

Afterschool Advocate

A media outreach newsletter published by the Afterschool Alliance

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PRESIDENT PROPOSES NO INCREASE FOR 21ST CCLC IN '07

In a move that disappointed parents and afterschool leaders across the nation, President Bush yesterday proposed to flat fund 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) next year. While *No Child Left Behind* authorizes \$2.5 billion for 21st CCLC in Fiscal Year 2007, the President proposed just \$981.166 million. That is \$20 million less than the appropriation in 2002.

“President Bush today missed his last chance to make good on the promise of the *No Child Left Behind Act*,” Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant responded. “Instead, he sustained a series of painful freezes and cuts that have left the 21st Century Community Learning Centers afterschool initiative unable to serve millions of children.”

“If Congress accepts the President’s proposal, millions of children will be unsupervised each afternoon,” she added. “The afterschool community recognizes that there is great pressure on the federal budget, but afterschool programs are a wise investment. They keep kids safe and healthy, inspire children to learn, help working families, and reduce teen pregnancy, substance abuse, juvenile crime and gang involvement.”

Background

The *No Child Left Behind Act* established a multi-year roadmap for slow but steady growth in afterschool funding, reflecting a national consensus that afterschool programs should be expanded. If Congress agrees to

the President’s proposal next year, none of the increases authorized in *No Child Left Behind* will be realized.

The need is great. According to a household survey released in 2004 by the Afterschool Alliance, just 6.5 million children are in afterschool programs, but the parents of another 15.3 million children say their children would participate if an afterschool program were available. More than 14 million kindergarten through 12th-graders take care of themselves after the school day ends, including almost four million middle school students in grades six through eight. *America After 3 PM* was funded by the J.C. Penney Co., Inc.

The Alliance’s *Impossible Choices* report, released in December, found that 26 states could not fund any new afterschool programs in 2005 with their federal 21st CCLC money, because of the failure to realize the increases authorized by *No Child Left Behind*.

“The Afterschool Alliance will work with parents, educators, religious and community leaders, businesses and others to convince lawmakers to increase funding for afterschool programs in FY 2007,” Grant promised. “Our children, our families, deserve nothing less.”

The President’s budget also proposed flat funding Child Care Development Block Grants, and eliminating more than 40 education programs. His FY '07 budget proposal includes \$3.1 billion less for the U.S. Department of Education and its programs than was appropriated in FY '06.

OUTREACH

It is important that advocates respond quickly to the President’s budget proposal. The following are two sample letters to use. The first is a sample letter-to-the-editor. Please revise it as appropriate and submit the resulting letter to the Letters-to-the-Editor section of a local newspaper. The second letter is for your U.S. Representative and Senators. To submit it, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org and go to the blue Contact Congress button on the left side of the page. Again, please localize it as needed and email it to your elected representatives – and urge others to do the same!

To the Editor:

With his recent budget proposal, the President missed his last opportunity to make good on the *No Child Left Behind Act’s* promise of increased funding for afterschool programs.

NCLB laid out a roadmap of modest but steady funding increases for the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers afterschool initiative. Had it been followed, afterschool programs would receive \$2.5 billion in 2007 to help keep our kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families. These federal dollars serve as a much-needed catalyst for additional public and private investments and partnerships to support afterschool programs. But Congress and the President have neglected that roadmap, and now the President is requesting funds that will serve 1.5 million fewer children than what *NCLB* calls for next year. Our kids and communities suffer when we shortchange afterschool. Already, more than 14 million K-12 students take care of themselves after the school day ends, including almost four million middle school students. [Add state or local data if available.] Too many become involved in gangs, crime, drugs and alcohol, and sexual activity – problems afterschool programs help solve.

It’s up to Congress to make sure the budget it sends to the President gives kids the safe, enriching environments they need by fully funding afterschool. But it’s up to all of us to make sure Congress knows how much our communities need more quality afterschool programs.

Your name

Your address (not for publication)

Your phone number (not for publication)

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Dear [Senator/Representative Name]:

I was deeply disappointed to learn that President Bush asked for just \$981 million for afterschool programs in his Fiscal Year 2007 budget. This is a \$20 million cut from the \$1 billion that was provided in 2002 and means that 1.5 million fewer children will have access to afterschool programs than provided in the bipartisan *No Child Left Behind Act*. Federal funding serves as a catalyst for public and private investments and partnerships to support afterschool programs. Children and families in my community urgently need the increase. Too many are unsupervised each afternoon, at risk for dangerous behaviors when they should be getting help with homework and exploring new interests. When we invest in afterschool programs, we invest in our future. Please increase funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers next year.

