based partners and afterschool programs, as part of the language on expanded learning opportunities in proposed priority four: turning around struggling schools.

The Department plans to publish a final application in early 2010 and accept proposals in the spring. All money under the program will be obligated by September 30, 2010. *Read more on the Afterschool Alliance's ARRA i3 fund page at* [<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policyEconRecovSFSFInvestInnovation.cfm>].

USE A4A FOR DISCOUNT ON SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The Afterschool Alliance partnership with Discount School Supply gives friends of afterschool a ten percent discount on all school supply orders. To receive the discount, put the code A4A (it stands for Afterschool 4 All) in the pink promotional box when ordering supplies at www.discountschoolsupply.com. Or mention it when you call 1-800-627-2829 to place an order.

OUTREACH

Lights On Afterschool Almost Here!

Lights On Afterschool is fast approaching – this week – on October 22. It’s not too late to publicize your event and help spread the word on afterschool.

The Afterschool Alliance has numerous tips and fill-in-the-blank documents that are ready for you to localize and use in its online Event Planning Kit. A special section dedicated to media outreach has just been updated to include the new data from *America After 3PM*. From media advisories to send to your local media, to news releases to give reporters the day of your event, these tools can help make your event an even bigger success. *You can find these templates, guidance on how best to use them, and more at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loaEventKit.cfm>.*

Be sure that you have the latest facts and numbers on afterschool in your state, and that you’ve updated all your local materials to reflect the new data. *You can find state fact sheets at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM.cfm>.*

Also, be sure to join your friends and colleagues at the Afterschool Alliance’s “virtual” *Lights On Afterschool* rally on Facebook. *You can sign up for the rally on the Afterschool Alliance’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Afterschool-Alliance/24777553348.*

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

This week, *Afterschool for All* partners are making noise for afterschool programs and celebrating the 10th annual *Lights On Afterschool*. Here are a couple of things you can do at your *Lights On* events to make the call for afterschool for all ring loud and clear from coast to coast:

- Distribute the *Afterschool for All* brochure at your *Lights On* event to convey the importance of afterschool and the broad support for programs. *It is available at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/a4a/afterschool_all_brochure_pdf.pdf.*
- Let policy makers know that you are part of the national movement to ensure afterschool for all children. Collect signatures using our *Afterschool for All* Petition; send the signatures to your elected officials and a copy to mdauphin@afterschoolalliance.org to add to our Partner list. *The petition is available at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/a4aPartnerPetition.cfm>.*
- Invite *Lights On* attendees to sign on to *Afterschool for All*. Download the Organization Sign Up Form (<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/a4a/a4aOrgSignUpForm.pdf>) or Individual Sign Up Form (<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/a4a/a4aIndividualSignUpForm.pdf>) and distribute them at your event; send signed copies to mdauphin@afterschoolalliance.org to add to our national Partner list.
- Display the Proud Partner of *Afterschool for All* web banner on your site. *It is available at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/a4aPartnerBanners.cfm>.*

Afterschool for All brings together individuals and organizations from across the nation who support the vision that all children and youth deserve access to quality, affordable afterschool programs. Learn more about Afterschool for All at: www.afterschoolalliance.org/a4a.cfm

Thank you for your continued support for *Afterschool for All*. Please contact Marie Coichy-Dauphin with any questions or concerns at mdauphin@afterschoolalliance.org or 646-943-8662.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

“Afterschool programs strengthen our neighborhoods and build teamwork by providing our children with positive reinforcement that centers on activities aimed toward improving grades, providing important life skills and preventing risky behavior.”

-- Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, *States News Service*, October 6, 2009

Voices from the Afterschool Storybook...

“Without the Boys & Girls Club I would not be alive today. I was going through some hard times at home and in school... One day, I left a suicide note on a Club staff member’s desk and went home. Not more than a couple of hours later, two Club staff members and a police officer were at my house to stop me from taking my life. They found me help and the two Club staff members were always available to listen to me and discuss my problems with me... I know that I have a second home and a place where I belong. The Club staff members care about me and my success in life.”

-- Frank Wulle, Murray City, Utah

To read more about Wulle’s afterschool experience, and read more afterschool voices from across the country, visit http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/storybook/gallery.cfm?CNT_ID=STRY1234. Share your story at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/storybook/GALLERY.CFM>.



IN THE NEWS...

