



JOIN THE AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL CHALLENGE!

The 8th annual *Afterschool for All Challenge* is set for Monday and Tuesday, April 27 and 28, in Washington, D.C. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, the event gives afterschool supporters across the country the chance to meet with lawmakers, network with other afterschool advocates, and learn from leading experts in the field. This year, afterschool supporter and TV Judge Glenda Hatchett will be among the event's headliners, as will Chicago First Lady Maggie Daley and prominent lawmakers.

"With a new Administration, a new Secretary of Education and a new Congress, the *Afterschool for All Challenge* will be more important than ever," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "There is no substitute for bringing afterschool leaders and supporters from across the nation to Washington, D.C. so they can meet one-on-one and share their experiences with lawmakers. These meetings are invaluable in helping policy makers recognize the many ways that quality afterschool programs transform young lives. This year, with so many new people in office, we especially need program leaders, parents, students and other advocates to come to Washington to share their views."

The first day of the *Challenge* will include panels and forums on a range of topics including innovative programs for older youth; afterschool and the environment; science, technology, engineering and math in afterschool; afterschool and health/wellness; and the connections between afterschool and *Challenge continued on page seven...*

STIMULUS GUIDELINES OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFTERSCHOOL

Newly issued government guidance for state and local use of federal stimulus dollars offers new opportunities for afterschool programs to secure much needed funding. In particular, the Department of Education's guidance on Title I funding indicates that school districts may apply for waivers to Supplemental Education Services requirements, allowing school systems greater flexibility in supporting afterschool programs with stimulus dollars.

The guidance, issued by the Department of Education on March 6, describes the process by which stimulus dollars will be divided among the states, how states secure their share of the funding, and the types of expenditures suitable for stimulus funds. The guidance specifically cites afterschool programs as one of several possible programs eligible for the \$13 billion appropriated for Title I funding.

The guidance goes on to indicate that local education agencies (LEAs) will be allowed to seek waivers from current Supplemental Education Services (SES) requirements. The SES program requires school systems to provide parents of children in schools that have not met state student achievement targets with a list of local programs that would provide tutoring and other academic support. That list may include afterschool programs.

With a waiver, school districts could be allowed to use those funds to support other programs consistent with the overall objective *Stimulus continued on page seven...*

OUTREACH

PARTICIPATE IN THE *AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL CHALLENGE FROM HOME*

For those who cannot come to Washington, D.C, there are creative and inexpensive ways to participate in the *Afterschool for All Challenge* from home. They include:

- **Creating a video.** Programs with video capabilities can create a brief video to send to their Members of Congress, or post on YouTube and send Members a link. The project could be led by youth, with students providing testimonials, conducting interviews, and including scenes of the afterschool program at work. They also can thank their Members of Congress for past support and encourage them to increase funding going forward.
- **Creating a podcast.** Programs with audio recording capabilities can record interviews of youth, parents and others discussing the benefits offered by their afterschool program. The audio recording can then be posted online and shared with Members of Congress, as well as state and local lawmakers.
- **Hosting an open house.** Programs can invite parents and encourage them to write testimonials about what the afterschool program means to their families, and send the testimonials to their Senators and Representatives.
- **Hosting a virtual open house.** Encourage youth to create a MySpace page for the program, with photos of after school activities and powerful afterschool messages directed to Members of Congress. Invite Members to log on April 27 and 28 and participate in the “open house” virtually.
- **Creating postcards.** Youth can create postcards, a banner or other artwork, with powerful messages about afterschool, and send them to their Members of Congress.
- **Developing a program snapshot.** Are youth in your program involved in a special science competition, art project or community service endeavor? Document the process through video, photographs or essays and send these products to Members of Congress as an example of the enriching work taking place after the school day ends in their district or state.
- **Writing letters to the editor.** In conjunction with the *Afterschool for All Challenge*, programs can encourage youth or parents to write letters to the local paper, explaining the benefits offered by quality afterschool programs.

Remember that youth often deliver the most powerful messages. Consider forming *Youth Challenge* Committees to give students ways to design and choose ways to participate in the *Challenge* that will work well for them. And don't forget to include an invitation to your Senators and Representative to visit the program when they are next in the state or district!

For more information on the Afterschool for All Challenge, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/challenge.cfm>. For more information on outreach to lawmakers and the media, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policyTakeAction.cfm>.

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

We want to hear from you! Tell us how you are using the *Afterschool for All* campaign to raise awareness and build support for afterschool in your community. Please submit your story to Marie Coichy at mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org. For the latest updates on new partners and tools and resources to help build a local campaign, visit us online at: www.afterschoolalliance.org/a4a.cfm.



