



CONGRESS INCREASES AFTERSCHOOL FUNDING IN 2010

America's children and families received good news on December 13 when the United States Senate voted 57 to 35 to approve the Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Conference Report, which includes a \$35 million increase for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) afterschool initiative. With this increase, the total funding for 21st CCLCs will be \$1.166 billion in fiscal year 2010. President Obama is expected to sign the bill into law this week.

"We join parents, educators and afterschool supporters nationwide in applauding Congress for increasing afterschool funding by \$35 million next year," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "This appropriation is especially good news in these times of tight budgets, and demonstrates that lawmakers recognize that afterschool programs are essential. Because of this increase, more children and families will get the support they urgently need during these tough times."

The Conference Committee recognized the positive benefits of afterschool, noting that "Research shows that when students have a place to go after school where they can study and be supervised by an adult, not only are they less likely to get into trouble, they also get a better education."

Afterschool leaders are commending Chairman David Obey (D-WI) and Ranking Member Todd Tiahrt (R-KS) of the House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

Subcommittee – as well as Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-MS) of the Senate Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee – for their leadership. The new funds will help 35,000 more children access quality afterschool programs.

However, despite the increase in afterschool funding, millions of children and youth will have no safe, supervised activities available to them after the school day ends. A survey of afterschool program leaders conducted this spring by the Afterschool Alliance found that some programs that were struggling before the recession are closing their doors, and many others are being forced to reduce the number of children they serve, cut hours and staff, and provide many fewer activities and supports for students who are in greater need than ever.

More recently, *America After 3PM*, a survey of nearly 30,000 households, sponsored by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund for the Afterschool Alliance, found that 26 percent of America's children (15.1 million kids) are on their own in the afternoons – an increase of 800,000 since 2004. The parents of 18 million kids say they would enroll their children if afterschool programs were available.

"Unfortunately, even with this increase, 21st CCLC funding is still far below the \$2.5 billion authorized several years ago, and millions of children have no place to go after school where they will be safe, supervised, and have opportunities to learn and develop their skills and talents," Grant added. "We fully recognize that these are difficult budget times, and congratulate Congress for *Congress continued on page eight...*

OUTREACH

Time for Thanks, Looking Forward

The \$35 million increase to 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) will flow to the states, which will now be able to make more or somewhat larger grants to afterschool programs. Advocates should be proud that their hard work to engage communities, lawmakers and the media helped keep the focus on the importance of making afterschool programs available to more children.

Now, it is important to thank Senators and Representatives, as well as state and local elected officials, who support afterschool. When lawmakers come home for the holidays, it is a good time to extend an invitation to visit these programs in the new year. Youth can have an impact by sending holiday cards to policymakers in which they write notes about their afterschool programs, and invitations to visit this winter or spring. *For more ideas and information, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policyTakeAction.cfm>.*

Afterschool for All: Advocates Recruit Record Number of New Partners

The *Afterschool for All* campaign totals more than 25,000 partners this month. The Afterschool Alliance wishes to thank its *Afterschool for All* partners for their tremendous passion and commitment to spreading the word about this campaign in communities across the country. Thanks to the extensive outreach of its partners during the 10th annual *Lights On Afterschool*, the Afterschool Alliance's inbox has been overflowing with signed petitions. Partners like Prime Time Palm Beach County and the Katy Family YMCA recruited nearly 1,000 new signers for the *Afterschool for All* petition.

In addition to an influx of new sign-ups, Afterschool Alliance leaders were thrilled to get a slew of updates from *Afterschool for All* partners describing the fun activities they organized for *Lights On Afterschool*. Partners opened their doors and invited communities to experience the great things happening after school. Here is a testimonial from Kimberly Grant of the Montville Youth Service Bureau:

“We had approximately 50 kids and 25 parents participate! We had a phenomenal D.J. who had the kids engaged from the very beginning with various dances, cha-cha slide, *Macarena*, electric slide, etc. and games such as the limbo, a balloon ‘hot potato’ game and of course great music. The kids were given prizes and overall had a blast! We provided pizza and cake for all the people who came. It was by far our most successful *Lights On* ever! The back drop for the D.J. was our *Lights On* bulletin board, with facts about afterschool programs and paper light bulbs that our students decorated with messages listing their favorite things about our program. We are in the process of making the children’s light bulb artwork into a book!”

