

A media outreach newsletter published by the Afterschool Alliance

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26 STATES COULD NOT SUPPORT NEW AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS IN '05

New research into state grant-making under the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative reveals that half the states were not able to make any new grants to afterschool programs in 2005. The research was conducted by the Afterschool Alliance.

The grant-making standstill is the direct result of the federal government's failure to realize the vision of No Child Left Behind, concludes Impossible Choices: How States are Addressing the Federal Failure to Fully Fund Afterschool Programs. Because Congress and the President did not provide the increased funding promised in No Child Left Behind to support growth in afterschool programs, 26 states could not fund any new afterschool programs this year. States committed to multi-year grants and were left with only enough money to fund their existing grantees when the increases authorized by No Child Left Behind did not materialize, the study finds.

"The states expected that Congress and the President would live up to the funding commitments they made in the *No Child Left Behind Act*, and planned accordingly," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "But since funding for afterschool has been frozen, many states are finding that their multi-year grants consume their entire 21st Century Community Learning Centers budget. As a result, they are unable to fund new programs. What that means is simple but sad: No new afterschool programs for the 26 States continued on page two...

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2005 has been an eventful year. The Afterschool Alliance and the afterschool community have strengthened relationships with the Administration and Congress, enhanced outreach to lawmakers at the state and city levels, and grown our grassroots capacity. Especially promising is our collective outreach to parents, who carry such powerful messages about the importance of afterschool programs.

As a movement, we are no longer novices at this work. We are becoming ever-more sophisticated, making a more and more powerful case to government, businesses, foundations and individuals that they keep our kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families when they fund afterschool programs.

We are thrilled with the tremendous efforts of advocates across the country on behalf of afterschool programs. Together we are making an enormous difference in the lives of children, families and communities. But, as the year ends, we realize just how much more needs to be done before we achieve our goal of afterschool for all. As the Afterschool Advocate goes to press, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21st CCLC) has escaped the debilitating cuts that affected so many education, health and other programs this year. But we are still frozen at less than \$1 billion in federal funding, and getting farther behind the funding levels authorized in No Child Left Behind. In addition, like many Director continued on page two...

26 States continued from page one... millions of kids and families who need them."

The 26 states that made no new grants in 2005 are: Alaska, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Wyoming.

Four other states – Alabama, Kentucky, North Dakota and Utah – provided funds to new grantees in 2005, but only by reducing awards to existing grantees in the later years of their grants. The result is no net new slots in afterschool programs for students in these states.

"We know lawmakers face difficult choices, but investing in our children pays dividends for generations," Grant added. "By promising funds and then not delivering, the federal government forced states to make an impossible choice between supporting the afterschool programs that parents depend on, or making grants to new programs in communities that are currently un-served. We need to do both if we are to generate and sustain the growth in afterschool programs that America's families need. We look forward to working with the Administration and Congress to increase afterschool funding next year."

To compile the data in *Impossible Choices*, researchers contacted state education agencies in every state and the District of Columbia, and confirmed the information they received by consulting agency websites and other sources, where available. *The report is available on the web at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/Impossibl e_choices.cfm*.

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Director continued from page one... other programs 21st CCLC will be hurt by an across-the-board cut of one percent, which will reduce support for the program by \$10 million dollars. While strong congressional support for afterschool has protected the current funding, freezes and small cuts have an enormous impact on the families we are trying to help.

Our new research, released this month, shows the harm caused by the freeze on federal afterschool funding. 2005 was the first year since states began distributing 21st CCLC funds that more than half the states were unable to fund *any* new afterschool programs. Twenty-six states were unable to support the expansion of afterschool programs this year, and another four could only fund new programs by reducing grants to programs that were nearing the end of their multi-year grants. That means millions of children and families are unserved.

As we look forward, we must resolve to do even more to convince the federal government to fulfill the promise of No Child Left Behind by increasing funding so states can support existing afterschool programs and support the new ones that will serve families that currently are without. We do that by becoming even better advocates and communicators. In this climate, with so many competing priorities, it's not enough to simply provide a great afterschool program. We also need to share our successes and send a strong message that investing in afterschool programs is good for our children, good for our communities and good for our nation. We are getting better at that every day.

