



KEY COMMITTEE VOTES FOR MORE AFTERSCHOOL FUNDS

On Friday, July 17, the House Appropriations Committee voted to increase funding for the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) afterschool initiative by \$50 million in fiscal year 2010. This sustains a similar vote by the House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies a week earlier – putting the House of Representatives on track for a small but significant increase in afterschool funding next year.

“This is good news for America’s children and families,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “The Subcommittee’s action is particularly gratifying given the economic struggles facing the nation, and the fact that although he campaigned in support of increased afterschool funding, President Obama did not recommend any increase for 21st CCLC in his FY 2010 budget.”

Grant thanked Representative David Obey (WI), who chairs both the Committee and Subcommittee, for championing and including the increase in the legislation. She also thanked Representatives Nita Lowey (NY) and Rosa DeLauro (CT) for their continued leadership in pressing to increase afterschool funding.

“We urge the full House and the Senate to pass a budget that includes at least this \$50 million increase. This modest increase would still put us at less than half the *No Child Left Behind* authorization for FY 2007 of \$2.5 billion,” Grant added. “Quality afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to
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AS KIDS GO HUNGRY, STATES NOT TAPPING FEDERAL ANTI-HUNGER FUNDS

At a time when the worst recession in decades means that millions of families are struggling to put food on the table, summer and afterschool programs that provide nutritious food are not reaching nearly enough children in need. That was the message at a July 8 congressional briefing sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance and the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), which focused on reauthorization of afterschool and summer child nutrition programs.

Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) told the standing-room-only Capitol Hill crowd: “When you look at the number of children in breakfast and lunch programs, and you look at the number of kids in summer feeding programs, you’ll see we have a lot of work to do.” A sponsor of the *AFTERSchool Meals Act*, he urged more work to educate school district staff about the federal funds that are available for afterschool and summer meals programs, in order to enroll more children. Members of Congress “can make a difference in working with mayors and state legislators,” and can serve as conveners in getting other government leaders involved in the process, Senator Brown said.

At the event, FRAC released *Hunger Doesn’t Take a Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report 2009*, which includes state by state data on participation in federal nutrition programs. It finds that just 17 percent of low-income children who receive free and reduced-price school meals participated in summer nutrition programs in July 2008.
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OUTREACH

Helping Youth Take Action

A new breed of Ambassador has come to Lincoln, Nebraska this year – not the kind that travels to foreign capitals carrying national security secrets, but a group of elementary and middle school students determined to make a difference in their communities.

The Youth Afterschool Ambassador program is the brainchild of Dayna Krannawitter, Site Supervisor of the Community Learning Center at Arnold Elementary in Lincoln. Krannawitter is part of the Afterschool Alliance's national Afterschool Ambassador program. In thinking through her *Lights On Afterschool* event last October, Krannawitter came upon the idea of recruiting students to take on a similar advocacy role on behalf of their own afterschool programs. So, 15 separate afterschool sites in Lincoln recruited five youth each – 75 in all – to represent their sites as Youth Afterschool Ambassadors.

The Youth Ambassadors took to the task, spreading out across the community to hand out flyers and stickers promoting their *Lights On Afterschool* event and afterschool in general. A number of Youth Ambassadors also wrote public testimony for the city council in support of afterschool funding, and three of them testified at a meeting of the Lincoln School Board the week of *Lights On Afterschool*.

“We wanted to do something a little different,” Krannawitter reflected seven months later. “Our events were raising awareness, but often among those who were already aware – our students, our families, and so on. We wanted to figure out a way to reach a broader public and, in particular, people who didn't know there were afterschool programs in the community, or who perhaps knew they were there but didn't know that they needed public support. Besides, I've always thought that the most important voice for afterschool was the voice of youth. When kids talk about policy issues that affect them, people listen. And it's great to do something that's so empowering for them.”

Youth Ambassadors at Work

For the 2009-2010 school year, Krannawitter has bigger ambitions for the program and has expanded and restructured it to reflect that. The coming year's class of Youth Ambassadors will serve for the entire year, and will take on two separate advocacy projects. The first will be to promote *Lights On Afterschool 2010* this October, again pressing the message about the need for community support for afterschool programs. Then over the winter and into the spring, Youth Ambassadors will work on a service-learning project that they choose together with others at their programs.

