

Afterschool Advocate

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BUSH RECOMMENDS NO INCREASE FOR FEDERAL AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM NEXT YEAR

On February 2, President Bush presented a budget to Congress that calls for level funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) in Fiscal Year 2005, rather than the increase that was authorized by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). The President's education budget proposal also includes increases for IDEA and Title I, and deep cuts or the elimination of more than 60 other programs.

"We are heartened that the President has heard the strong public and congressional support for afterschool and has abandoned last year's effort to gut the program," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Judy Y. Samelson. "But flatlining funding at \$1 billion for the fourth consecutive year will deny millions of American children safe, supervised environments in which they can grow and discover a passion for learning. It will force millions of working parents to worry about their children each afternoon. And it will cause some parents to leave the workforce because they cannot find or afford adequate care for their children."

The President's recommendation for FY 2005 funding falls critically short of the promise made in NCLB, Samelson said. NCLB authorized \$2 billion in federal funds for 21st CCLC in Fiscal Year 2005. The President recommended an appropriation of just half that.

Congressional Support for Afterschool

In December, all 14 women in the United States Senate sent a joint letter to the President urging him to increase funding for the 21st CCLC program.

Sixty Democratic members of the House of Representatives signed a similar letter urging the President to provide full funding for the program in FY 2005. In the end, however, he did not.

Other Educational Funding Programs

While many programs are flatlined or cut, the Administration's budget calls for increases to several educational programs. These increases include:

- Under the Administration's FY 2005 budget, Title I receives a \$1 billion increase and, within the program, there is an opportunity for afterschool programs to receive funding for supplemental services.
- The mentoring program within the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools receives an additional \$50 million.
- The Food and Nutrition Service's School Breakfast Program under the Department of Agriculture receives a \$74 million increase.
- The Corporation for National and Community Service receives a nine percent increase to \$1.018 billion for FY 2005. The budget would support 600,000 senior volunteers, 75,000 AmeriCorps members, and more than 1.5 million youth in service-learning activities.

Proposed Cuts

The President’s proposed FY 2005 budget proposes a total of \$1.4 billion in cuts for existing programs. Among the programs the President proposes to zero out are:

- Alcohol Abuse Reduction
- Arts in Education
- Community Technology Centers
- Drop-Out Prevention
- Elementary and Secondary School Counseling
- Excellence in Economic Education
- Foreign Language Assistance
- Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership
- Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers
- National Writing Project
- Parental Information and Resource Centers
- Recreational Programs
- Regional Educational Laboratories
- School Leadership
- Smaller Learning Communities
- State Grants for Incarcerated Youth Offenders/Literacy Programs for Prisoners
- Women’s Educational Equity

In addition, the President proposed cuts to numerous programs administered by other federal agencies that support afterschool. These include a proposed cut of \$147 million to Community Services Block Grants, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. From the U.S. Department of Justice, the President recommended cutting \$135 million from Community Policing Development Initiatives and zeroing out the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants, Local Law Enforcement Block Grants and the Byrne Formula Grant Program. Bush also recommended no funding for Youth Opportunity Grants, which are administered by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Language on Afterschool From The President’s Fiscal Year 2005 Proposed Budget Summary

<http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget05/summary/edlite-section2a.html#clcs>

21st Century Community Learning Centers

Request	2003	2004	2005
Budget Allocation in millions	\$993.5	\$999.1	\$999.1

This program helps communities establish or expand community learning centers that provide extended learning opportunities for students and related services to their families. The request provides an estimated 1,800 grants that support nearly 7,000 afterschool centers, and technical assistance informed by the initial findings of a rigorous evaluation showing that the centers funded in the program’s first 3 years, on average, had little effect on participants’ academic performance, feelings of safety, and behavior. These findings showed that past investments in the program have not paid off. At the same time, however, the findings, which were released shortly after the program made the transition from Federal competitive grants to a State-administered competitive grant program in 2002, provided a timely focus for the new State-supported programs. The request recognizes that the new grantees funded by States need some time to achieve better outcomes for students, and that national evaluation and technical assistance activities can play a key role in successful implementation. Current national activities include developing model afterschool programs in reading and mathematics based on sound theory and scientific evidence and rigorously testing their effectiveness, improving the availability of research-based practices, and expanding technical assistance at both the State and local levels that focuses

on increasing the academic achievement of participants in funded programs.