Today, afterschool programs are popular, but in short supply in the U.S. In 2006, let's do even more to change that. From everyone at the Afterschool Alliance, have a wonderful holiday season and a very happy New Year!

Jodi Grant



RECRUITING AND RETAINING AFTERSCHOOL STUDENTS

What are the keys to getting students to attend afterschool programs regularly? The question has long been the subject of concern to afterschool providers, who know that students who regularly and frequently attend are more likely to show academic and other gains than are those who attend only infrequently.

At a recent Washington, DC conference sponsored by the American Youth Policy Forum, Priscilla Little, project manager of the Harvard Family Research Project's (HFRP's) Out-Of-School Time (OST) Learning and Development Initiative, and Sherri Lauver, consultant to HFRP and an assistant professor at the Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development, University of Rochester, discussed the results of their review of a number of studies' findings on the subject. They identified ten successful strategies for improving recruitment and retention. Quoting from the Forum's website:

- Remind youth of how specific elements of the program help them prepare for a brighter future.
- Tell parents about their child's opportunity to get homework help and tutoring, establish new friendships, and gain access to such benefits as exposure to the arts, or the chance to be physically active.
- Rather than relying solely on posters and flyers, recruit and follow up person-toperson, using phone calls, street outreach, and visits to homes and schools.
- Recruit in peer circles, with participants bringing in friends.
- Make extra efforts to recruit some at-risk youth, who aren't involved in any OST program and may even be in trouble in school.

- Involve older youth in deciding how to match program content and schedules to teens' desires. The results could include offering a choice among many activities, extending hours, and rolling admissions rather than sign-up periods linked to the school year.
- Set explicit, transparent expectations for attendance and follow up personally if youth do not show up.
- Do not replicate the school day; instead, complement it with leisure activities that balance content-based learning with a mix of physical activity, recreation, structured and unstructured activities, mastery orientation, and opportunities for autonomy, choice and leadership.
- Consider whether the program's resources allow offering incentives, such as paid apprenticeships, stipends, and point or reward systems.
- Provide opportunities for leadership, community service, and paid employment, including activities that could lead to travel to new places, including conventions or contests. Useful approaches include job clubs, job searches, service learning, and paid internships in the program.

For more information on Little and Lauver's presentation, visit http://www.aypf.org/forumbriefs/2005/fb1007 05.htm or

http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/conference/.



ASK THE PRESIDENT TO INCREASE AFTERSCHOOL FUNDING

The White House is preparing its budget proposal for FY 2007, to be released in early February. None of the Administration's five budgets to date has included an increase in

21st Century Community Learning Centers funding, and afterschool is falling farther behind its authorized funding levels - \$2.5 billion for FY 2007. The resulting shortfall is denying afterschool programming to 1.75 million children. Contact the President to urge an increase in funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative in FY 2007. To contact the White House, visit

http://capwiz.com/afterschool/issues/, and click on the link to "Tell the President to Increase Funding for 21st Century Programs."



IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

"If we're not successful in reversing some of these cuts, these doors will swing more often than what might have been... More cuts would put kids on the road to crime."

--Penobscot County Sheriff Glenn Ross, speaking in front of the doors of the Penobscot County Jail on proposed cuts to community policing and afterschool programs, *Bangor Daily News*, November 17, 2005

"These [afterschool] programs also provide a safe environment during the time when kids are most in danger of falling prey to crime or engaging in risky behavior, so we know they are safe and supervised. But these programs cost money to run... We sometimes have applications that request far more funding than is available."

-- Jane Ross, Administrator for the Office of After School Partnerships for the California Department of Education on insufficient funding for afterschool programs, *San Bernandino Sun*, December 7, 2005



IN THE NEWS...