[Your name and contact information]

SAVE THE DATES!

The Afterschool Alliance has announced that the Afterschool for All Challenge, once again featuring a Breakfast of Champions, will be held on May 23 and May 24, 2006 on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. *Lights On Afterschool* will be October 12 this year. Visit www.afterschoolalliance.org for more information on both events.

**AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL
ADVANCES IN CALIFORNIA**

In his State of the State address on January 6, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced new funding of \$428 million per year through the After School Education and Safety Act (ASES), to provide afterschool programs for California's children. That is in addition to federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers funding, and the \$122 million the state already provides for afterschool programs.

"This will make our state the only one in the nation to offer comprehensive afterschool programs," the Governor said. "Every elementary and middle school can have a program so that working parents will know that their children will be in a safe environment, getting help with their homework, doing arts and physical activities. This will be good for both the children and the parents."

California voters passed the ASES, formerly known as Proposition 49, by a wide margin in 2002; it supports before- and afterschool activities at elementary and middle schools in the state. Schwarzenegger was the driving force behind its passage, before he held elective office.

Proposition 49 was designed to trigger the afterschool funding when the state's General Fund appropriations reached \$1.5 billion more than the level of those appropriations in the base year. Afterschool programs provide academic support in addition to fine arts and physical fitness activities. Programs must identify matching funds in order to secure the grants.

Governor Schwarzenegger visited the 68th Street Elementary School in Los Angeles the day after his address to discuss the importance of afterschool programs. The legislature is now considering a number of measures that will guide distribution of the new funds, and afterschool providers and advocates around the state are preparing for implementation.

**NEW STUDY: AFTERSCHOOL
EFFECTIVELY COMBATS
OBESITY**

A newly released study provides advocates with powerful evidence to support the assertion that afterschool programs have an important role to play in the fight against childhood obesity. Joseph L. Mahoney and Heather Lord of Yale University's psychology department, together with Erica Carryl of New York University's applied psychology department, conclude in a two-year study that participation in afterschool programs helps prevent obesity in young children.

The researchers collected data on 439 racially diverse first- through third-grade students in three public schools in a small northeastern city. (They did not reveal the city.) The scholars had a particular interest in lower-income families and chose schools with that in mind. As a result, 58 percent of the families of the children in the study lived in poverty, with median income in the group,

including government assistance, slightly under \$17,000 per year.

The researchers tracked obesity among the students over the course of the study, comparing children's body mass index (BMI) with four separate measurements. At the beginning of the study, 18 percent of the students slated to participate in afterschool were obese, compared to 21 percent of the students not enrolled in afterschool. By the end of the two-year study, obesity among afterschool participants increased only slightly – to 21 percent, while it ballooned among students not in afterschool – to 31 percent.

The authors' conclusion is that afterschool programs may not reverse obesity, but are a powerful buffer against it. "Afterschool program participation may be a promising approach for controlling obesity for three reasons," the researchers write. "First, although some school-based interventions to reduce obesity have shown modest short-term effects, much of a child's overeating and related sedentary behavior (e.g., watching television) occurs during nonschool hours.... Second, children experience high levels of enjoyment when participating in afterschool activities. Compared to obesity reduction approaches that emphasize passive health education or require children to give up negative habits concerning food and activity choices, afterschool program participation may be more palatable."

"Finally," they continue, "recent research shows that children who become involved in afterschool activities during childhood tend to continue their participation through adolescence. Thus, if healthy behaviors are developed through participation in these programs during childhood, they may persist through adolescence."

To read the study, "*Afterschool Program Participation and the Development of Child Obesity and Peer Acceptance*," visit <http://pantheon.yale.edu/%7Ejlm79/Mahoney.Lord.Carryl.2005b.pdf>.

USE A4A FOR DISCOUNT ON SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The Afterschool Alliance is happy to announce a partnership with Discount School Supply to give friends of afterschool a ten-percent discount on all school supply orders. To receive the discount, put the code A4A (it stands for Afterschool 4 All) in the pink promotional box when ordering supplies at www.discountchoolsupply.com. Or mention it when you call 1-800-627-2829 to place an order.