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>.*

GRANTS/AWARDS AVAILABLE

Grants for Cultural Exchange

The U.S. Department of State is looking for organizations to conduct exchange initiatives for visitors from other countries as part of its Sports, Cultural and Youth Visitor Program. Sports exchanges include an introduction to training and management techniques and interaction with professional athletes and coaches; cultural exchanges focus on all genres of art, music and literature; and youth exchanges incorporate leadership, ethics, diversity and volunteerism workshops. The deadline for project proposals is April 2. *For more information, please visit <http://exchanges.state.gov/grants/open2.html>.*

Grants for Youth Volunteers

Pepsi-Cola Company and Do Something are sponsoring the Power in Numbers competition, awarding up to ten grants of \$10,000 each for youth teams that make a difference in their communities. Teams can be from three to ten members, ages 13 to 25, and must be sponsored by an eligible organization. The deadline is April 6. *For more information, visit www.energizeyourcommunity.com.*

Grants for Nonprofits

The Sparkplug Foundation is sponsoring grants of up to \$5,000 for organizations that promote music, education and teaching, or grassroots organizing. The grants can be used for anything that makes the project more sustainable (a website or training expenses, for example). Applicants must talk to a representative on the phone to determine eligibility by April 24, and the application deadline is May 8. *For more information, visit www.sparkplugfoundation.org.*



MAKING A NEW DAY SUSTAINABLE

A new report commissioned by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation offers insights for communities seeking to act on the recommendations of the groundbreaking *A New Day for Learning* report, issued in 2007. That year, the Foundation convened the Time, Learning and Afterschool Task Force, comprised of policy makers, practitioners, researchers and educators. Their report challenged the traditional way of thinking about learning as an activity constrained by the beginning and end of the regular school day and instead called for an integrated approach that brings community organizations and resources to bear, creating and exploiting learning opportunities before, during and after school.

The more recent report follows up by describing strategies that communities might use to fund extended learning opportunities, including afterschool programs. In December, Sharon Deich and Heather Clapp Padgett wrote *Dollars and Sense: A First Look at Financing A New Day for Learning*, which identifies approaches communities can take to fund implementation of this broader vision of children's education.

The report focuses on three strategic approaches, highlighting dozens of examples of successful implementation by communities and education leaders across the nation. The authors recommend:

- Adopting an entrepreneurial attitude to financing that supports innovation, creates incentives for more investments, and expands efforts in ways that can be sustained over time. Creating state and local pilot programs; developing a national prize to highlight innovations; finding ways to provide more permanent funding to successful programs; and using technology to expand opportunities are some of the many ways that states and

communities can expand resources for *A New Day for Learning*.

- Creating or enhancing existing community structures to coordinate and oversee financing that supports more opportunities for learning. Neither businesses nor governments would think of providing services without some mechanism to coordinate and oversee their finances. The same should hold true for communities seeking *A New Day for Learning*; communities require capacity to support financing that is disciplined and strategic.
- Seeking opportunities to finance more time and learning through federal, state, and local policy developments. Several federal and state education programs, especially those associated with reform efforts, hold promise for supporting a more comprehensive and holistic approach to learning. New federal School Improvement Grants, new federal funding for full-service school demonstrations, and numerous state and local education reforms afford opportunities to support *A New Day for Learning*. Taken together, these three approaches promote strategic and sustainable systems to improve financing that will enable communities to move toward *A New Day for Learning*.

*The new report is available at http://www.edstrategies.net/C+J_newday_f.pdf. The original *New Day for Learning* report, along with a variety of supporting materials, is available at <http://www.newdayforlearning.org/>.*



IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

“One of the first areas where we can foster innovation is the amount of time our students spend learning. Other top-performing countries do not take two months off in the summer. They do not dismiss students at two in the afternoon. Instead, they spend 30 or 40 more days per year in school and offer safe, constructive activities that keep kids learning. We must expand quality afterschool programs and rethink the school day to incorporate more time, whether that’s by extending hours or offering more summer school.”

-- U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, addressing the National Science Teachers Association Conference, March 20, 2009

“Even as we foster innovation in where our children are learning, let’s also foster innovation in when our children are learning. We can no longer afford an academic calendar designed when America was a nation of farmers who needed their children at home plowing the land at the end of each day. That calendar may have once made sense, but today, it puts us at a competitive disadvantage. Our children spend over a month less in school than children in South Korea. That is no way to prepare them for a 21st century economy. That is why I’m calling for us not only to expand effective afterschool programs, but to rethink the school day to incorporate more time – whether during the summer or through expanded-day programs for children who need it.”

