



## OBAMA BUDGET: NO NEW HELP FOR AFTERSCHOOL

Parents, educators and advocates who hoped for increased funds for afterschool programs next year got a bitter surprise when the Obama Administration released its Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal to Congress, which calls for flat funding the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) initiative.

The White House released President Obama's budget proposal on May 7, following up on the outline submitted to Congress in February. In the proposed budget, overall discretionary spending by the Department of Education would increase by \$1.3 billion. Much of that increase is devoted to funding new initiatives. But for the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative, the President proposed only to continue the current \$1.13 billion funding level, which is less than half of what *No Child Left Behind* authorized.

The President's budget proposes some new funding that can benefit afterschool programs, including an increase of more than \$1 billion for Title I, \$100 million for innovations in education, and \$50 million for a social innovation fund. But it flat funds 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC, the Child Care and Development Block Grant program, and Community Schools.

On the campaign trail, then-Senator Obama called for a doubling of federal afterschool funding, although he did not indicate that the entire increase would come immediately.

Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant greeted the announcement with surprise and disappointment. "With millions of children unsupervised and at risk after schools close each afternoon," she said, "flat-funding 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers at its current – grossly inadequate – level is a serious mistake that will result in millions of children having no safe, supervised, educational activities after the school day ends, and millions of worried working parents struggling to find care for their children."

The Bush Administration tried twice to slash the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative budget, and settled for a series of small across-the-board cuts. Advocates took note of President Obama's campaign calls for increased resources for afterschool, and had expected at least a modest down-payment on what they hoped would be a significant long-term expansion of the initiative.

The President's budget proposal comes at a time when many programs are facing severe funding crunches due to the economic downturn. Afterschool funding from private sources has grown increasingly difficult to come by, afterschool programs report, as businesses and charitable foundations trim their giving in the face of financial losses. The President's stimulus bill, the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, included several sources of funding that afterschool programs may be able to tap. But the annual budget was an opportunity to begin to build stronger ongoing support for afterschool. *Obama Budget continued on page seven...*

## OUTREACH

### Afterschool Supporters Can Act on Budget

In his federal budget proposal, the President called for flat funding of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) initiative, but this is only the beginning of the budget process. By acting now, afterschool advocates can make it more likely that the children and families that rely on quality afterschool programs receive the funding they need. Here are three things you can do today:

1. **Contact the White House** and voice your displeasure. *You can send an email from the White House website, at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>, or call 202/456-1414.* In your message, be sure to include the following points:

- Afterschool is a critical investment for our children and families, especially during these tough economic times.
- Increasing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers funding would have ensured that thousands more children had a safe, enriching place to be in the after school hours, inspiring them to succeed and providing working parents with much needed peace of mind.
- The afterschool community hopes to work with President Obama to fulfill his campaign pledge to double funding for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC.

2. **Contact your Senators and Representatives**, particularly if they are Members of the relevant appropriations subcommittees, listed below. Tell them:

- Afterschool is a critical investment for our children and families, especially during these tough economic times.
- The *No Child Left Behind Act* authorized \$2.5 billion for the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program, but it has never been appropriated at even half that amount. Thousands of children across the nation are unable to participate in afterschool programs as a result. Increasing 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funding will ensure that thousands more children have a safe, enriching place to be in the afterschool hours, inspiring them to succeed and providing working parents with much needed peace of mind.
- Please support increased funding for the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative.

Members of the **House** Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. (In alphabetical order by state):

Jo Bonner (**AL**), Barbara Lee (**CA**), Michael Honda (**CA**), Jerry Lewis (ex officio member, ranking minority member of the full Appropriations Committee, **CA**), Lucille Roybal-Allard (**CA**), Rosa L. DeLauro (**CT**), Todd Tiahrt (ranking minority member, **KS**), Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (**IL**), Rodney Alexander (**LA**), Betty McCollum (**MN**), Dennis R. Rehberg (**MT**), Nita M. Lowey (**NY**), Tim Ryan (**OH**), Tom Cole (**OK**), Patrick J. Kennedy (**RI**), James P. Moran (**VA**) and David R. Obey (Chairman of both the subcommittee and the full Appropriations Committee, **WI**).