If you collected [Afterschool for All](#) petitions and sign-up forms at your *Lights On Afterschool* events, don’t forget to send copies. Mail them to: Afterschool Alliance, Attn: Marie Coichy-Dauphin, 1440 Broadway, Floor 16, New York, NY 10018

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



FUNDING NEWS

The Afterschool Alliance's website has resources for afterschool providers, including tips for initiating relationships with funders and businesses, and for identifying funding opportunities. *To learn more, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding.cfm>. Remember to check here, <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policyEconRecovery.cfm>, to find out how afterschool programs might tap into economic recovery funds.*

GRANTS/AWARDS AVAILABLE

Grants for Community Service

Youth Service America and Miley Cyrus are partnering to sponsor "Get Ur Good On" grants for youth-led community projects on Global Youth Service Day, April 23-25. One hundred \$500 grants will be awarded for projects that address poverty, education, environmental sustainability, or other community needs. The "Get Ur Good On" social network has ideas for projects, and allows youth to upload video and pictures of themselves serving their community. The deadline is February 22. *For more information, visit <http://www.geturgoodon.org> or <http://ysa.org/grants/programs/get-ur-good-grants>*



COMING UP TALLER AWARDS

Nineteen afterschool and humanities programs were honored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) as recipients of the 2009 "Coming Up Taller" awards. First Lady Michelle Obama, who serves as honorary chair of the Committee, presented the awards at a White House ceremony on November 4. Begun in 1998, the annual awards bring national recognition to programs that foster creativity in youth, while providing learning opportunities and giving back to their communities.

"Each of your programs is using achievement in the arts as a bridge to achievement in life," Mrs. Obama said. "You ask our young people to dream, and you give them the tools to fulfill those dreams. You affirm that their contributions are valuable, and their success matters to all of us. You help them see beyond the circumstances of their lives to the world of possibility that awaits them. And for that, we honor you."

Fifteen of the programs that were honored are based in the United States. They include [Higher Achievement](#), a Washington, D.C. program that delivers year-round rigorous programming to provide enrichment opportunities to disadvantaged middle school students.

[The Old Brick Playhouse](#) from rural West Virginia was honored as well. It gives up-and-coming actors the chance to increase their self esteem and literacy skills by learning plays and musical comedies, and performing them in the community.

Other honorees were [The Harmony Project](#) in Los Angeles, which gives low-income youth who would otherwise not have these opportunities rigorous music instruction and ensemble performance experience; [Sitar Arts Center](#) in Washington, D.C., which offers visual and performing arts classes; the [Keshet Dance Company's](#) Outreach Program, which offers incarcerated youth at the New

Mexico state juvenile detention center a chance to learn conflict resolution, literacy and math through dance; and Citywide Poets, which fosters writing skills at more than 50 high schools in Detroit by giving teenagers the chance to publish magazines, perform their work in the community, and partner with professional writers.

Other winners are based in Mexico, China and Egypt.

"These young people don't just become accomplished singers and painters and authors. They also become better students, they become better leaders, and they become better citizens, enriching not just themselves but their communities, teaching younger children the skills that they've learned, beautifying neighborhoods with murals, and lifting their communities with their performances," Mrs. Obama said.

The "Coming Up Taller" award includes a \$10,000 grant and an individualized plaque honoring the program's contribution to children around the world. Thirty-five semi-finalists also receive a certificate of recognition.

Nominations for 2010

Now that this year's "Coming Up Taller" awards have been awarded, it's time to nominate outstanding afterschool and out-of-school time programs for next year. PCAH is now accepting nominations for the 2010 "Coming Up Taller" awards.

The deadline to submit a nomination is January 29, 2010. *For more information, visit <http://www.pcah.gov/news/cut2010Nominations.htm>. To learn more about the "Coming Up Taller" awards and this year's recipients, visit <http://www.pcah.gov>.*



IN HER OWN WORDS...

Voices from the Afterschool Storybook...

“The afterschool program’s gym became my extended family. My coaches helped me to grow into a mature young lady. They were protective of me and supported my mom, who was raising me as a single parent. I also became good friends with the kids in my program. Everyone in the program was striving to be a champion.”

-- Franchon Crews, Baltimore, Maryland.