“Our Community Learning Centers are really just that – community hubs, and we try to find ways to keep them tied to the community,” Krannawitter explains. “So the service-learning project is perfect. Kids will make outreach to the neighborhood, and work with local groups. We told them to choose a project that will improve one thing in their neighborhood.”

“The kids have been very enthusiastic about the program so far,” she continues. “I think last year's group really thought it was a lot of fun. It was something they'd never done before, and it was a chance to really dig in and get a feel for how advocacy works, not just for afterschool but for everything. That's such a valuable skill.”

Providing Advocacy Skills

This year's program starts with a training session over the summer for "Lead Ambassadors" – one student from each of the sites. They'll have a series of sessions, starting with team-building exercises, then branching out into how to do effective advocacy. Kranawitter plans to schedule speakers for the training who ought to know about advocacy – state legislators, members of the city council, and others. Then the students will return to their programs in the fall, share what they've learned with their fellow Youth Ambassadors, and begin work on *Lights On Afterschool* and their winter/spring service-learning projects.

Though it's just a few months old, the Youth Afterschool Ambassador program in Lincoln has already earned attention in the community. The program was recently given the Carmel Sheppard Program Award, named for a beloved school principal who passed away recently. "She was very big on youth empowerment," Krannawitter says, "so this is just right."

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

The *Afterschool for All* campaign proudly recognizes the 23,700-plus individuals and organizations that have pledged their support for afterschool. New partners include: the City of Riverton, Wyoming; the Tucson Boys & Girls Club; and the California Teaching Fellows Foundation.

The Afterschool Alliance encourages everyone to fax or mail copies of completed *Afterschool for All* sign-up forms and petitions, in order to ensure that new partners are counted on the national list of *Afterschool for All* partners. Mail *Afterschool for All* forms to Marie Coichy, 1440 Broadway, Floor 16, New York, NY 10018. Forms should be faxed to "*Afterschool for All* forms" at 646/943-8664.

Visit the *Afterschool for All* website to see which new partners have signed up in your state at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/a4a.cfm>. Contact Marie Coichy at mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org or 646/943-8662 for further information.



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 Historical Preservation

The U.S. Department of Education is sponsoring a grant of \$1.94 million, split between two awards, for organizations that create educational and cultural programs around the history of the Underground Railroad. Nonprofit educational organizations are eligible to apply, and their projects must research, display, interpret, and collect artifacts related to the Underground Railroad. The deadline is July 30. *For more information, visit <http://www.ed.gov/programs/ugroundrr/index.html>.*

Grants for Literacy Programs

Build-a-Bear Workshop Foundation is sponsoring grants of up to \$10,000 for programs promoting childhood literacy and education, such as summer reading programs, early childhood education programs, and literacy programs for children with special needs. The deadline is August 21. *For more information, visit <http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/2009Literacy.pdf>.*

Grants for Summer Meal Programs

Share Our Strength's Great American Bake Sale is sponsoring grants of up to \$10,000 for organizations that work to provide afterschool or summer meal services to children, particularly through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's reimbursement program. Programs that directly sponsor meal services and organizations that aim to increase participation are eligible. The deadline is September 30. *For more information, visit <http://www.greatamericanbakesale.org/grants>.*

Grants for Garden and Nutrition Programs

The National Gardening Association and Gardener's Supply Company are sponsoring the Healthy Sprouts Awards for garden programs that address nutrition and hunger in the United States. Twenty schools or organizations will receive gardening and educational supplies, and Gardener's Supply Company gift certificates to purchase additional materials. The deadline is October 17. *For more information, visit <http://kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts.asp>*



BILL WOULD SUPPORT RURAL AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Senators Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and Mark Begich (D-AK) and Representatives Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO) and Phil Hare (D-IL) introduced legislation on June 17 to support afterschool programs in rural communities. The *Investment in Afterschool Programs Act* calls for a pilot program to establish or improve rural afterschool programs. It would grant \$25,000 or more to programs to invest in projects or activities needed to create or strengthen rural afterschool programs. Funds could be used for expenses such as: transportation, professional development and training, access to technology, staffing and planning grants, among other things.

In Arkansas, more than 233,000 children live in rural areas. “Unfortunately, many children in Arkansas and other rural areas across the country face a number of barriers to quality afterschool programs: high poverty and food insecurity rates, transportation challenges due to geographic isolation, a shortage of financial resources and private partners, and difficulty recruiting and retaining staff,” Senator Lincoln said. “With this legislation, high-quality, affordable rural afterschool programs will be available to more children who desperately need them.”