From their formula grants, States make competitive awards of at least \$50,000 to school districts, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and other public or private entities for projects that primarily serve students attending high-poverty schools. States give priority to projects serving students who attend schools identified for improvement or corrective action under Title I, and projects emphasize activities that prepare students to meet State and local student performance standards in core academic subjects. The request would enable districts to provide afterschool learning opportunities—particularly for children who attend high-poverty or low-performing schools—to more than 1.3 million students.



CONGRESS APPROVES NEARLY \$1 BILLION FOR 21ST CCLC PROGRAM FOR FY 2004

On January 22nd, the U.S. Senate voted 65 to 28 to approve the Fiscal Year 2004 omnibus spending package, which includes funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative. Technically, 21st CCLC received a slight increase, of \$5 million, over Fiscal Year 2003, but a small across-the-board cut was applied to all programs, putting funding for 21st CCLC at slightly less than \$1 billion.

President Bush had recommended a 40 percent cut in the 21st CCLC budget, but Congress rejected the cut. Completion of the Fiscal Year 2004 budget had been delayed for many months while Congress struggled to reach agreement on several contentious appropriations.



IN THE NEWS...

National – On February 4, Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (D-CA) introduced “The Balancing Act” — comprehensive legislation designed to help working families. It includes provisions to: provide paid leave so workers can care for newborns, attend school events and address family emergencies; and improve the quality and availability of child care, in-school nutrition and afterschool programs. “If we can even think about sending a man to Mars, we can give families the tools they need to be both responsible parents and responsible employees,” Woolsey said.

National – Voters see education as the top federal budgetary priority, and almost two-thirds say the federal government should be spending more on the nation’s schools, finds a recent National Education Association (NEA) poll. “Most Americans fully support the goals of the law [No Child Left Behind Act],” said NEA President Reg Weaver. “But growing numbers believe the law’s rigid, one-size-fits-all provisions are preventing teachers and other educators from giving every child the individualized attention he or she needs to do well. We know what it takes to do the job – smaller class sizes, quality teachers, parental involvement, effective preschool and afterschool programs, and up-to-date textbooks and technology. But the federal government must provide the necessary flexibility and resources.” For more information on the poll and the National Education Association, visit www.nea.org.

National – Latinos support some of the key principles of the No Child Left Behind Act, but they are more likely than whites to want to improve failing schools and require students to attend, rather than let parents move their children to different schools. Those are among the findings of a survey on Latino attitudes about education released in late January by the Pew Hispanic Center and the Kaiser Family Foundation. Copies of the

report are available on the Pew Hispanic Center (www.pewhispanic.org) and Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation (www.kff.org) web sites.

California – A large mural with 34 student self-portraits and poetry was on display at the San Jose cultural affairs office during the first three weeks of January, reports the *San Jose Mercury News*. Fourth and fifth grade students attending Hester Elementary School’s afterschool program created the painting during a mural-making class taught by artist Francisco Graciano of Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americano.

Colorado – On February 4, the Denver Public School (DPS) Foundation, Mile High United Way and Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper awarded \$375,000 to 60 local afterschool programs. Funding for these grants was supported by Mile High United Way, proceeds from the mayoral inauguration, corporate donor Lockheed Martin and individual donors. Last fall, Mile High United Way and the DPS Foundation formed a new partnership aimed at expanding the availability of afterschool programs for elementary and middle school students in the Denver public schools.

Missouri – A mural created by students from the Friendship Village afterschool program in Kansas City was awarded the People to People International’s Global Youth Murals prize for its depiction of friendship and “peace through understanding.” The three other winning murals were created by students in Pakistan, Poland and Egypt. For more information about People to People International, visit www.ptpi.org.

New Mexico – In an effort to curtail the high incidence of drug abuse in northern New Mexico, the Visionary Collaborative to Provide a Healthy Community Environment recommended that the state government invest in afterschool programs for students

and health education for prisoners, reports *Drug Week*. The Collaborative presented its findings and recommendations to Governor Bill Richardson in December. For a full copy of the report, visit www.nmcares.org.

New York – Thanks to a large donation from Scholastic, the global children’s publishing and media company, The After-School Corporation received 40,000 books for students at 150 afterschool programs in New York City. “Scholastic’s mission is to ensure that every child has access to wonderful books. We are thrilled to make this donation to The After-School Corporation to help put books in the hands of thousands of children across New York City,” said Karen Proctor, Vice President, Community Affairs and Government Relations, Scholastic.