-- President Barack Obama, addressing the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, March 10, 2009

“I think it is important for us to send a message that we are very interested in promoting fruits and vegetables in a variety of different forms to get more integrated into the school lunch, school breakfast, and school snack programs, as well as afterschool

programs, as well as in child care facilities throughout the country.”

-- U.S Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, March 9, 2009

“If I ran the NEA [National Education Association], I would put the emphasis on arts education for the young. I would encourage artists throughout the country to volunteer a few hours a week to mentor students in public schools. I would work with the Department of Education to ensure that no public school would be without classes and afterschool programs in art, music, dance and theater.”

-- Actor and Director Tim Robbins, *Los Angeles Times*, March 1, 2009



IN THE NEWS...

California - The California Afterschool Network reports that the 2009-2010 state budget, signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, will maintain the current funding level for After School Education and Safety funding, also known as Proposition 49. The funding was put in place by a voter initiative, and would therefore take a ballot initiative to change. The budget does, however, include cuts to Proposition 98 education funding. *For more information and to view the 2009 Budget Act summary, visit <http://www.afterschoolnetwork.org/node/7164>.*

Florida - Children with special needs at Little Ones Preschool in Dunedin now have an afterschool program designed for them, thanks to generous volunteers in their community. The *St. Petersburg Times* reports that the Palm Harbor Home Depot donated 100 hours and \$2,000 to build a loft with carpet, lighting and decorations intended to soothe the children. Other stores and volunteers donated furniture, a computer, and a train set. Christi Kisling, director of Little Ones Preschool, said: “For children with sensory issues, loud noises, lights and things

like that bother them, I wanted to give them the quiet space they needed.”

Kentucky - Afterschool programs and medical professionals are teaming up to reduce childhood obesity in Russell, Greenup and Ashland school districts. The Healthy Hearts for Healthy Kids Program, a project of King’s Daughters Medical Center, and the Healthy You-Healthy Me Program of Ashland Community and Technical College aims to lessen childhood obesity rates and develop a set of best practices for future programs. According to the *Daily Independent*, students will get information about nutrition, fitness and heart health, and the Kentucky Heart Institute at King’s Daughter Medical Center will distribute interactive video games. Local nursing students are recording the children’s progress through height, weight, blood pressure and body mass index measurements.

Michigan - The T.E.A.M. 21 (Teach, Enrich, Achieve, Move) afterschool and summer program of Wyoming, Michigan received the first annual WOOD TV8 Connecting with Community Award. The group has collaborated with four school districts, non-profits and the Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department, *WOOD TV8* reports, to provide academic and recreational activities for kids. The Grand Rapids television station designed the award to honor organizations or programs that make their community stronger and better. “Right here, in this room, is what America is all about – business to business, neighbor to neighbor, friend to friend, walking alongside... helping,” WOOD TV8 President and General Manager Diane Kniewski said.

New York - Teens are trying a new type of afterschool program in New York City: skateboarding classes. Run by Open Road of New York, the class meets at a local park to learn skateboarding fundamentals. Learning a new skill has fostered confidence in the high school students and especially in girls who

once might have thought skateboarding was only for boys. “The first time I stepped on the skateboard, I fell, and I thought, ‘I’m going to get back up and try again,’” student Michelle Whitaker told *Voice of America News*. “And now I’m skateboarding fast...”

Texas - The number of homeless children in the Dallas area has risen as much as 185 percent during the 2008-2009 school year, the *Dallas Morning News* reports, due in part to parents losing their jobs. Afterschool programs have proven especially helpful to these children, creating stability and easing any learning gaps created by changing schools. “That’s one of the good things about having funding for afterschool programs is they don’t have to go back to the motel or shelter,” said Mark Pierce, manager of Dallas Independent School District’s homeless education program.

Washington - College senior Ben Warner will travel 2,400 miles across the country to raise money for the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound on his longboard, a skateboard-like means of transportation, reports the *Charleston Gazette*. A regular at the Tacoma Boys & Girls Club growing up, Warner wants to raise awareness about the importance of afterschool programs. Along with two other riders and a camera operator, Warner will start in San Diego and end the two month trip in Savannah, Georgia. For more information or to find out where they’re stopping next, visit <http://www.longboardingamerica.com>.