California – The Fresno Bee reports that Tule River Indian Reservation afterschool program has succeeded in providing culturally sensitive educational opportunities for the reservation's youth. The program's wait list attests to its popularity with children and parents. The program was developed when reservation leaders noticed an increase in high school dropouts; graduation rates have been up for the past five years the program has been operating. The program emphasizes Native American cultural traditions and values in addition to academic achievement. "When students are more comfortable, it makes them feel confident," said program director John Focke.

Colorado – Students in the Jefferson High School afterschool clown club in Edgewater spend three afternoons a week being silly and finding goofy ways to make others laugh. Students gain confidence by performing in public venues including rallies, school assemblies, nursing homes and elsewhere. The young clowns were treated to a special meeting with professional clowns from the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus recently when the show was in town. Edward Camargo, 15, told the *Denver Post*, "I love it. I'm learning new things. I'm kind of a clown anyway."

Florida – The afterschool program run by
Firewall Ministries at the Palma Nova mobile
home park in Davie not only helps immigrant
children and parents, but in the wake of
Hurricane Wilma has become more of a
community fixture. Previously run as a
volunteer effort, after noting its impact on the
community, the park owner donated
doublewide equipment to house the program
and the city council increased funding. Pastor
Andy Fernandez, who founded the project,
coordinated community outreach and

hurricane relief assistance for the families of Palma Nova. "It's a very good project," Vice Mayor Lisa Hubert told the *Sun Sentinel*. "They're doing a great job with the kids."

Kentucky – Communities across Jefferson County can now take advantage of an "a la cart menu" of afterschool programs that travel to different schools and community centers. Metro Parks noted that not all communities have access to community centers and others face transportation problems. "People expect to have services at the neighborhood level," Metro Parks spokesman Jason Cissel told the *Courier Journal*. Communities can now choose from elementary story time and art, board or video game tournaments, painting, ballet, fitness and other activities.

Louisiana – The *Times Picayune* reports that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) took a team of Sesame Street characters on a goodwill tour of schools and shelters in Mississippi and Louisiana to cheer up youngsters affected by Hurricane Katrina. The special guests distributed books and Elmo dolls to children in Covington's 21st Century Community Learning Centers afterschool program. "It was a great day," said Center director Les Heidelberg. "They absolutely loved it."

Mississippi – Parents in Jackson, Long Beach, and Harrison counties are seeking alternate afterschool care for their children after Knowledge Learning Corp., parent company of EdSolutions Inc., announced it would stop managing the programs because of post-Hurricane Katrina losses. Company officials cite damage to facilities and materials, and fewer children as reason for the closures. According to the Biloxi Sun Herald, district officials and parents were notified of this change only days before it was to take effect. District officials have since made arrangements with other area providers that are able to take some additional students. including the YMCA and Alpha Best. The

Associated Press reports that more than 1,000 children and parents were affected by the closures, effective December 16.

Massachusetts – Students in the Citizen Schools afterschool program in Dorchester are learning art and activism. The Boston Globe reports that students are learning photography afterschool and taking pictures of their neighborhoods. The best of these photographs become postcards, which the children mail to politicians and community leaders with the phrase, "this is MY Boston." Gretchen Schneider, a Boston architect who created the program said, "I was thinking about the huge discrepancies of the postcard pictures of Faneuil Hall and Cheers Bar and that's great, but there's so much more to Boston than that. [The teens] really are seeing their Boston. I hope people get a sense of that."

Michigan – With the motto, "only the best, nothing less," Mosaic Youth Theater afterschool program in Detroit challenges its students to be just that. The free program teaches children music and theater and empowers them to succeed in life. In the past three years, 100 percent of participants have graduated high school and continued on to college. The group of young professionals has performed at the Kennedy Center and in Europe, and recently was featured on NBC's Today Show. Mosaic founder Rick Sperling, said on the Today Show, "one of the things that is unique about Mosaic, I think, is that we set the bar incredibly high." For further information on Mosaic Youth Theater, go to www.mosaicdetroit.org.