Tennessee – Ninety students from two Hamilton County elementary schools will participate in a 12-week nutrition pilot program at their afterschool site, reports the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*. The program to combat obesity is funded by BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee and includes calculations of the students’ body mass index, nutrition lessons, exercise and classes for parents.

Texas – In gratitude to the host Super Bowl city, the National Football League (NFL) is donating up to \$2 million to Houston for two Youth Education Town centers, reports the *Houston Chronicle*. The centers will be located at Finnegan Park and James Driver Park and will be operated by the Boys and Girls Clubs. In addition, the NFL sponsored a Sports Equipment and Book Donation Project, collecting sporting goods and books from 21 Houston-area schools. All donations will be distributed to local Boys and Girls Clubs in the Greater Houston area.



Receiving the *Afterschool Advocate* via email

We would prefer to send you the *Afterschool Advocate* via email so that you can receive it in a more timely manner. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please contact editor Ridgely Benjamin via email (afterschooladvocate@prsolutionsdc.com) or fax (202/371-9142). She will need your name, organization, phone and fax number, and email address. Thank you!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 15 – 18

FOUNDATIONS, Inc. will host its Beyond School Hours VII conference in San Diego, California from February 15 to 18. Through speakers, institutes, sessions and exhibitors, participants will find out about successful, content-rich, extended-day program models; network with community, school, university and government leaders; make connections with faith-based organizations; discuss No Child Left Behind and other current policies and practices that impact programming; and more. For more information, call 888-977-KIDS (5437) or visit www.foundationsinc.org.

February 26 – 28

The National School-Age Care Alliance will host its 16th Annual Conference in Tampa, Florida from February 26 to 28. More than 3,000 afterschool professionals will participate in a broad array of programs, sessions and events. For more information, go to www.nsacaconference.com.

March 11 – 12

The Kansas Community Education Association (KSCEA) will host its 3rd Annual

Conference, “Making Life Easier- Connecting Youth With Your Community Through Youth Development” on March 11 and 12 in Wichita, Kansas. Featured speakers will be Alexa Pochowski, Assistant Commissioner of Education in Kansas, and Alicia Wilson-Ahlstrom, Program Associate for the Forum on Youth Development in Washington, DC. Other speakers will address various topics in youth development such as management and professional development, programming, health and wellness, policy and advocacy, and communities and families. For more information about the conference, please contact President Elect Tonya Phillips at 785/986-6286 or visit the KSCEA web site at www.kscea.org.

March 18 - 19

The Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University will host its 2004 National Conference from March 18 to 19 at the Inner Harbor of Baltimore, Maryland. The theme of the conference is “Summer Learning for All: Programs, Policy, and Research.” Participants will include summer program providers, researchers, teachers, informal educators, youth development professionals and policy makers interested in improving the quality and quantity of summer learning opportunities for all young people. Conference registration materials are available online at www.summerlearning.org/about/conference.html.

April 4 – July 25

The Great American Bake Sale,[™] sponsored by PARADE Magazine and Share Our Strength, is a groundbreaking program to end child hunger in America. The nationwide bake sale runs from April 4 through July 25. Funds raised will translate into grants to anti-hunger organizations at the state, local and national levels. Each registered participant will receive a Great American Bake Sale Kit with a poster, tips, recipes, and iron-on decals. For more information, visit

www.greatamericanbakesale.org or call 800-761-4227.

 **May 19 - 20**

The Afterschool Alliance will convene its third annual **Afterschool Challenge** event in Washington, DC from May 19 to 20. Advocates, parents, youth, educators and program leaders and staff are encouraged to participate in this event, which will include a “Breakfast of Champions” honoring afterschool program providers from around the nation on the morning of the 20th. Following the breakfast, providers and advocates will fan out across Capitol Hill for a series of meetings with their elected representatives. For more information and the latest details, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY UPDATE

Federal Notices:

Carol M. White Physical Education Program

U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools requests competitive applications from local educational agencies and community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations. The Carol M. White Physical Education Program provides grants to initiate,

expand or improve physical education programs, including afterschool programs, for students in one or more grades from kindergarten through 12th grade in order to help students make progress toward meeting state standards for physical education. The closing date for applications is **March 22, 2004**. For more information, go to www.ed.gov/programs/whitephysed/index.html. For questions, contact Ann Weinheimer or Pat Rattler, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Room 3E-330, Washington, DC 20202-6450; (202) 260-5939; Ann.Weinheimer@ed.gov or Pat.Rattler@ed.gov.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Is there an interesting program in your area? Has a corporation or business in your community become involved in funding or establishing an afterschool program? Please share with us, and other readers, your success stories, comments and suggestions. Contact *Afterschool Advocate* editor Ridgely Benjamin with story ideas or information via email: afterschooladvocate@prsolutionsdc.com; phone: 202/371-1999; or fax: 202/371-9142.