In a national survey, the Afterschool Alliance found that 83 percent of rural afterschool programs say children in their communities need afterschool care and are unable to access it. “Uncertain Times 2009: Recession Imperiling Afterschool Programs and the Children They Serve” found that about half of rural programs have had a loss in funding due to the recession, and 89 percent expect it to impact their budget for the coming school year. Nearly all respondents (95 percent) say the recession is affecting their communities, and 46 percent said their budgets are inadequate to meet the needs of students and families.

“We will work hard to convince Congress to pass this bill this year,” Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant said. “Quality afterschool programs provide students with academic, social and professional skills as well as a range of social services that students and families urgently need. But afterschool programs cannot serve all the children who need them when they are badly underfunded. This legislation would make it possible for afterschool programs in rural communities to serve more children and families. Even in these tough economic times when there’s tremendous pressure for resources, we have to find a way to do better.”

To view the survey, including national and state-by-state findings, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/UncertainTimes2009.cfm>. To read the *Investment in Afterschool Programs Act*, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policyFederalRuralBill.cfm>.



AFTERSCHOOLERS PREPARE THE PRESIDENT’S LUNCH

A group of nearly 20 high school students joined the White House kitchen staff in preparing meals for official events, including the recent White House/Congressional picnic and the Independence Day celebration. The students are all recent graduates of Brainfood, a Washington, D.C.-based afterschool program that teaches life skills through cooking. It was the first-ever invitation to students to work in the White House kitchen.

Students made strawberry tiramisu and chocolates topped with gold leaf for the congressional picnic. While shucking corn and washing potatoes, they learned from White House chefs what it takes to cook in the White House kitchen. The students also played with Bo, the Obama family dog,

planted tomatoes in the garden, and made a salad for President Obama’s lunch.

Brainfood described the experience as “transformative.” *To learn more about Brainfood, visit <http://www.brain-food.org/>. To read a blog post from the Washington Post about the students’ experience, visit <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/all-we-can-eat/food-politics/white-house-kitchen-welcomes-b.html>.*



MAYORS SUPPORT AFTERSCHOOL

Mayors from across the country pledged their support for afterschool programs in June, passing a resolution at the 2009 U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting that recognizes the benefits of afterschool programs and calls for coordinated efforts to ensure that all children have access to city-wide programs.

“The United States Conference of Mayors calls for federal, state and local levels of government to invest in coordinated full day learning strategies that incorporate academic, social, emotional and physical activities to ensure the well- rounded and healthy development of youth by working with education administrators and local education agencies to integrate community afterschool programs and organizations into the school day,” reads the resolution.

The mayors also resolved to fund “opportunities for building city-wide afterschool initiatives so all K-12 students can learn from aligned afterschool experiences” and to provide “support and incentives for professional development training for school and afterschool staff and paraprofessionals,” among other things.

The resolution was sponsored by Providence Mayor David Cicilline, along with Baltimore Mayor Shelia Dixon and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom. *To view*

the full text of the resolution, go to http://usmayors.org/resolutions/77th_conference/AdoptedResolutions.pdf, and scroll down to page 12.



SUMMER OF SERVICE

Afterschool programs are invited to take part in the Summer of Service 2009, as part of President Obama’s call for Americans to give back to their communities. From June 22 to September 11, service projects across the country will focus on education, health care, energy and the environment, community renewal, supporting veterans and military families, and preparing for disasters.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal entity that runs AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America, is asking afterschool and summer programs to launch their own projects as part of the initiative. Youth can help improve their communities by starting new projects, furthering existing initiatives, uniting organizations for a day-, week- or month-long project, or creating resource “toolkits” to help other organizations.

Projects should be registered on Serve.gov. The website can also be used to look up local projects and recruit volunteers. The Corporation will also highlight several projects, and asks participants to send success stories to its outreach coordinator, Naoko Kudo, at nkudo@cns.gov.

To learn more about the Summer of Service, register your service project or recruit volunteers, visit <http://www.serve.gov>. For more information about the Corporation for National and Community Service, visit <http://www.nationalservice.gov>.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

Afterschool programs “will have longer waiting lists, many children will be left out, and jobs will be at risk in communities where parents can't afford to pay.”