Nebraska – According to the *Lincoln Journal Star*, Hip Hop 101, an afterschool program partnering with the YMCA, is teaching children of all backgrounds how to defy stereotypes and use hip hop as a bridge to different cultures. The children also learn the history of hip-hop and its basic elements including DJing, MCing and break dancing.

"The coolest part is that we've got every kid in Hip Hop 101 from every kind of background. And they don't care. They just want to do it," said Derek Jones, a local DJ and co-founder of the program.



SUSTAINABILITY PROFILE:

FLORIDA'S CARIDAD CENTER

It's been about 35 years since Caridad Asencio began working with migrant workers and their families in the Boynton Beach area, helping to arrange medical care, lining up housing, making plans for school and more. In that time, the small group of volunteers she assembled has grown into a stable and hard-charging force for migrant and low-income farm workers in the region, providing health care to uninsured families along with a variety of social services, and an afterschool program serving nearly 50 children.

Elida Vasquez, a farm worker turned homework monitor with what is now known as the Caridad Center, says her older children used to come with her into the fields in the afternoons when they were little. There they waited in South Florida's broiling temperatures while their mother picked crops for low wages. Her youngest child is now enrolled in the Caridad Center's five-year-old afterschool program, by contrast, and gets daily help with homework, and has access to a computer class, mentoring from high school students, and activities aimed at building social skills. "My older children really suffered," Vasquez told the South Florida Sun-Sentinel in a recent profile of the Center. "That's why when I learned the Caridad program was opening, I rushed to sign my younger kids up."

Program officials single out the mentoring program for bringing students into contact with children with college aspirations. "We have kids asking our teachers, 'what's an Ivy League college?' and 'what happens when

you go to college?," says Maria Puente-Duany, Director of Development. "They're getting something they wouldn't be exposed to otherwise, and it reinforces the message that they need to work hard, do well, and be thinking about going on to college. We've got a number of our former students in college now, and a lot of them would probably have dropped out and worked in the fields like their parents. Part of our vision is to break the generational cycle."

Fulfilling the vision requires funding, and the Caridad Center has developed an aggressive outreach program to provide for its \$1.3 million operating budget, a figure that does not include the huge in-kind contributions from doctors, dentists and other practitioners who volunteer their time. The Center mounted a significant capital campaign in the 1990s, climaxing in the construction of a new facility - paid for in cash – in 1997. The building was a giant leap forward for the organization. Its first clinic had opened just five years earlier in a doublewide trailer. On its first morning in operation, more than 300 farm workers and family members lined up for medical and dental care.

The afterschool program, with an annual budget of less than \$75,000, is a smaller part of the operation. It makes do, but needs additional space to serve a waiting list that runs longer than current enrollment.

To meet those and other needs down the road, Caridad has launched an endowment campaign, according to Puente-Duany, and is reaching out to potential donors in search of high-dollar gifts that would secure the Center's future. At the same time, the organization continues to press for new sources to cover operating expenses. One recent and encouraging development is a \$100,000 grant from the state of Florida, by way of a legislative "earmark" – a specific line item in the state budget to support the Center's work. State Representative Susan Bucher, a longtime supporter of Caridad, played a key role in securing that funding.

Other sources include local and regional foundations, and annual fundraising events – the most recent of which was a Casino Night at a local country club that grossed nearly \$100,000, and helped identify potential future donors, as well.

Another promising source of income is area hospitals, and their for-profit parent corporations. Caridad's new Chief Executive Officer, Pedro del Sol, formerly of IBM, reasoned that hospitals have ample reason to appreciate Caridad because its clinic lightens their emergency rooms' patient load, and cuts down the number of patients unable to pay for their hospital treatment. So he has focused considerable energy on soliciting hospitals for support – an effort that yielded a \$200,000 check from eight local hospitals earlier this year.

The budget machinations are largely invisible to the 7,000 residents served by Caridad. But even if they don't know the cost of the services they rely upon, they know the value: "For all the mothers who work in the fields," says Elida Vasquez," that little school is a blessing."