Washington, DC - The Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association brought more than a dozen current and retired athletes to the nation’s capitol to lobby Congress to make sports equipment tax deductible. The association argues that a tax incentive would help lessen obesity in the United States by encouraging physical activity. They also asked for more funding for afterschool programs and physical education classes.

“I’m here as a professional athlete, and the biggest reason I’m here is I’m the father of three kids,” said nine-time Ultimate Fighting champion Matt Hughes.



RESOURCES

Afterschool Guide to Improve Program Quality

California’s Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center (SNBC) has published *The Best of Both Worlds: Aligning Afterschool Programs with Youth Development Principles and Academic Standards*. SNBC shares how it applied state content standards to its program by creating project-based learning clubs. *To download an online version or to print a copy, visit <http://snbc.org/snbc-afterschool-guide>.*

Report Examines Role of Organized Youth Sports

Team-Up for Youth released a new report, *Learning to Play and Playing to Learn: Organized Sports and Educational Outcomes*, which finds that students who participate in organized sports get better grades, are more likely to finish their homework, and less likely to drop out of school than their peers. They also are more likely to attend college and land good-paying jobs after they graduate. The report analyzes more than 60 separate studies and articles that examined various aspects of children’s participation in athletics, drawing together the best research and analysis on the subject from a wide range of experts. *For more information, go to http://www.teamupforyouth.org/dynamic/attachables/media_filename_119.pdf.*

Using ‘Lessons from Literature’ to Steer Teens Away from Violence

The Family Violence Prevention Fund and the National Council of Teachers of English have developed Lessons from Literature, a free online resource that gives English teachers

and other educators a framework to use the novels, poems, plays and stories to help students build healthy, non-violent relationships. *Lessons from Literature* includes online lesson plans that address themes of abuse, violence, inequality, and family/interpersonal issues; a Lesson Template that serves as a guide for teachers to create or modify their own lessons; materials, including handouts and fact sheets on teen dating abuse, to prepare teachers and students to discuss abuse; an online resource library of books, poems, songs, movies and more to help build creative and meaningful exercises into pre-existing lessons; and more. *For more information, visit www.lessonsfromliterature.org.*

HFRP Paper on Expanded Learning Opportunities

A new paper from the Harvard Family Research Project’s Priscilla Little focuses on the role of afterschool and summer learning programs in supporting student success. *Supporting Student Outcomes through Expanded Learning Opportunities* explores ways to bridge the divide between out-of-school time programs and schools by offering research-based principles for effective expanded learning partnerships. Topics include: the benefits of expanded learning, including less disciplinary action, lower dropout rates, better academic performance in school, greater on-time promotion, improved homework completion, and improved work habits; why and how schools and programs should partner with five principles that support transformative, sustainable partnerships; and the need for future research on expanded learning and education reform, including implementing and testing expanded learning opportunity models. *The paper is available at <http://www.hfrp.org/content/download/3303/96863/file/OST-SupportingStudentOutcomes.pdf>.*

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DESIGN CONTEST

It's not too late for afterschool students to submit their artwork for the 2009 *Lights on Afterschool* poster competition! The deadline has been extended to April 20. The winning image will be printed on 50,000 posters sent to afterschool programs from coast to coast to use at their *Lights On Afterschool* celebrations. The image will also be featured on the Alliance's *Lights On Afterschool* website.

The artwork or design should generally promote or convey afterschool or *Lights On Afterschool*. Abstract or realistic drawings are welcome. *To view the 2008 student-designed poster, visit* [http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/document/s/lights%20on%20afterschool/loa_poster_2008%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/document/s/lights%20on%20afterschool/loa_poster_2008%20(2).pdf).

The 10th annual *Lights On Afterschool* will be October 22, 2009. *Rules and guidelines for the design contest are available at* <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/document/s/lights%20on%20afterschool/2009%20Lights%20On%20Afterschool%20Poster%20Rules.pdf>.



Challenge continued from page one... the future of education, including what's expected with implementation of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* and reauthorization of the *No Child Left Behind Act*.

The second day of the *Challenge* will begin with a "Breakfast of Champions" on Capitol Hill, emceed by Judge Hatchett. The Breakfast will honor champions of afterschool, and the Afterschool Alliance will give Chicago's Maggie Daley a special award for her leadership in creating quality afterschool programs for older youth. Members of Congress and state leaders will

be honored as well. Following the "Breakfast," participants will spend the remainder of the day meeting with their Senators and Representatives to share their afterschool experiences.