The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities dedicated to ensuring that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by 2010. 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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OUTREACH

This is a critical moment, when Americans who support increased federal funding for afterschool programs should speak out and make their views known. Below is a set of talking points, a sample letter-to-the-editor to send to a local newspaper, and a sample letter to Congress, which can be sent from the Alliance web site at www.afterschoolalliance.org. Feel free to use them and share them with colleagues and allies.

Talking Points on the President's Budget Request

- 1) President Bush's 2005 budget proposal for 21st Century Community Learning Centers is just half of what the No Child Left Behind Act promised.
- 2) If Congress adopts the \$1 billion the President proposes rather than appropriating the \$2 billion that No Child Left Behind promised, 1.4 million children around the country will be denied afterschool programs.
- 3) Many of these children will be unsupervised in the afternoons, without academic support and vulnerable to becoming involved in crime, substance abuse, sexual activity, and other unhealthy behaviors. And millions of working parents will have to struggle to find safe, affordable care for their children.
- 4) Three years ago, the No Child Left Behind Act created a roadmap for expanding the 21st Century program to better meet the widespread, compelling need for afterschool. The President's proposal – to flatline afterschool spending for the fourth consecutive year – leaves us far off track.
- 5) We are grateful that President Bush recognized the strong public and congressional support for afterschool, and abandoned last year's effort to gut the federal afterschool program.
- 6) But we urge Congress to again expand on the President's proposal, this year by budgeting the full \$2 billion authorized by No Child Left Behind for 21st Century programs. As many as 15 million latchkey children have no adult-supervised activity awaiting them at the end of the school day.
- 7) Afterschool programs give children a safe, enriching environment each day after the school bell rings.
- 8) We should continue to grow afterschool, not freeze it. Our long-term goal should be to make afterschool care available to every child who needs it.

Sample Letter-to-the-Editor

To the Editor:

If President Bush gets his way, a lot of working families in [name of state] hoping to find afterschool programs for their children will get a rude surprise. The President's budget proposal for afterschool fails to live up to the funding commitment he and Congress made in the landmark No Child Left Behind Act.

The Act, which the President cites as one of his chief domestic accomplishments, is aimed at improving the quality of education in the United States. It laid out a roadmap for modest but steady increases in federal support for afterschool. But the President’s new budget proposal would get us only half-way to the \$2 billion figure he himself signed into law. If Congress accepts the President’s recommendation for just \$1 billion in federal funding for afterschool next year, some 1.4 million children across the nation will be without afterschool care.

Now it’s Congress’ turn. Last year, Congress rejected the President’s proposal to cut funding for afterschool. This year, Congress can do even better by putting afterschool back on the funding track laid out in No Child Left Behind.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Daytime Phone Number]

Sample Letter to Congress

The Honorable [full name]
U.S. [House of Representatives/Senate]
Washington, DC [20515 (House)/20510 (Senate)]

Dear [Representative/Senator] [Last name]:

I urge you to support funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative at the full \$2 billion level promised in the No Child Left Behind Act.

America’s students and families need full funding for afterschool programs. As many as 15 million children have no adult-supervised activity awaiting them at the end of the school day, so it’s no surprise that many of them turn to inappropriate behaviors including substance abuse, premature sexual activity, and juvenile crime. By contrast, afterschool programs help kids succeed academically, keep them safe, and help working parents.

[Insert paragraph about local impact of 21st Century program, including whether you’re a recipient, where the local program is, who it serves, etc. If you are a parent with children in afterschool, an educator or a program provider, say so here.]

A fully funded 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative would provide afterschool care for more than 2.8 million children – twice what the President’s \$1 billion proposal would cover. Last year, Congress wisely rejected the President’s proposal to cut afterschool funding. This year, Congress should move to get the 21st Century initiative back on the track set out by No Child Left Behind. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your name and address]