HAVE A SOAK, SUPPORT AFTERSCHOOL

Throughout December, Davies Gate is donating five percent of each purchase of its Davies Gate Allspice Bath Fizz Pops to the After-School All-Stars, a national afterschool organization that has programs in 15 cities. The effervescent bath soaks, featured in *Real Simple* magazine, are available in four varieties - Sweet Orange, Peppermint, Cinnamon, and Pink Grapefruit. *Allspice Bath Fizz Pops may be purchased online at the Davies gate website at http://www.daviesgate.com/cgi-local/SoftCart.exe/cgi-local/SoftCart.exe/cgi-local/smpagegen.exe?U+scstore+bffr6993ff4 41f44+-c+scstore.cfg+-C+allspice+-f+36.*



WANTED: AMATEUR SPORTING NEWS REPORTERS

The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) is hosting a new program this year that gives children age 11 to 19 the chance to learn more about the journalistic and creative side of sports. The program, called STREETeam, will involve three days of interactive classes and hands-on experience, where students will learn how to broadcast stories, create newsletters and websites, take and edit photos, and produce videos. Instructors will cover topics such as news reporting, graphic design, video production, web design and broadcasting. The STREETeam program will take place in five locations: Las Vegas (January 20 to 22), Chicago (February 17 to 19), Orlando (February 24 to 26), San Diego (April 21 to 23), and Hawaii (April 28 to 30). The cost to participate is \$125. To find out more about STREETeam and to register, check out http://soccer.org/events/sectionmeetings/STR EETeam.htm.



PROJECT 2010 UPDATE

Project 2010 continues to leverage support from a broad range of afterschool allies working to deliver a united and powerful message about the importance of afterschool programs. Recent Project 2010 partners include Catholic Charities, Congress de Latinos Unidos, American Youth Football, Inc., US Synchronized Swimming, the Houston Independent School District, Columbia College, the Center for Evaluation and Educational Policy, Morehouse School of Medicine, the Oklahoma Urban League, Iowa State University and Rock the Vote. There are more than 2,200 Project 2010 partners.

Afterschool for All: Project 2010 is excited to announce the unveiling of its newly redesigned website, at www.afterschool2010.org. The new site allows prospective partners to sign on through a web-based sign-on form, while providing existing partners with new tools that include:

- A downloadable version of the recently redesigned *Project 2010* brochure and afterschool talking points.
- A sample *Project 2010* newsletter article for inclusion in local publications.
- A sample *Project 2010* email invitation.
- Sector specific sample *Project 2010* invitation letters.
- Examples of cases where partners have successfully used *Project 2010* to:
 - Unite their organization around a common cause
 - Connect with like-minded individuals and institutions
 - Leverage support from local institutions
 - o Influence policy makers
 - o Generate extensive dialogue about afterschool
 - Increase constituent partners' level of participation
- Reasons prominent individuals and organizations have signed onto Project 2010

Check out the new website, sign on as a partner, or invite your friends and colleagues to do so at: www.afterschool2010.org. As the Project grows, voices for afterschool grow stronger.



RESOURCES

Afterschool Wish List

Economically disadvantaged afterschool programs in schools in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, North and South Carolina, and the Gulf Coast can reach out to virtual donors on the Internet by posting specific requests on www.donorschoose.org. Donors Choose seeks to link teachers and other educators who have specific funding needs directly with online donors. Afterschool program coordinators can post their need and potential donors browse the entries looking for a program or project to fund. Donors Choose verifies the legitimacy of all requests, and help programs estimate costs and specific materials needed. While available to all programs, the priority lies with Title I programs and others that face real economic need.

Encouraging Young Women and Girls to Explore Technology and Math

The National Center for Women in Technology and Cisco Systems have partnered to draw awareness to and encourage young women and girls to be interested in and pursue careers in technology, math and computing. The campaign encourages girls to think about careers in technology such as a running shoe designer, Hollywood sound engineer, or bio-technology researcher. It has a website geared to both children and adults that links to other sites offering educational games for children, career advice for young adults, and curriculum enhancement for parents and educators. Visit http://www.ncwit.org/cisco.students.html or http://www.ncwit.org/cisco.parents.html.