California – Pajaro Valley has been named the 2009 Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sport Central Coast Region School District of the Year, thanks to its Fitness 4 Life afterschool program. After an hour of academic help, students ride bicycles, swim, dance, play soccer, or take cooking and

nutrition classes. Nearly 6,000 students district-wide are participating in the program this year, the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* reports. The program was started five years ago by Trinidad-native Stephen Alfred, who grew up riding bikes and is an international velodrome cycling champion. “It’s very rewarding for me, when I come to a school and work with two or three kids and see them ride by themselves with a big smile on their faces,” Alfred said.

New Mexico – Two years ago, something unexpected landed on the field of Corrales Elementary School. Pilot Pat Harwell had landed his hot air balloon on the first open space he could find during the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. He bonded with the students and teachers, and has returned every year to visit. This year he came back with something else unexpected – a donation for the “Cubs Club” afterschool program, from Trinity Heights Baptist Church in his hometown of Shreveport, Louisiana. “The kids will benefit, that’s for sure,” afterschool program coordinator Terry Kominiak told the *Albuquerque Journal*. *To learn more about the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, visit <http://www.balloonfiesta.com>.*

Vermont – Two fitness centers in Bennington are teaming up for a pilot afterschool program to keep teens healthy. The program is open to the first 15 teens to sign up at either Off The Wall Racquet and Fitness Club, or Curves, and students must agree to exercise at least three times a week for the eight week program, the *Bennington Banner* reports. “Both (fitness centers) think that young people need exposure to fitness so that they can get in the habit of exercising at an early age,” Huff Templeton, owner of Off The Wall, said. Judy Brownell, owner of Curves, is looking into adding a bus route from school to both locations and hopes that, if the program is successful, it can be continued.



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were represented at the event, which included student music and spoken-word performances, as well as a “parade” led by afterschool kids. The event also served as the official release of the *America After 3PM* national report. The following week, on October 15, programs in Dallas and New York City held early *Lights On Afterschool* events to launch the release of the *America After 3PM* state data.

Lights On Afterschool celebrations began as early as September in some communities. Clinton Community Schools in Clinton, Iowa, celebrated *Lights On Afterschool* on September 21st at the Alliant Energy Field, home of the Clinton Lumber Kings minor league baseball team. Students from all six sites helped decorate the stadium with light bulb art completed by youth in the program. The festivities included refreshments, live DJ entertainment, and booths with games and activities such as face painting. More than 700 people attended the event, including state legislators, school administration officials and city officials. Many families attended. This was Clinton Community Schools’ 4th annual celebration of *Lights On Afterschool*.

Paris Independent Schools, in Paris, Kentucky, hosted its *Lights On Afterschool* event on the evening of October 8th, allowing parents the opportunity to get more information about programs. Because October is Hispanic Heritage month, the theme for the evening was Hispanic Heritage Night. The English as a Second Language Coordinator and Family Resource Youth Service Center collaborated to offer various activities for guests. Hispanic families set up stations to serve food from their native countries. The Promise Program (21st Century Community Learning Center) and Family Resource Youth Service Center supplied barbeque, hot dogs and chips. Students decorated light bulbs which were used to decorate the gym. The evening also included performances of songs in Spanish and dance performances by elementary

students. Books in Spanish and English were handed out at the end of the night.

In Camdenton, Missouri, students from the Camdenton R-III’s Afterschool Services spent an evening with live birds of all types, celebrating *Lights On Afterschool* with the theme “Don’t Let Afterschool Programs Become Extinct!” The avian show taught the students, who had spent three weeks studying rain forest ecosystems, about endangered species, the rainforest and the importance of reading and writing. More than 300 people attended the event, and legislators and officials are stopping by all this week to continue the celebration.

At *Lights On Afterschool* rallies throughout the country on and around October 22, Americans will urge leaders to increase support for the afterschool programs that children and families need. In support of the event, the Empire State Building will be lit up for the third year in a row and this year, for the first time, thanks to Woodcraft Rangers, city officials in Los Angeles will light the historic Lindbergh Beacon atop City Hall that evening. That means national landmarks on both coasts will be lit up in celebration of afterschool.

Actress Rhea Perlman is a spokesperson for *Lights On Afterschool* and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is Founding Chair, a position he has held since 2001.

As part of this year’s *Lights On Afterschool* celebration, Bright House Networks will air a new documentary on the benefits of afterschool, featuring the personal stories of youth and families across the country.



Top 10 continued from page one...

in the last five years, with 8.4 million children (15 percent) now participating. That compares with 6.5 million children in 2004 (11 percent).