STATE NETWORKS GATHER FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Some 200 representatives of 31 state afterschool networks gathered in Atlanta January 30 through February 2 to explore cutting-edge issues in afterschool, including network building and nurturing, program sustainability, program quality, strategies for growth, media relations and more.

The annual event brings together representatives from each of the 31 state networks funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation for sessions with their colleagues as well as a host of resource experts. This year's meeting was at Emory University. In addition to several plenary sessions with leaders from the afterschool and policy making worlds, participants visited innovative local afterschool programs, took part in dozens of workshop sessions on a broad range of afterschool issues, and had individual planning sessions with a variety of resource experts.

Meeting organizers established three related goals for networks to advance with information gleaned at the conference:

- Create a sustainable structure of statewide, regional and local partnerships, particularly school-community

partnerships, focused on supporting policy development at all levels.

- Support the development and growth of statewide policies that will secure the resources that are needed to sustain new and existing afterschool programs.
- Support statewide systems to ensure programs are of high quality.

Atlanta School Superintendent Beverly Hall addressed participants in a plenary session to describe her city's commitment to quality out-of-school time opportunities. "Gone are the days when we just do it because it's a nice thing to do," she said, adding that she launched a quality audit of district programs early in her tenure and continues to press programs to reinforce academics and use the city's resources to expand children's horizons.

Other plenary speakers included An-Me Chung of the C.S. Mott Foundation, and Christopher T. Cross, Senior Fellow with the Center for Education Policy and a Distinguished Senior Fellow with the Education Commission of the States.

"It was a great opportunity to learn from colleagues across the country, to get new ideas, and to hear from a terrific lineup of experts on various subjects," said Sherry Comer, Director of Project PASS in Camdenton, Missouri. "It was a wonderful experience that I think will pay real dividends for our state network and for afterschool students and their families in Missouri."



IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

"The single most important thing we can do to have a better future in this state is to give our young people all the chances they deserve in life. There is nothing more important than closing the achievement gap."

--Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels on his new afterschool initiative, "Mitch's Kids," run collaboratively with Boys & Girls Clubs, *Courier Journal*, December 30, 2005

"Let's give parents of students in under-achieving schools the power to maximize their children's potential. Let's give parents the chance to give their kids the tutoring, afterschool programs and other educational opportunities they need to succeed."

-- New York Governor George Pataki, State of the State Address, January 4, 2006

"Strong communities support families, so that parents know the values they teach will be reinforced when their children are outside the home. Strong communities bolster the work of schools by providing educational and safe afterschool activities for students. And strong communities nurture healthy children by surrounding them with a network of loving people who keep them safe and can help guide them toward a successful future."

--First Lady Laura Bush, speaking at the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Conference, January 10, 2006

"Additional before- and after-school programs will also help decrease child obesity, expand physical activity, and increase parent and community involvement in schools."

-- New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, State of New Mexico Address, January 17, 2006

"If the 21st Century program were fully funded, as President Bush promised at the signing of *No Child Left Behind*, then Maryland could have double the number of

afterschool programs – and give roughly 22,000 more children a safe place to go during these critical hours... I will continue to fight to make certain that federal funding is maintained and increased so that every area of the state can be served.”

-- Maryland Congressman Steny Hoyer,
Southern Maryland Online, January 24, 2006



IN THE NEWS...

National – The annual *Coming Up Taller* awards, which honor outstanding community arts and humanities afterschool programs that promote educational achievement and productive lives, were given at a January 25 White House event featuring First Lady Laura Bush. This year’s honorees included the Latina Outreach Program at the Philadelphia Museum of Art; TRUCE, Harlem Children’s Zone, Inc.; the Teen Media Program in Cambridge, Massachusetts; and The School Project, Inside Out Community Arts, Inc. in Venice, California. Winners received \$10,000 grants. The *Coming Up Taller* awards are an initiative of the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. The program was founded in 1988. *The winners will be listed at* <http://www.cominguptaller.org/awards.html>.

California – The afterschool community lost a talented and energetic leader in December with the death of John Liechty, the associate superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). He was 60 years old. Liechty was a high school dropout who returned to school to earn a high school diploma, a bachelor’s degree in economics and a master’s degree in education. He drew on his own experience to become an advocate for students at risk for dropping out, and those who do not thrive in the regular classroom. He created Los Angeles’s widely respected “Beyond the Bell” program, and grew it into a

\$250 million/year afterschool, before-school, and summer program serving thousands of children. Liechty was the driving force behind the national kick-off events for *Lights On Afterschool* in 2004 and 2005. He is a former social studies teacher, junior high school principal, director of instruction, and assistant superintendent in charge of all LAUSD middle schools. Liechty died on December 28. His wife Sheridan, four children and eleven grandchildren survive him.

