



## FEDERAL BUDGET UNDER WRAPS, BUT TROUBLING INDICATIONS OF CUTS TO AFTERSCHOOL

As congressional leaders and Obama Administration officials – including the President himself – worked well into the night on Friday, April 8 to negotiate a budget for the remaining months in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, lawmakers made deals and agreed to billions of dollars in cuts.

But now, three weeks later, many of those cuts are not yet public.

The Department of Education has not yet released a full plan for how it will spend its budget for the period from now till September 30, but details are beginning to emerge and there are troubling indications of cuts to federal line items that afterschool programs – and the children and families they serve – rely on.

As part of the late-night April 8<sup>th</sup> agreement that averted a government shutdown, lawmakers agreed to a 0.2 percent across-the-board cut to all non-defense-related federal spending. That will affect 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC), and other programs that support afterschool and education programs.

Beyond that, federal agencies have discretion as to how to spend the funding allocated to them. Each agency must submit a spending plan to Congress within 30 days of when the Continuing Resolution for the remainder of FY2011 was enacted, and those 30 days will not end until early- to mid-May.

The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC – the chief federal funding stream supporting before school, afterschool  
*Budget continued on page seven...*

## JOIN THE *CHALLENGE*, HELP EXPAND STEM AFTER SCHOOL

On May 16 and 17, afterschool supporters from across the country will come to Washington, D.C. for a series of events, plenary sessions and workshops – and to hold face to face meetings with their legislators. These meetings come at a key moment, as lawmakers are in the midst of a contentious battle over the Fiscal Year 2012 federal budget. This event is part of the [Afterschool for All Challenge](#), and [registration](#) is open until May 6<sup>th</sup>.

“Year after year, the *Afterschool for All Challenge* has been the premier venue for students, parents, providers, community leaders and others to meet with their lawmakers on Capitol Hill and share their experiences about afterschool. People from all over the country have powerful stories to share about the benefits afterschool programs offer. Every story matters. The power of these personal exchanges has helped win countless congressional supporters for afterschool programs,” said Afterschool *Challenge continued on page eight...*

### SEND YOUR ARTWORK TODAY!

The Afterschool Alliance’s [Lights On Afterschool poster contest](#) is underway – don’t miss out! Students in afterschool programs are invited to submit [artwork](#) for consideration. The winning image will be printed on 70,000 posters sent to afterschool programs from coast to coast to use at their *Lights On Afterschool* celebrations. The image will also be featured on our *Lights On Afterschool* website. The deadline has been extended to June 30. *For more information, click [here](#).*

## **OUTREACH**

### **How to Meet with the Governor**

Early this year, [Afterschool Ambassador](#) Bill Stover of the Windham Public School District in Willimantic, Connecticut, followed a carefully crafted strategy to win support for afterschool programs from his newly elected governor. After locking in an initial meeting, Stover now boasts an established relationship with the governor's office, and keeps in touch regularly. Here's how he did it, and how you can too:

#### **The First Step**

Governor Dannel Malloy began his term in office only a few months ago. To establish a relationship, Stover sent Governor Malloy a letter in early February congratulating him on his election. The letter included a request to meet with the governor so that Stover and his colleagues could deliver cards made for him by students in the program. Though scheduling conflicts prevented a meeting during the Connecticut Afterschool Network's advocacy day at the capital, Stover stayed in contact with the governor's scheduler and, after numerous exchanges was able to set a date.

#### **Preparing for a Meeting**

Stover prepared for his meeting by gathering information on the [benefits of afterschool](#) from the Afterschool Alliance's website, and notes that he found the [state-specific fact sheets](#) very helpful. He and his colleagues also gathered information about their program and prepared a packet to leave behind with the governor after their meeting.

Armed with powerful data on afterschool, the advocates were also prepared to ask the governor to participate in and support local activities. They decided to invite him to an upcoming parents' night and crafted an official invitation to the program's advocacy day.

#### **Chatting with the Governor**

At the meeting, Stover and two of his colleagues presented Governor Malloy with the congratulatory cards made by the children.

They were pleased to hear the governor explain that he understands the value of afterschool and is a supporter.

"While we had the chance, we asked him to please not cut the state grant for afterschool funding from the budget," Stover says. "We told him we know how strapped state budgets are, but kids and parents need these programs now more than ever."