As in years past, youth will play a key role in educating lawmakers about afterschool. On the first day of the *Challenge*, youth will participate in a special advocacy session to hone their skills and help them prepare to meet with Members of Congress. On the second day, they will join meetings with Representatives and Senators.

"Especially now, with the economy in deep trouble and many afterschool programs cutting back or struggling to survive, lawmakers need to hear the powerful stories that educators, administrators, parents and children have to tell," Grant said. "Their dedication and hope paint a compelling picture of the vital role that quality afterschool programs play in their communities, and help build lasting relationships and secure support from lawmakers."

It's not too late to register for the *Afterschool for All Challenge*. *To read more about it and sign up to attend, please visit* <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/challenge.cfm>.



Stimulus continued from page one... of increasing academic achievement of low-income children. That might include more funding for afterschool programs, if districts so choose.

But the waiver mechanism raises concerns, as well. In a joint letter to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation Program Officer An-Me Chung, Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant, George Lucas Educational Foundation Executive Director Milton Chen, and Ron Fairchild, Executive Director of the National Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University, write:

“The supplemental educational services (SES) set-aside is an important strategy for school improvement and expanding learning opportunities for the lowest-achieving students. While we believe that that program should be improved and expanded during the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, we also believe services should continue in the meantime. By allowing waivers for SES, districts are being let off the hook from providing the lowest achieving students critical services outside of the school day.... In instances where SES waivers are provided, they should only be done with documentation of how the LEA will otherwise use its Title I American Recovery and Reinvestment Act [stimulus] funds to provide afterschool and summer learning opportunities in the district.”

As described in the last issue of the *Afterschool Advocate*, the stimulus package includes several distinct funding streams that afterschool programs might be able to tap for support. They include a new State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF), additional funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) program, and more.

The Afterschool Alliance has created a special webpage to help afterschool programs navigate stimulus funding questions at: <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policyEconomicRecovery.cfm>. The Department released guidance for stimulus funding under these programs, as well.

The Department of Education has promised further guidance on the use of stimulus funds within the next few weeks. The Afterschool Alliance will post updates on its website as they become available. *The Department of Education’s Title I guidance is available at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/title-i.html>. Guidance on the SFSF is at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/stabilization-fund.html>. Guidance on IDEA is at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/idea.html>.*

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.discountsschoolsupply.com. Or mention it when you call 1-800-627-2829 to place an order.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

April 16 - 17, 2009

The National Center for Summer Learning will sponsor the 2009 ‘Summer Changes Everything’ National Conference at the Hyatt Regency Chicago in Illinois. Participants will learn how to build, strengthen and expand summer programs at the only national conference dedicated to summer learning. *For more information, visit <http://www.summerlearning.org/>.*


April 22 - 25, 2009

BOOST will sponsor the 2009 Best Out-of-School Time Conference at the Palm Springs Convention Center in California. This Conference will offer networking and team-building opportunities, workshops, information on the latest trends and research in out-of-school time programming, more than 100 exhibits, guest speakers, special events and entertainment. *For more information, visit <http://www.boostconference.org/>.*


April 27 – April 28, 2009

The Afterschool Alliance will host the *Afterschool for All Challenge* in Washington, D.C. The event will include two days of workshops, speakers, advocacy opportunities and fun for hundreds of afterschool providers and leaders from around the country and some

of the parents and children they serve. *For more information, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org.*

 **April 29 – May 1, 2009**

NC CAP in North Carolina will sponsor the fifth annual SYNERGY Conference, designed to bring together a broad spectrum of community and school-based afterschool providers for training, networking and sharing effective practices. *For more information, visit www.nccap.net.*

 **May 26 – May 29, 2009**

Nova Southeastern University, the Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations, and the Association for the Child & Youth Care Practice Inc. will present the Ninth Triennial International Child and Youth Care Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. More than 1,500 youth workers will convene from more than 100 nations. The theme is “Global Warning,” and Dr. Munoz will discuss innovative afterschool initiatives around the world. There will be more than 150 sessions on trends, advocacy, program design, and ways to engage families and communities in youth development. *For more information, visit www.icycc2009.com.*

 **July 13 – 16, 2009**

The National Institute for Out-of-School Time will sponsor its annual summer seminar series to provide training for afterschool professionals. The Boston, Massachusetts, event will address program evaluation, the changing landscape of out-of-school time, system and community building, technical assistance and more. *For information, visit www.NIOST.org.*

 **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. STEP UP Requests for Proposals are being accepted until April 17. *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.*

***** And mark your calendars now for Lights On Afterschool 2009 on October 22, 2009! *****

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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