Members of the **Senate** Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. (In alphabetical order by state):

Richard Shelby (**AL**), Mark Pryor (**AR**), Daniel Inouye (**HI**), Richard Durbin (**IL**), Tom Harkin (Chairman, **IA**), Mary Landrieu (**LA**), Thad Cochran (ranking minority member, **MS**), Judd Gregg (**NH**), Arlen Specter (**PA**), Jack Reed (**RI**), Lamar Alexander (**TN**), Kay Bailey Hutchison (**TX**), Patty Murray (**WA**) and Herb Kohl (**WI**).

3. **Help generate news coverage** about the President's proposal to flat fund federal afterschool spending by **sending a letter-to-the-editor** to your local newspaper. Some points to make:

- Families that rely on quality afterschool programs to make sure their kids are safe and supervised in the afternoons got a rude surprise in the President's recent budget proposal: the call for flat funding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative, the principal federal funding stream for afterschool.
- On the campaign trail, then-Senator Obama pledged to eventually double funding for afterschool. He still has time to make good on that promise, but he's missed an important opportunity to help children and families next year.
- Funding is especially tight now for afterschool programs because private donations are drying up, as businesses and foundations struggle.
- Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families. Congress should increase federal funding for quality afterschool programs, so that hundreds of thousands of children can take part.

Keep your letter short, about the length of typical letters in your local newspaper. Send the letter to the newspaper via its website, email, or U.S. mail. See your paper's website or call for instructions.

## **AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL**

Visit the Afterschool for All website to see which new partners have signed up in your state at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/a4a.cfm>. For more information, contact Afterschool for All Project Manager Marie Coichy at [mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org) or 646/943-8662.



## 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 for Youth Literacy

Dollar General is sponsoring grants of up to \$3,000 for programs that establish or expand already existing literacy programs or help youth who are struggling to read. Schools, colleges, public libraries and nonprofits may apply. The deadline is May 22. *For more information, visit <http://www.dollargeneral.com/servingothers/pages/youthliteracygrants.aspx>.*

### Award to Fund ARRA Grant Process

The Communications Consortium Media Center and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation are sponsoring Ready Kids, Ready Schools, Ready Communities Opportunity planning grants of up to \$10,000 for organizations that want to apply for economic recovery funds, but lack the necessary resources under the terms of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)* federal grants. Eligible community organizations, nonprofits, partnerships or agencies must demonstrate how the *ARRA* funds would be used to help vulnerable children under age eight and link them to public schools. The deadline is May 29. *For more information or to complete an online application, visit <http://readykidsreadyschools2009.org>.*

### Grants for Teen Driving Safety

State Farm and the National Youth Leadership Council are sponsoring grants for service learning projects that teach youth about safe driving. Teams of students in grades nine through 12 who are age 13 or older may submit proposals for engaging and educational service projects (like holding a mock crash at school). Twenty-five grants of \$2,000, and a grand prize of \$10,000, will be awarded. The deadline is June 30. *For more information, visit <http://www.sfprojectignition.com>.*



**IN THEIR OWN WORDS...**

“I am hopeful Congress will improve those programs under [*No Child Left Behind*] to ensure that they work and support students at the high school level, such as 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers which provide students with academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours and mentoring programs that help foster safe learning environments, and strengthening and applying early childhood and elementary reforms that are helping younger children progress to later grades.”

--Representative Mike Castle (R-DE),  
Hearing on High School Reform, May 12,  
2009

“Mayor Dixon has proved she cares about young people by increasing spending on youth more than any other mayor in the last 20 years. If the City Council can help her identify more money that we can invest in youth development activities – such as those in recreation centers, libraries and other after-school programs – I hope that she will recognize such an increase as the wise investment it will be and support it. Even when times are tough, we have to be willing to spend resources on long-term solutions, or the problems will never go away. Recreation centers, libraries and other after-school programming are the tools city government has available to prevent not just crime but criminals. Baltimoreans need to recognize that youth development isn't another priority in competition with public safety; it is public safety.”

--Baltimore City Council Member Bill Henry,  
*Baltimore Sun*, May 11, 2009

**IN THE NEWS...**

**California** – Andy Warhol-inspired paintings by students at the Urban Compass afterschool program in Watts hung next to the artist’s originals for a night recently to raise money for the program. Students got a lesson in pop culture, before making their own brightly colored self-portraits, which were on sale at the gallery. The “Warhol and Watts” exhibit also featured a series of Warhol paintings of sports figures, loaned out for the event by art collector Richard Weisman, a former banker. Proceeds from the sales went to Urban Compass and the nonprofit Pharmaka, which sponsors educational and community programs, the *Los Angeles Times* reports. *To see a slideshow of some of the student self-portraits, visit*

<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/news/arts/la-et-0407-warhol-pg,0,6979333.photogallery>.