After the meeting ended, Stover took photos of the group with the governor and promised to keep in touch.

#### **The Payoff**

"The rewards of establishing connections like these are great," Stover says. After the meeting, he wrote an article for the local newspaper and submitted it along with the photos he has taken. After a couple of weeks passed without the newspaper running the article, Stover persevered, contacting

them to ask again. Shortly thereafter, the newspaper published one of the photos with a longer caption describing the meeting.

“There’s a tremendous value in all of this,” Stover explains. “It all adds up. We can now use this article in the paper with parents, legislators, funders and other stakeholders to demonstrate the value of our program and the support it receives. Getting the support of lawmakers and getting in the press creates a momentum that builds off each other and is a huge benefit for the program in terms of visibility.”

Stover keeps in touch with the governor’s office every six weeks or so, just to remain on their radar screen, and to keep key staff members informed about the program’s latest accomplishments. He plans to be in touch before his trip to the [Afterschool for All Challenge](#) in Washington D.C., to let Governor Malloy know that he’ll be making the case for afterschool funding with federal lawmakers.

“Providers have little free time to do much else, but networking with lawmakers, establishing relationships and maintaining them is so important,” Stover says. “Making an effort to get these accomplishments in the local news provides a huge payoff to the program. It’s hard to balance it all, but when it happens, it’s huge.”

\*\* Governor Malloy, as well as Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, both recently joined *Afterschool for All*. They are now among the thousands of *Afterschool for All* partners including governors, mayors, police chiefs, parents, educators, universities and major national organizations that support the vision that all children and youth deserve access to quality, affordable afterschool programs. *To see a full list of partners and to learn more about this campaign, click [here](#).*



## **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, click [here](#).*

## **GRANTS/AWARDS AVAILABLE**

### **Grants for Financial Literacy Education**

Net Literacy, chaired by [Afterschool Ambassador](#) Don Kent, is sponsoring scholarships of up to \$5,000 for students or high school graduates who create videos or games that teach financial literacy. Participants may choose from 28 financial topics to use as the basis for a short, informative video or game. Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis through December 31, 2011. *For more information and to see examples of winning videos, click [here](#).*



## IN HIS OWN WORDS...

### Voices from the Afterschool Storybook...

“Working together, the program and the school have been able to more effectively support the students and the community than either could by itself. Part of what makes all of our work possible is having great partners throughout the school department. From the principal of Memorial to the District’s After School Coordinator to the Superintendent of Schools, the staff in Fitchburg work with us to help make it easy for us to participate in a great program that we hope makes the lives of children in the school system a little bit better.”

--Marc Dohan, Fitchburg, Massachusetts

*To read Dohan’s story, and read more afterschool voices from across the country, [click here](#). Share your story [here](#).*



## IN THE NEWS...

**Hawaii** – Students in the Rural Youth Crime Prevention Program at the YMCA of Honolulu completed a ropes course last month, walking 42 feet above the ground at Camp Erdman. The program serves “gap kids,” who fall between honor roll students and those who need treatment, the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* reports, keeping youth engaged with mentors and offering positive activities to prevent them from becoming involved with juvenile crime. U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye recently met with youth and staff to discuss alternative funding for the program, since federal funds that support the program will end on September 30.

**Missouri** – For the second year in a row, afterschool students at Camdenton High School have made it to the world championship of robotics. The Camdenton

LASER team qualified for the final round of the [FIRST robotics competition](#) with a robot that picks up inflated inner tubes and hangs them on pegs more than 9 feet off the floor, the *Lake News* reports. Teams from 61 countries will meet in St. Louis this month for the championship. [Afterschool Ambassador](#) Sherry Comer is the Camdenton Afterschool Services Director.

**New Hampshire** – A wait list is evidence of the growing popularity of an afterschool quilting class at Ossippe Central School. The School’s Out! class, now in its eighth year, teaches students the basics of quilting. Students work on projects like pajama pants, pillowcases, fleece hats for the homeless or quilts for families of accident victims, the *Union Leader* reports. “The kids get so much out of it,” program director Jen Berkowitz said. “Learning to be patient, using mathematics to fit the blocks and triangles, to the geometry involved in putting it all together. And there are lessons in self-discipline, listening and working together.”