California – Students in the Techbridge afterschool program at the School for the Blind in Fremont are getting specialized hands-on experience at the Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland. The students, who are blind or visually impaired, have learned to dissect cows’ eyeballs, build solar cars, design web pages and assemble robots. Instructors guide the students and encourage them to rely on their sense of touch, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Techbridge normally limits its afterschool program to girls in order to draw more women into the sciences, but in this case made the program co-ed because the blind are also underrepresented. *To learn more about the program, visit* <http://www.techbridgegirls.org/ExploreIt.html>.

Illinois – 826CHI, a non-profit writing and tutoring center in Chicago, is helping students improve their writing skills by employing creative techniques and making each project seem like an adventure. A group of third graders recently donned fake mustaches and went to visit “Admiral Moody,” a testy “publisher” who helped each child create a book. David Eggers, 821CHI volunteer and author of *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, told the *Chicago Tribune* that “a lot of what 826 does, and what a lot of teachers do, is try to create audiences for the students’ work... Because a different kind of motivation kicks in, and maybe a higher level of quality, if they know all the parents, or

some third-party audience, are going to see the product of their work.” *To learn more about the program, go to <http://www.826chi.org/>.*

Missouri – According to the *Kansas City Star*, Let’s Make a Movie, an afterschool program in Kansas City, Olathe, and other sites, is bringing the thrill and adrenaline of Hollywood film production to young Missourians. From “Disaster in Paradise,” a film about spreading rumors during prom season, to “The Video Gamer,” a film about an odd-couple friendship, students are intimately involved in every detail of the project including creating and writing the scripts, acting, lighting, directing and filming. The program strives to teach life skills and serve as a learning tool for at risk youth, said project founder Eric Keith. *To view some of the films visit [http://www2.kclinc.org/templates/instance.fm\\$retrieve?layout=web&id=13659732268&do_script=sccc&html=Style04.html](http://www2.kclinc.org/templates/instance.fm$retrieve?layout=web&id=13659732268&do_script=sccc&html=Style04.html).*

New Jersey – Keeping the Peace, an afterschool anti-violence, peer-mediation group in School 18, Passaic County, keeps students busy trying to do just that. Some 35 sixth, seventh and eighth graders work with their peers to prevent bullying and manage frustration and anger. The students also give presentations to younger students who look up to them as role models. “They are doing an excellent job,” Principal Darleen Rankin told the *Herald News* of Passaic. “It’s really a source of pride. They take their responsibilities very seriously.”

New York – Governor Pataki announced in his state budget proposal an increase in funding for the Advantage After-School Program from \$20.2 million to \$27.5 million in the coming year. The program provides funding for community and faith-based organizations to operate afterschool programs for children and young adults. The programs also offer pregnancy and violence prevention

strategies. “This additional money marks the first major increase in four years and should translate into approximately 11,000 more after-school slots statewide,” said Lucy Friedman, President of The After-School Corporation.

England -- Great Britain is moving to provide afterschool for all by 2010. According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, British Education Secretary Ruth Kelly has “made clear she expects every school in the land to become ‘extended’ by 2010.” Kelly says, “Initial evaluation already shows that extended schools are having a positive impact on children’s learning, improving both attendance and motivation.” Noting that afterschool programs help expand children’s horizons, help working families, turn schools into community hubs, and more, the government plans to allocate \$1.17 billion over the next two years on afterschool. England has approximately one-sixth of the population of the United States.



RESOURCES

Encourage Music and Building Character
Guitars Not Guns (GNG), a California nonprofit group with chapters in New Mexico, New York, and Georgia, distributes guitars to at-risk youth and, with the help of local volunteers, teaches them to play. The goal is to have children learn the discipline required to play an instrument and in so doing, modify negative behaviors. GNG ships new guitars at discounted prices and lesson books throughout the country. *For further information, please visit <http://www.guitarsnotguns.org/> or call 770-487-1070.*

Essay Contest for High School Juniors
The National Endowment for the Humanities is sponsoring the “Idea of America Essay Contest,” open to all high school juniors.