- But the number of children left alone after the school day ends also has risen, to 15.1 million children (26 percent of school-age children) in 2009. That is an increase of 800,000 children since 2004. Thirty percent of middle schoolers (3.7 million kids) are on their own, as are four percent of elementary school children (1.1 million children).
- The parents of 18.5 million children (38 percent) not currently participating in an afterschool program would enroll their children in a program if one were available to them, a significant increase from the 15.3 million (30 percent) seen in 2004.
- The vast majority of parents of children in afterschool programs are satisfied with the programs their children attend, and overall public support for afterschool programs is similarly strong. Nine in 10 parents (89 percent) are satisfied with the afterschool programs their children attend. Eight in 10 parents support public funding for afterschool programs.

Grant cautioned that, despite the good news, the state and the nation have a long way to go to reach afterschool for all. That is why, on October 22, at more than 7,500 sites across the nation, Americans will rally in support of afterschool programs, as part of the Afterschool Alliance's tenth annual celebration of *Lights On Afterschool*.

“Rounding-Up” at JCPenney

In conjunction with *Lights On Afterschool* events across the nation, the JCPenney Afterschool Round-Up program will kick off in JCPenney stores throughout the U.S. From Oct. 16 to Oct. 25, customers will have the opportunity to “round-up” their JCPenney purchases to the nearest whole dollar and donate the difference to afterschool programs in their local communities that provide life-enriching programs for children in need. Last year, through “Round Up” and other initiatives, JCPenney contributed

approximately \$13 million to support afterschool initiatives across the country.

“With more than \$80 million contributed to afterschool programs over the past 10 years, JCPenney stands out among the nation’s corporations for helping to frame and solve the afterschool issue and increasing access to afterschool programs that provide meaningful activities for children in need,” Grant added.

For *Lights On Afterschool* on October 22, the Afterschool Alliance and the JCPenney Afterschool Fund will release “Six States on the Move to Afterschool for All,” the states identified in the new study that have shown the most progress in the last five years. The *America After 3PM* report and accompanying data are available online at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

Findings from *America After 3PM* are based on 29,754 parent/guardian responses to survey questions about after school child care arrangements during the 2008-2009 school year. RTi, a market research firm, conducted the survey and analyzed the data for the Afterschool Alliance. The entire survey was sponsored by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. RTi also conducted the 2004 *America After 3PM* household survey.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

October 22, 2009

The Afterschool Alliance will sponsor the 10th annual *Lights On Afterschool*, raising awareness of the benefits of afterschool in communities across the country. *For more information, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm>.*

November 3 - 5, 2009

The California Afterschool Network will host the first annual STEP UP- High School Summit in San Diego, California. Afterschool professionals, staff, and high school administrators will gather to discuss ideas and promising practices for high school afterschool programs. *For more information on submitting*

a proposal, visit

http://www.afterschoolnetwork.org/step_up_rfp.

For more information on the summit, visit

www.afterschoolnetwork.org/node/7057.

 **November 5 - 7, 2009**

The Schott Foundation for Public Education will sponsor the 2nd Annual National Opportunity to Learn Education Summit 2009 in Arlington, Virginia. It is designed to provide a platform for public education donors, foundation officers, grassroots community advocates, youth and researchers to share critical advocacy strategies, funding approaches and more. For information, visit <http://www.regonline.com/OTL2009Summit>.

 **November 12 - 14, 2009**

The National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts will sponsor the 2009 Conference for Community Arts Education in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The event provides networking opportunities and collaboration among arts education leaders, and will focus on how to grow these programs in tough economic times. Several discounts and cost-saving opportunities are available through the Guild. For more information, visit <http://www.communityartsed.org>.

 **November 13 - 14, 2009**

The New Jersey School Age Care Coalition will host Celebrate Afterschool! in Princeton, New Jersey. The annual conference will provide a forum for all New Jersey afterschool communities and providers. For more information, visit <http://www.njsacc.org>.

 **February 19 - 21, 2010**

The Reaching At-Promise Students Association will sponsor the Transforming At-Risk to At-Promise Conference in San Diego, California. Participants will be engaged in vital conversations to ensure equitable opportunities for all students and promote successful communities. Special guests and presenters will include Dr. Jesse Jackson III, Adam Palmese, and Bill Habermehl. For more information, visit <http://www.atpromiseconference.org/>.

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

The Alliance is proud to count among its founding partners the Mott Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, JCPenney Afterschool Fund, Open Society Institute/The After-School Corporation, the Entertainment Industry Foundation and the Creative Artists Agency Foundation.

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Phone: 202/371-1999; Fax: 202/371-9142; E-mail: advocate@afterschoolalliance.org.