To read Crews’ story, and read more afterschool voices from across the country, visit

http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/storybook/gallery.cfm?CNT_ID=STRY9000058. Share your story at

<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/storybook/GALLERY.CFM>.



IN THE NEWS...

California – When the SkyLife Aeromedical Transportation helicopter landed on the Golden West High School football field, ten teenagers swarmed around the crew, asking questions and snapping pictures with their cell phones. The teens are part of a unique afterschool program, Pro-Youth/HEART, which introduces them to the field of medicine, reports the *Visalia Times-Delta*. Teacher Dave Rodgers started the program with a 21st Century grant, which helps students earn a license in CPR and first aid. “The main reason I put this course together was to expose these kids to something they don’t get to see except on TV,” Rodgers said. “They get to go on field trips and learn about a field that is growing.”

Illinois – Youth at the GUM Park afterschool program in Decatur have turned into Santa’s little helpers, making stockings to send to active military duty personnel as part of “Operation Santa.” The children, as young as five years old, cut and sew the stockings on the program’s sewing machines with the help of volunteers from the Decatur Quilters Guild, the *Herald & Review* reports. GUM Park, along with the Guild and the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois, have helped the organization make more than 5,000 stockings. “The older kids help the younger kids out,” GUM Park Director Bev Stern said. “When they aren’t sewing, they’re writing letters.” *To find an Operation Santa chapter in your area, or to learn more, visit*

<http://www.operationsanta.info>.

Indiana – Governor Mitch Daniels visited the Fairfield Avenue Boys & Girls Club in Fort Wayne in the fall to personally judge the progress of his “Mitch’s Kids” initiative. Implemented five years ago, the program aims to raise reading and math scores of low-income youth across the state. Students who qualify for the free program participate in 30 homework and tutoring sessions, and lectures that orient them to possible careers. It doesn’t take a pop quiz from the Governor to confirm that the program is working; reading-fluency scores of its children have increased by an average of 65 percent, and math-fluency by 64.5 percent, Daniels told the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*.

Michigan – First-graders at Taft and Buchanan Elementary Schools won’t be performing the music they’re learning on a stage; they’ll perform it in the classroom. They are part of an innovative program at the Girls Choral Academy that teaches music as a language, increasing the brain’s ability to form sequences and patterns, thereby boosting math and reading abilities. Launched this fall, students meet after school twice a week. Their performance on assessment tests will be measured against youth who are not in the

program through the two-year pilot program, the *Grand Rapid Press* reports.

Missouri – The Center for Survivors of Torture and War Trauma in St. Louis is expanding its afterschool program to focus on the unique needs of teenage refugees who have come to the United States. Funded by a federal grant, the program aims to help teenagers as they assimilate to American culture and education, and deter them from joining gangs. Mentors will provide homework help and guidance, and programs will be offered on anger management, goal setting and the dangers of substance abuse, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reports. *For more information on the Center for Survivors of Torture and War Trauma, visit <http://www.stlcenterforsurvivors.org>.*

Pennsylvania – Children on the streets of Pittsburgh are being stopped by police officers, but not for misbehaving – they’re “Caught Being Good.” The program from the United Way of Allegheny County and the Youth Futures Commission awards children for serving their communities, being on time, going to school, getting good grades, and checking out books from the library, the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review* reports. Participants can be recognized for good behavior in school, in afterschool programs, or on the streets. They wear cards identifying them as part of the program, and earn points redeemable for prizes for each instance of good behavior.



ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDEST

What can America do to leave the world a better place for the next generation? What can we take action on today to ensure that youth will be better off tomorrow? Thirty-five celebrities, authors and experts have tackled what they believe are the most

important issues facing America’s youth in a powerful new book, *Actions Speak Loudest*.

Education is a key topic, and the focus ranges from access to higher education, to financial literacy, to school wellness. Afterschool Alliance Board Chair Terry Peterson collaborated with former Education Secretary Richard Riley for an essay about high school graduation rates. Other contributors include Queen Noor of Jordan, celebrity chef and talk show host Rachel Ray, U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), entrepreneur Dave Eggers, soccer player Mia Hamm, and political commentator Juan Williams.