**Connecticut** – The BackYard Beekeepers and their sweet friends visited six afterschool programs operated by the Bridgeport YMCA to share about the honey bees’ role in food supply. More than 950 students learned about the life and work of honey bees at a series of information stations and a glass-cased colony. Children learned about different kinds of honey bees, pollination, beeswax, honey and the various foods that bees help create, and watched new honey bees hatch from their eggs. “It’s a neat program. We’re out to educate anyone who’s interested,” beekeeper Rick Glover told the *Connecticut Post Online*. The program is important because the population of honey bees has been disappearing and experts are searching for the reason, another beekeeper said.

**Louisiana** – There was probably one band at the New Orleans’ Jazz Fest that music lovers didn’t expect to see – a 98-member marching band made up of nine- to 14-year-olds making their way around the Fair Grounds. The band is the product of The Roots of Music, an

afterschool program that not only teaches kids how to play instruments, but also gives them homework help, exercise, a hot meal, and free transportation to and from the program. The program has a 95 percent attendance rate and 350 students on a waiting list. “Performing gives them so much confidence and the drive to want to be the best,” co-founder Allison Reinhardt told the *Times-Picayune*, calling it an “anti-crime program.” “There’s so much out there that’s not creative or positive, and it’s not fair to our children,” she added. “We just want to help them make the right choices and have a bright future.”

**New Jersey** – The New Jersey Department of Education is celebrating afterschool programs this month with two events. During the week of May 11, Celebrate Afterschool! Outdoors in the Garden State events will take place. Sponsored by the New Jersey School Age Care Coalition, the events teach children about the environment and help them engage with nature. The second event is a workshop on May 19 at the state’s first ever 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center spring conference. Soaring Beyond Expectations: A Statewide Afterschool Showcase will highlight best practices from around the state and include panel discussions on how to improve academic and interactive activities in afterschool programs. “Afterschool programs offer unlimited opportunities for adults to stimulate our children’s curiosity, creativity and desire to simply have fun through hands-on activities,” Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy said. *To find an Outdoors in the Garden State event near you, visit [www.njsacc.org/celebrateafterschool](http://www.njsacc.org/celebrateafterschool), and for more information on the Soaring Beyond Expectations workshop, visit [http://nj.gov/education/news/2009/0506asp\\_a.pdf](http://nj.gov/education/news/2009/0506asp_a.pdf).*

**North Carolina** – North Carolina has become the first state to release recommended standards for physical activity in afterschool programs. The Move More After-School

Collaborative released the guidelines at the SYNERGY Conference, sponsored by the North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs. The voluntary guidelines offer ways for afterschool programs to incorporate more physical activity – a growing concern for the state that ranks fifth nationally in childhood obesity. “Obesity is a community issue,” said Dr. Marcus Plescia, chief of North Carolina Division of Public Health’s Chronic Disease and Injury Section. “It’s about young people in our state having opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating throughout the day. Parents, community leaders, afterschool providers and afterschool partners now have a set of standards they can use to create more physical activity opportunities in afterschool programs.” *To view the standards or get more information on the Move More After-School Collaborative, visit [www.EatSmartMoveMoreNC.com](http://www.EatSmartMoveMoreNC.com).*

**Virginia** – Sixth-graders at Battlefield and Chancellor middle schools are learning a new skill while they learn about the Rappahannock River and biology, through an afterschool program that takes them fishing. “Middle school is a difficult transition for most kids,” Leila Zureiqi, the Rappahannock Area Office on Youth’s program coordinator for the My Life After School program told the *Free Lance-Star*. The Office on Youth, which partnered with the middle schools and Friends of the Rappahannock for the program, provides activities to at-risk youths to reduce delinquency. “We look for kids with the potential to be leaders and teach them emotional, problem-solving and transitional skills. Fishing, it seems, can help. They’re learning a new skill. There’s a lot of problem-solving – a necessary skill for anybody, not just at that age.”



## **BILL WOULD EXPAND AFTERSCHOOL SUPPER PROGRAM**

Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Richard Lugar (R-IN) have introduced legislation, the *AFTERSchool Meal Act* (S. 990), that would expand the afterschool supper program to all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Carl Levin (D-MI) are original co-sponsors of the bill.