-- Lucy Friedman, President, The After-School Corporation, in a *USA Today* story about the Afterschool Alliance's survey of afterschool programs, July 15, 2009 [Read the *USA Today* story at

http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2009-07-15-after-school_N.htm]

“The cuts to summer programs are just a harbinger of what will come this fall when schools reopen but some of the afterschool programs students and families count on cannot... In a recent survey of 1,500 afterschool program leaders, most say they're seeing more hungry kids and distressed families. Yet despite this growing need, financing is down for most and down a lot for one-third. In response, programs are raising fees, reducing the number of children they serve or even closing their doors...”

-- Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance, *New York Times*, Letter-to-the-Editor, July 8, 2009

“I prosecute criminals and get them off the street. But arresting and prosecuting are only half the battle; the other half is preventing crime. I have worked with other law enforcement leaders for years to educate the Illinois General Assembly about what the state can do to ensure long-term public safety. Great strides were made. Now, all of these programs, build strategically over many years of effort, may be dismantled... By eliminating the only state-funded afterschool program, we are turning our backs on teens who have no safe, supervised place to go...”

-- Robert B. Haida, St. Clair County (Illinois) State's Attorney, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Letter-to-the-Editor, June 24, 2009

**IN THE NEWS...**

National – Five states were awarded grants of \$50,000 to expand afterschool programs, summer learning opportunities, and extended day and year programs, as part of the Supporting Student Success: The Promise of Expanded Learning Opportunities initiative. Education leaders in Maine, Minnesota, New York, Oregon and Wisconsin will use the funds to carry out their proposed plans with guidance from the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices.

National – Fifteen-year-old Kimberly Anyadike has become the youngest African-American female to fly an aircraft across the country. At every stop of her ten-day trip, Anyadike's plane was autographed by a former Tuskegee Airman fighter pilot. Anyadike was also accompanied by a former Tuskegee Airman on the trip. She learned to fly three years ago as part of an afterschool program at Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum in Compton, California, where students earn flight lessons by doing community service or performing odd jobs at the airport and museum. After her final stop in Newport News, Virginia, Anyadike went to Washington, D.C. to meet Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and actors Lou Gossett Jr. and John Schneider, the *Lynchburg News Advance* reports. To learn more about Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum's afterschool and aviation program, visit <http://www.tamuseum.org>.

Arizona – A Phoenix afterschool ballet program is using tights and tutus to raise reading and math scores. Students from Clarendon and Encanto Elementary Schools and Osborn Middle School learn classical ballet, and read classic plays like *The Nutcracker* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* before seeing them performed. Turning in

homework is required to stay in the program, the *Arizona Republic* reports, and students get study hall help, a snack, and lessons from a nutrition teacher. The Osborn school district reports that students who participated in the ballet program this year increased their reading and math scores by as many as nine points, and 80 to 90 percent improved their grades.

California – San Francisco’s Visitacion Valley Middle School will soon have something unique beside its basketball courts: a driving range. First Tee, the nonprofit program that’s building the driving range, chipping area and putting green, has been teaching local students how to play golf since 2004. Classes at a local golf course were so popular that First Tee has started the afterschool program at the request of students who wanted to further their skills. When construction is complete at the middle school, students will learn golf basics in physical education. The program also teaches etiquette and social skills, like how to shake hands and make introductions on the course, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reports. *To learn more about First Tee, visit www.thefirstteesanfrancisco.org.*

Illinois – Students and staff from the Elgin area Boys & Girls Club joined protesters at the state Capitol to give lawmakers cards and letters that explain how the state’s proposed budget cuts would eliminate their before and afterschool programs. If the budget is passed, the grant that funds the program serving 165 students would be eliminated. “My argument would be that it’s about the future and saving our kids, and if we can’t provide for them, then what is the purpose of being here?,” Boys & Girls Club Area Director Keavy Dixson told the *Chicago Daily Herald*. Governor Pat Quinn has asked the state legislature to consider raising taxes instead of making cuts. *To learn more about the Elgin Boys & Girls Club, visit <http://www.boysandgirlsclubofelgin.org>.*

Louisiana – Young people in New Orleans can now find afterschool and youth-outreach programs with the click of a mouse, thanks to “Mapping New Orleans” – an online, interactive map and resource center launched by the Afterschool Partnership and compiled and managed by the city’s youth. “Before Katrina, people knew what was in this neighborhood,” Gina Ward, Executive Director of the Afterschool Partnership, told the *Times-Picayune*. “After the storm, the need for information was heightened, as well as greater need for places kids could go.” Ninth graders from a Cohen High School geography class collected information for the site in February, and 50 students have since learned to use its mapping tools. This summer, high school students from the Urban League college-track team will continue to develop the site. The goal is to have the entire city mapped by 2010. *To view the map or learn more about Mapping New Orleans, visit <http://neworleans.ilivehere.info>.*