**New York** – Budding zoologists are getting up close and personal with the animals at the Bronx Zoo, thanks to an innovative afterschool and college prep program run by the Bronx Institute at Lehman College. Teenagers from around the area have been shadowing zoo employees three times a week since November as part of the Wildlife Career Discovery Program, learning about conservation, biology, animal care, and zoo design. This spring the teens will serve as guides to zoo visitors, before working more closely with animal handlers over the summer and interning in a zoo department of their choice in the fall, the *Daily News* reports. *Learn more about the Wildlife Career Discovery Program [here](#).*

**South Dakota** – Seventy-two high school athletes in Sioux Falls are making trips to afterschool programs in the area to talk about how sending messages via social media can

hurt others. The athletes are part of the 4-H Athletes of Character program, and have so far talked to more than 12,000 students in 32 eastern South Dakota communities, the *Argus Leader* reports. Students are chosen for the leadership program based on academic performance, athleticism and good character. Last month they visited the Edison YMCA afterschool program, sharing their message about the impact of social media. “If you’re not willing to say something to someone’s face, it’s better left unsaid,” high school junior Anja Cucak told the students.



## NOMINATE AN INNOVATIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM TODAY!

The Afterschool Alliance and MetLife Foundation are partnering again to develop and disseminate a series of Issue Briefs that address topics related to middle school youth and afterschool programs. [Nominate a program](#) by May 31 for a chance to receive a MetLife Foundation Afterschool Innovator Award and be highlighted in one of the Alliance’s [Issue Briefs](#).

Awardees and other notable nominees will be recognized in the related Issue Brief and in the final compendium. Winners will be notified this summer, and awards will be given out by the Afterschool Alliance in conjunction with the 2011 [Lights On Afterschool](#). Each of the five recipients will receive an award of \$10,000 to be used to continue or improve upon the highlighted program.

*Learn more about the kinds of programs we need your help finding [here](#).*



## BIKING FOR LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL

The [Capital Criterium](#) (CapCrit), a professional cycling race in Washington, D.C., will officially kick-off the Afterschool Alliance’s 12<sup>th</sup> annual [Lights on Afterschool](#) celebration this fall. The annual race, which will be held on October 2, features four separate children’s events that promote kids’ cycling safety. Last year, one million Americans celebrated *Lights on Afterschool* at more than 7,000 events across the country. *Learn more [here](#).*



## RESOURCE

The [Out-of-School Time Resource Center](#) at the University of Pennsylvania offers several web-based resources for afterschool practitioners. The document library, which has been recently updated, contains hundreds of articles, reports and more, sorted by category and content area. Also recently updated is a list of useful websites, which provide information on funding opportunities and contact information for local, statewide and national organizations. *For more information, click [here](#).*



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT AT AFTERSCHOOL SNACK!

“I had the pleasure of serving as a [judge at the FIRST Robotics Championships](#) (FRC) regional competition in Washington, D.C. last week... I saw hundreds of high school students from all over the country excited about engineering and building robots, but also learning first-hand how creative and collaborative a process engineering and scientific work really are...” – Anita Krishnamurthi



Hungry for the latest news on afterschool? Be sure to check out [Afterschool Snack](#), the Afterschool Alliance's up-to-the-minute blog on afterschool news, trends and information from across the country. Recent posts include:

- [Afterschool Programs Find a New Ally](#)
- [What's in Store at the Afterschool for All Challenge](#)
- [Addressing the Unique Challenges of Afterschool in Rural Areas](#)
- [Building a FIRST Generation of Scientists](#)
- [A Sea of Budget Cuts Challenge Afterschool Support at the State Level](#)

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 [here](#).



*Budget continued from page one...*

and summer learning programs – was not mentioned by name in the FY2011 spending bill. Two other education funding streams that support afterschool programs are in the same situation: GEAR UP and TRIO.

“We have conflicting information about the Department’s plans for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC spending,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “There are reports that funding for the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative will be reduced by \$10 million, in addition to the 0.2 percent across-the-board cut. If true, that would result in a cut of approximately \$12.3 million. But we do not have confirmation, and the Department of Education recently signaled that we are unlikely to see final budget numbers until mid-May.”