It would allow school-based afterschool programs to provide supper through the School Lunch Program, as opposed to the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). This would address the barrier faced by school-based programs that are not licensed because some states require licensing for CACFP participation.

“Hunger does not end when the school bell rings for the day, especially during these tough economic times,” Senator Stabenow said. “This legislation will help expand the nationwide school meal program and enroll more children, while providing the necessary funding to afterschool programs to help cover the additional cost.”

It was introduced as a stand-alone bill, but may be folded into Child Nutrition reauthorization.

To learn more, please visit <http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Blog.aspx?id=12472&blogid=622>.



## **SORBO HONORED**

Afterschool Alliance spokesperson and actor Kevin Sorbo will be honored at the Hollywood Note Foundation’s Change the World Humanitarian Awards Gala on May 31. Sorbo starred in “Gene Roddenberry’s *Andromeda*,” and is well known for playing the title role in the hit television series, “*Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*.” He has

been a spokesperson for the Afterschool Alliance since 2005, joining *Lights On Afterschool* events and speaking at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* several times. For more information on the awards, please visit [www.changetheworldawards.org](http://www.changetheworldawards.org).



*Obama Budget continued from page one...*

Federal funding for the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative is distributed to states following a specific funding formula. States then make grants to local afterschool programs. Many states and local jurisdictions also provide some of their own funding for afterschool programs.

The proposal marks only one step in the long budget process. Congress writes the federal budget, and is not obligated to follow the President’s recommendation. Appropriations committees in both the House and Senate will now go to work crafting specific spending plans, which will eventually work their way toward the floors of both houses of Congress.

More than 20 Senators signed onto a “Dear Colleague” letter to Senate appropriators recently, urging increased funding for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC next year: Akaka (HI), Cardin (MD), Conrad (ND), Dodd (CT), Feingold (WI), Gillibrand (NY), Kennedy (MA), Kaufman (DE), Kohl (WI), Lautenberg (NJ), Leahy (VT), Levin (MI), Lieberman (CT), Lincoln (AR), Menendez (NJ), Reed (RI), Rockefeller (WV), Sanders (VT), Schumer (NY), Stabenow (MI), and Whitehouse (RI).

The Afterschool Alliance’s Grant promised a vigorous fight in Congress. “Current funding for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC stands at less than half the \$2.5 billion authorized by the *No Child Left Behind Act*,” she said, “which itself is just a fraction of what is needed to make quality afterschool programs available to all children who need them. We will work hard to convince Congress and the Administration to consider the risks associated with leaving

children with nowhere to go after the school day ends, and to increase 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funding to its authorized level. All is not lost. Advocacy never ends and we expect to prevail, but we want progress to come quickly because so many children are at risk in the afternoons.”

In April, the Afterschool Alliance released the *Roadmap to Afterschool for All: Examining Current Investments and Mapping Future Needs*. It finds that the federal government covers only eleven percent of the cost of afterschool, even though 29 percent of children in programs qualify for federal assistance. The report concludes that a federal investment of slightly less than \$18 billion would give 5.6 million low-income youth access to the academic support, supervision, mentoring and fitness opportunities, healthy snacks, and other benefits that quality afterschool programs provide.

Read Grant's blog on the federal budget at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolsnack/ASnack.cfm>. See the Roadmap to Afterschool for All at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/roadmap.cfm>.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

### **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](http://www.icycc2009.com).*

### **July 7 – July 9, 2009**

The U.S. Department of Education and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, in conjunction with the JCPenney Afterschool Fund, will host the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers' (CCLC) 2009 Summer Institute in Nashville, Tennessee. This year's theme, “The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Program: Realizing America's New Education Promise,” captures the direction of the initiative as programs strive to develop afterschool activities that include and support the President's education goals and initiatives. Participants will attend general sessions that focus on the President's new education agenda, as well as receive technical assistance for management of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs from a daily operational perspective. *For information, visit [www.sei2003.com/21stcentury/welcome.aspx](http://www.sei2003.com/21stcentury/welcome.aspx).*

### **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](http://www.NIOST.org).*

### **October 22, 2009**

The Afterschool Alliance will sponsor the 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.afterschoolnetwork.org/step_up_rfp). For more information on the summit, visit [www.afterschoolnetwork.org/node/7057](http://www.afterschoolnetwork.org/node/7057).*

 **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>.*



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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](http://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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