Michigan – Ten new afterschool programs will open in Kalamazoo Public Schools, thanks to a five-year, \$7.5 million 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant. Five elementary schools, all four of the district’s middle schools and one high school will launch programs in the fall that will serve at least 1,000 students a year, the *Kalamazoo Gazette* reports. “The fact that we’ll be in every middle school, that’s huge. That’s the age when kids are hanging in the balance,” Superintendent Michael Rice said. The programs will focus on reading, writing and math, and will reach out to youth with behavior or attendance problems. The high school program will emphasize career preparedness. Three of the new afterschool programs will replace existing programs that are closing because of a loss of state funds.

Texas – A successful gang intervention program in Fort Worth may be cut or eliminated due to shortfalls in the city’s budget. Last year, ‘Comin Up’ reached out to

900 boys and young men in gangs, offering activities after school and mentoring by counselors, many of whom are former gang members. “Forty-three percent [of participants] said they would be on the street or in jail without the program,” said Daphne Barlow, president of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Fort Worth, which runs it. The program offers a GED program, career counseling, and help with family or court issues. The Parks and Community Services Department, which funds ‘Comin Up,’ has also proposed eliminating afterschool programs at all the city’s community centers, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reports.



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learn, and help families. By supporting afterschool, and we hope by increasing 21st CCLC funding, legislators are making a sound investment in children, families and communities across the nation.”

To send a message to Senators or Representatives about afterschool funds in the fiscal year 2010 federal budget, please visit www.afterschoolalliance.org.



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“For every six low-income kids, only one gets a meal during the summer,” FRAC President Jim Weill said in releasing the study.

“Food helps draw kids to high quality educational programs while their parents are at work,” added FRAC’s Director of School and Out-of-School Time Programs, Crystal FitzSimons, who noted that the challenges nutrition programs have with enrollment vary widely by state. Some states reach 30 percent of students, she said, and others fewer than ten percent. “States are missing out on federal money to feed hungry children. [Federal nutrition programs are] a great resource – especially if we look at how cash-

strapped states are. States have missed out on \$250 million combined.”

Among the findings in FRAC’s new study:

- In Missouri, 2008 participation was up five percent over 2007. Still, only one in six eligible children participate.
- In Vermont, 29,000 children received free and reduced-price lunch last year, but only 4,684 of them received free summer meals.
- For every 100 Illinois children receiving free and reduced-price school lunch, only 16 participate in summer nutrition. If the state increased participation to 40 percent, it would receive \$10 million in federal child nutrition funds.

“We need to make sure that afterschool programs and summer programs have the core funding they need to be able to provide the snacks and meals these children need,” said Jen Rinehart, Afterschool Alliance Vice President, Policy & Research.

Several afterschool program leaders addressed potential challenges to enrollment, and explained how they have successfully incorporated snack and meal opportunities into their programs. John Border, Community Education Manager for the Davenport Community School District in Iowa and an Afterschool Ambassador, said hunger is widespread and is becoming a problem for middle income families in his community.

“We rely heavily on our relationship with the Food and Nutrition Services Department,” Border said, adding that community partnerships are key to establishing successful meal programs. Border also called the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative a “vital resource” for his afterschool programs.

“Afterschool funding is woefully inadequate for the kinds of services the children need,” said Christie Hodgkins,

Program Director for CAMBA, an afterschool program in Brooklyn, New York.

FRAC's policy recommendations include ensuring that 21st CCLC programs can tap into summer food program funding. The *AFTERSchool Meal Act* would expand the afterschool supper program to all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The briefing was held in conjunction with the Senate Hunger Caucus and the House and Senate Afterschool Caucuses.

To view *Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report 2009*, visit http://www.frac.org/pdf/summer_report_2009.pdf.

More information on the AFTERSchool Meals Act and Child Nutrition Reauthorization is available on *Afterschool Snack*, the Afterschool Alliance's new blog, at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolsnack/ASnack.cfm?idBlog=36DE147B-1E0B-E803-CA45F3828EEE02B5>.



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 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>.

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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