“The House of Representatives had passed a \$100 million cut to 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC as part of H.R. 1, so we are watching closely, and

intend to work with the afterschool community to register disapproval over any cuts to afterschool spending. At a time when the economy is starting to recover and more parents are beginning to find jobs, our children urgently need safe, supervised activities after the school day ends,” Grant added. “We are urging lawmakers to remember that afterschool spending saves money and strengthens our workforce and our nation.”

Some programs are explicitly mentioned in the FY2011 spending bill. The Child Care Development Fund, which includes funds for school-age child care, will be funded at approximately \$2.2227 billion – a \$100 million increase over FY2010 levels. Three of the Administration’s priorities were also mentioned and received increases: Promise Neighborhoods was funded at \$30 million, which is an increase of \$20 million; Race to the Top was funded at \$700 million; and Invest in Innovation (i3) was funded at \$150 million.

In addition, at the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Americorps program is slated for a cut of \$23 million, with Learn and Serve slated for elimination. The Justice Department will have to cut Juvenile Justice programs by \$148 million.

At the same time that FY2011 spending levels are being revealed, Congress is working on a budget for FY2012, which begins on October 1, 2011. “We need afterschool supporters to speak out now more than ever,” Grant said. “The future of our programs is on the line.”

*Stay up-to-date on federal policy news, and send a message to your senators and representative in Congress [here](#).*



*Challenge continued from page one...*

Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant.

“This year, with lawmakers making critical decisions about what programs to cut going forward, it is more important than ever that we let them know that afterschool programs are a wise and crucial investment.”

The theme of this year’s conference is Expanding [STEM](#) (science, technology, engineering and math) After School. The [Challenge includes](#) a special, invitation-only “STEM in Afterschool” convening, as well as the usual training workshops, briefings and networking opportunities, covering a range of topics from budget cuts to STEM opportunities. Speakers will include: Robin Schepper of First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! Initiative; recipients of MetLife Afterschool Innovator Awards; and Kumar Garg, Policy Analyst, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President.

The signature “Breakfast of Champions” will feature Segway inventor and FIRST Robotics founder Dean Kamen, who will be recognized for his efforts to promote science and engineering through afterschool programs.

“Throughout the year we have been celebrating the special relationship between STEM activities and afterschool enrichment as we celebrate the [Year of Science in Afterschool](#),” Grant added. “We are delighted to bring afterschool STEM learning into focus in our nation’s capital, and share this information with legislators, supporters, providers, parents and students.”

As in previous years, students traveling to the *Challenge* will have the opportunity to participate in a special Youth Advocacy Forum, an all-day gathering exclusively for youth. They will get a “behind the scenes” introduction to Capitol Hill, share perspectives on afterschool, prepare for their congressional meetings, and participate in a special interactive digital media training led by Change Agent Productions, which will show how digital media techniques can

empower youth to advocate for afterschool programs in their communities.

The 2011 *Afterschool for All Challenge* is sponsored by: United States Tennis Association, Open Society Foundations, Cable in the Classroom, National AfterSchool Association, Clever Crazes for Kids, and Arnold and Sandra Grant. Additional funding is provided by the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, Time Warner Cable, Noyce Foundation and jcpenny.

*To learn more about the Afterschool for All Challenge, and to register, click [here](#).*



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

### **May 16 – 17, 2011**

The Afterschool Alliance will host the 10<sup>th</sup> annual *Afterschool for All Challenge* in Washington, D.C. The annual event brings together afterschool leaders, advocates, educators, and local and state officials to discuss the hottest issues in afterschool, meet with Members of Congress and celebrate afterschool accomplishments. *For more information, an agenda, list of speakers and more, click [here](#).*

### **July 11 – 14, 2011**

The National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOST) will host a summer seminar series for afterschool professionals in Boston. Topics include preparing the next generation of out-of-school time leaders, using the Afterschool Program Assessment System, training staff, and assisting with quality improvement. *For more information, click [here](#).*



**✍ July 25 – 27, 2011**

The U.S. Department of Education will hold the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Summer Institute at the Gaylord National Hotel & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD, from Tuesday, July 26, 2011 to Wednesday, July 27, 2011. There will be a preconference session for SEA Coordinators and Project Directors on Monday, July 25, 2011. This year's theme is "A Network of Partners Supporting Increased Learning in 21st CCLC Programs." The Institute will include more than 100 interactive breakout sessions. *For a full agenda, registration information and more, click [here](#).*



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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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