NFL, Action for Healthy Kids Supporting Nutrition, Physical Activity

Action for Healthy Kids and the U.S. National Football League are offering an afterschool program, ReCharge!, that focuses on nutrition, physical activity, teamwork and goal setting. ReCharge! is designed for

children in grades three to six. The curriculum kit includes an instruction notebook with healthy snack recipes, an instructional DVD featuring NFL quarterback Boomer Esiason, NFL trading cards with "healthy tips," and activity equipment. To learn more about the program and order a curriculum kit, go to http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/special_after.php.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Grants Available for National and Global Youth Service Day Projects

Disney Minnie Grants are currently available for youth (ages five to 14) and teachers, schools, or organizations working with youth, to implement service or service learning oriented projects in their communities on National and Global Youth Service Day. Youth Service America and Disney are funding the grants of up to \$500 each. A significant portion of the project must be completed on National and Global Youth Service Day, April 21 to 23. The application deadline is January 13. For information, call 202-296-2992, visit www.ysa.org/awards or email MinnieGrant@ysa.org.

Coming Up Taller Awards

The Coming Up Taller Awards recognize and reward outstanding afterschool and out-of-school arts and humanities programs for underserved children and youth. Programs initiated by museums, libraries, performing arts organizations, universities, colleges, arts centers, community service organizations, schools, businesses, and some government entities are eligible to apply. Winners may receive up to \$10,000. Programs must apply by January 30. For further information, visit http://www.cominguptaller.org/.

Youth Nutrition and Fitness Grant Program

The General Mills Foundation, in partnership with the American Dietetic Association Foundation and the President's Challenge, is offering the Champions for Healthy Kids grant program. Each year, the Foundation awards 50 grants of \$10,000 each to community-based groups that develop creative ways to help youth adopt a balanced diet and physically active lifestyle. Grants will be awarded to nonprofit organizations and agencies working with communities that demonstrate the greatest need and likelihood of sustainable impact on young people's nutrition and activity levels through innovative programs. The deadline for applications is February 1. For information,

http://www.generalmills.com/corporate/commitment/champions.aspx.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

✓ January 21, 2006

School Age Notes kicked off its Authors' Tour at the Hyatt Rosemont in Chicago on October 1. The tour includes presentations by School Age Notes CEO and acclaimed trainer Tracey C. Ballas, as well as "Fun Literacy Activities for After-School Programs: Books and Beyond" authors Sue Edwards and Kathleen Martinez. Karen Haas-Foletta and Lori Ottolini-Geno, authors of "School Age Ideas and Activities for After School Programs," also participated. The Tour will next visit Atlanta, on January 21. For information and to register, visit www.SchoolAgeNotes.com.

№ February 19 – 22, 2006

In conjunction with the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative at the U.S. Department of Education, Foundations, Inc. is sponsoring "Beyond School Hours® IX: A New Twist on Afterschool." The

national conference for afterschool educators in Dallas will cover curriculum and program development, funding strategies, research and evaluation, and more. Consistent with the theme of the conference, the celebrity guest will be Chubby Checker, inventor of the Twist and a longtime supporter of youth programs. For information and to register, go to

http://www.foundationsinc.org/EventsFolder/ beyond9/, or call 1-888-977-KIDS (5437).

February 23 – 25, 2006

The National AfterSchool Association will host the National AfterSchool Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The conference will include workshops and open sessions on advocacy and public policy, best practices, program site visits, and problem-solving. The keynote speaker is Stedman Graham, and author Linda Perlstein will give a special presentation. For information, visit www.naaconference.org or call 1-800-606-0061.

More information on upcoming conferences and events is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org/states/calendar main.cfm.





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 with story ideas via email: advocate@afterschoolalliance.org; 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 working to ensure 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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