Each of the book’s 32 essays includes a list of ways to take action on the issue it addresses, which range from climate change to childhood obesity. The *Action Speaks Loudest* website also features suggestions for getting involved and links to the youth-serving organizations highlighted in the book. *For more information, visit <http://www.actionsspeakloudest.org>.*



HELP PROMOTE HEALTHY KIDS

Action for Healthy Kids needs your help spreading the word about its Healthy Kids 2009 Campaign. Collaborating with educators, community leaders, students and parents, Action for Healthy Kids provides resources to encourage good nutrition and healthy habits in children. Leaders hope to reach 10 million kids in 25,000 schools in the next three years.

By placing a campaign banner or information on your program’s or agency’s website, you can spread the word about the cause and the Super Bowl XLIV Dream Package sweepstakes. Banners of all sizes are available on the Action for Healthy Kids website, and can be used on your website, blog, Facebook page or partner sites. The prize package includes two tickets to Super

Bowl XLIV on February 7, 2010 in South Florida, hotel accommodations for four nights, and airfare for two.

For more information, visit <http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/healthykids2009>.



FREE EDUCATIONAL ONLINE GAMES

Kid Command, a free virtual world of educational and fun games, is offering limited-time premium level subscriptions as part of its launch. Designed by a team of parents and a former afterschool program director, the site uses interactive games to teach about travel, adventure, cultural diversity and environmental awareness.

To try the premium level subscription for two weeks, visit the Kid Command website and use the promo code welcome09.

Although the website is free to use, premium level subscribers get more customization options and extras, and have access to more games and levels. Its partner site, Parent Command, allows parents to monitor their child's activities or limit play time.

For more information, visit <http://www.kidcommand.com>.



AFTERSCHOOL NEWS NOW!

Hungry for the latest news in afterschool? Be sure to check out *Afterschool Snack*, the Afterschool Alliance's new up to the minute blog on afterschool news, trends and information from across the country.

Recent posts include:

- How Does the \$35 Million Increase Affect Your State?
- New Wiki Tackles Afterschool and Education Reform

- Some Fodder for the Unemployment Debate

And be sure to tune in every Wednesday for a national news round-up, and throughout the week for your daily dose of afterschool.

Check out Afterschool Snack at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolsnack/ASnack.cfm>.



RESOURCES

Afterschool Programs Preparing Youth for College

The American Youth Policy Forum has released a report examining educational and afterschool programs that help older youth complete high school and prepare for college and careers. *Success at Every Step: How 23 Programs Support Youth on the Path to College and Beyond* examines the wide variety of strategies used by high-performing programs, identifies commonly used best practices and offers policy recommendations. *For more information, visit <http://www.aypf.org/publications/SuccessAtEveryStep.htm>.*

Program Materials for College and Career Prep

Roads to Success, a program designed to prepare middle and high school youth for college and careers, has made all of its materials available online. The curriculum, which has been developed and tested over five years, can be implemented in afterschool programs, schools and youth service organizations. It includes more than 180 lessons and materials for teachers, students and parents. *For more information, visit <http://www.roadstosuccess.org>.*



Congress continued from page one...
 increasing America's investment in afterschool programs. We urge President Obama to include a further increase for afterschool programs in his next budget, so more children will be safe and supervised after the school day ends."

The spending bill also included funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant program, the Corporation for National and Community Service's VISTA and Americorps programs, full service community schools, and several other funding streams that benefit afterschool programs.

For more information, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policyFedNewsArchive.cfm>.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

February 17 – 20, 2010

Foundations, Inc. will sponsor the Beyond School Hours XIII Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. The conference is open to anyone with an interest in promoting afterschool education, including program directors, educators, policy makers and funders. *For more information, visit <http://www.beyondschoolhours.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/>.*

March 24 – 27, 2010

The National Youth Leadership Council will host the 21st Annual National Service-Learning Conference in San Jose, California. Youth and program leaders will gather for sessions, hands-on workshops, exhibits and service-learning projects. *For more information, visit <http://nslc.nylc.org>.*

April 19 – 21, 2010

For the first time ever, the Afterschool Alliance's *Afterschool for All Challenge* will be held in conjunction with Be the Change, the National Afterschool Association's annual convention. The combined event will be held in Washington, D.C. and will include workshops, plenary sessions, a gala Breakfast of Champions, and visits to lawmakers on Capitol Hill. [Register now](#) and help shake up the nation's Capitol, afterschool style! *For more information, visit www.naaconvention.org/registration.html.*

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.