Students are to write an essay examining the historical debate in the First Congress about the benefits and drawbacks of the First Amendment. The winning essay will be published in a national forum and its author will receive \$5,000. Three finalists will receive \$1,000. *For further information go to <http://www.wethepeople.gov/essay/>.*

Fight Childhood Obesity

We Can!, a new obesity prevention program sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, is offering a variety of resources, including a community toolkit, posters and wristbands, as part of an initiative to prevent obesity through community action. The educational program is designed to help children ages eight to 13 maintain a healthy weight. *For further information, please visit <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/wecan/>.*

Get the Most from Federal Funding

A new publication from the Council of Chief State School Officers explains how afterschool programs can tap six separate federal funding streams: Title I, School Improvement Funds, Supplemental Educational Services, Comprehensive School Reform, Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities, and Innovative Programs. *The 32-page monograph can be ordered or downloaded at www.ccsso.org/publications/details.cfm?PublicationID=272.*

Proposals Sought for Summer Institute Sessions

The U.S. Department of Education, through the National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning, has issued a call for presentation proposals for its 2006 Summer Institute. The Institute, titled "Keys to Sustaining Quality Afterschool Programs," will be in San Diego from July 10 to 12 this year. Proposals are solicited for both information and knowledge sessions to share experiences and research, and interactive

skill-building workshops. *For more information and to download a proposal form, please visit <http://www.synergyentinc.com/21stcentury/CFP.htm>.*

Publication Highlights Model Programs

A new publication from the National Collaboration for Youth spotlights ten model afterschool programs, detailing their methods and objectives, and illustrating the scope and impact of programming by the Collaboration's member organizations and partners around the nation. The user-friendly publication also offers a series of broad recommendations for improving evaluation efforts. Creation and dissemination of the publication was supported by a grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. *"Making a Difference in the Lives of Youth" is available online at <http://www.nassembly.org/nydic/programming/newideas/MakingADifferenceintheLivesofYouth.htm>.*

Support Young Literary Critics

Afterschool programs focusing on literacy can become a part of the Spaghetti Book Club, an online organization that posts book reviews written by children. Afterschool programs and school groups are given a home page, as is each young critic, where they may post individual profiles, book reviews and illustrations. The Spaghetti Book Club provides a curriculum focusing on developing critical reading and writing skills and computer literacy. *For information and specifics about membership fees, please visit www.spaghettibookclub.org or email info@spaghettibookclub.org.*



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Excellence in Summer Learning Award

The Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University is soliciting applications

for its 2006 Excellence in Summer Learning Award application. The award recognizes an “outstanding summer program that demonstrates excellence in accelerating academic achievement and promoting positive development for young people between kindergarten and 12th grade.” The annual award seeks to focus national attention on exemplary programs providing high-quality summer learning experiences for youth in their communities. While there is no money attached to the award, recipients receive national recognition, press opportunities, conference presentations and complimentary registrations, professional development opportunities for staff, and publishing opportunities. The deadline for submissions is Friday, February 10 at 5 PM EST.

Information and the application are at <http://www.summerlearning.org/events/excellence.html>.

PROJECT 2010 UPDATE

Project 2010: Afterschool for All 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. Hundreds of parents in the Dallas area recently registered their support for afterschool by signing on to the *Project*.

The Afterschool Alliance would like to hear about ways that you have used *Project 2010* to build support for afterschool in your community. *Please send your Project 2010 success stories to info2010@afterschoolalliance.com.*

Check out the new Project 2010 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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.*



February 28, 2006

The Coalition for After-School Funding (CASF) and The After-School Corporation (TASC) will celebrate “After-School Advocacy Day” in Albany, New York. More than 1,000 children, parents, police officers, legislators and educators from more than 200 organizations throughout New York will gather in Albany to rally and meet with legislators in support of afterschool. *For more information about how to get involved, call Michelle Mitchell, CASF at (212) 523-0180 ext. 45, or email her mmitchell@citizenactionny.org.*

 **July 10 – 12, 2006**

The U.S. Department of Education and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, in conjunction with the National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning at the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, have announced that the 21st Century Community Learning Centers 2006 Summer Institute will be held July 10-12 in San Diego, CA. *Get more information and register online at <http://www.synergyentinc.com/21stcentury/>.*

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 <i>Afterschool Advocate</i> 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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