fterschool Advocate

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#### A DAY FOR ACTION

Afterschool supporters across the country will call and email their Members of Congress this Wednesday, May 24, to send the message that we need more funding for the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families – and that afterschool funding matters to constituents in their state or congressional district.

The phone/email campaign is timed to coincide with the *Afterschool for All Challenge*, organized by the Afterschool Alliance and taking place in Washington, D.C. this week. More than 500 parents, students, educators and afterschool program directors are scheduled to visit Capitol Hill to ask lawmakers to honor the commitment they made in the *No Child Left Behind Act* by increasing support for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC), the chief federal funding stream for afterschool. They will also ask lawmakers to increase funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant.

The President's Fiscal Year 2007 budget would freeze funding for the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC at \$981 million, which constitutes more than \$20 million in real cuts to the funding provided in 2002. *No Child Left Behind* authorizes \$2.5 billion for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC next year.

"We understand the pressure on the federal budget, but investing in afterschool strengthens families and communities, and pays dividends for decades," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "At a time when more than 14 million children have no safe, supervised activity after the school day ends, we need to end the federal afterschool funding freeze that is causing so many programs to cut back on hours or services, or close their doors."

The Challenge will kick-off with a "Breakfast of Champions" on May 24, cohosted by the National League of Cities. The event will honor mayors who are expanding afterschool opportunities in their cities. Among those scheduled to speak are Providence Mayor David N. Cicilline, Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman and former Florida Secretary of State and Orlando Mayor Glenda E. Hood.

Go to www.afterschoolalliance.org and click on the blue Contact Congress box on the left side of the homepage to send an email to your Representative and Senators. Or call the congressional switchboard at 202/224-3121 and ask to be connected to your Senators and Representative.



#### **CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE**

There is promising news from Congress regarding the budget for the U.S. Department of Education. Last week, the House of Representatives passed a budget resolution that adds \$4 billion to the President's budget request for appropriations that cover education, labor and health. There is also a provision in the House Budget Resolution that permits additional funding for education, labor and health appropriations if properly offset with cuts to other programs.

Earlier, Senators Arlen Specter (R-PA) and Tom Harkin (D-IA) offered an amendment to the Senate budget resolution to add \$7.1 billion to the Senate appropriations bill that covers education, labor and health – and it passed with overwhelming support.

House appropriators have already begun work on spending that includes the additional \$4 billion dollars. This does not give the Appropriators much room for additional spending, and afterschool leaders are hopeful that the actual funding for programs will be closer to the spending level adopted in the Senate rather than the House. "As the appropriations process begins, it is critical that Members of Congress hear from the field about the value of quality afterschool programs and the need to increase funding for afterschool programs," Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant said.



### THE IMPACT OF FREEZING 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC FUNDING

The funding freeze on the federal 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) initiative is taking a painful toll on afterschool students and their families. That was the message delivered to a congressional committee recently by Matthew Horning, Program Director at the Alliance Middle School Navigators Afterschool Program in Alliance City, Ohio, and Jodi Grant, Executive Director of the Afterschool Alliance.

"[B]ecause of the freeze on 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funds," Horning told the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee on March 30, "Ohio has been cutting back on the number of new grants awarded each year. Last year Ohio only funded two percent of new 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC proposals. In our community, that funding is essential because Alliance City doesn't have a booming economy that would enable local businesses to give us all the financial support we would need." The Subcommittee is considering appropriations legislation for the coming fiscal year for the U.S. Departments of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services. The President has again proposed to freeze the 21<sup>st</sup> Century initiative's funding. Federal funding for the initiative has been frozen since 2002, despite increases authorized in the *No Child Left Behind Act*. The Subcommittee is chaired by Rep. Ralph Regula (R-OH), who represents Alliance, Ohio.

Horning described the pivotal role afterschool programs play in the lives of children and families in his community, telling the story of a student whose participation in afterschool helped him overcome a history of violent behavior, while improving his classroom performance.

Grant reinforced Horning's message. "The afterschool programs supported by the initiative provide kids with academic support that inspires them to learn. It helps keep them safe and healthy during the afternoon hours when juvenile crime rates soar, and constructively engaged when they might otherwise be getting into trouble on the streets, or perhaps taking drugs, joining gangs or engaging in other inappropriate behaviors.... The funding freeze is a huge problem for afterschool programs around the nation."

#### HFRP STUDY OF DEMOGRAPHICS AND OST PARTICIPATION

A new study from the Harvard Family Research Project (HFRP) finds that children from higher-income families are more likely to participate in most out-of-school-time (OST) programs and activities than their lower-income counterparts. The data come from the first phase of HFRP's ongoing study of the factors associated with participation in OST activities. Among the key findings in, What Are Kids Getting Into These Days? Demographic Differences in Youth Out-of-School Time Participation:

- "Across virtually all OST contexts, youth from higher income families were more likely to participate than youth from lower income families. This held for before and after school programs, other OST programs, and other OST activities."
- "For tutoring programs, however, youth from lower income families were more likely to participate than youth from higher income families."
- "Across most types of programs and activities, Latino youth are consistently underrepresented, and White youth are consistently overrepresented, with Black youth somewhere in between."
- "Black youth, however, showed particularly high participation rates in some OST contexts, such as before and after school programs and summer camps."
- Before and afterschool programs have seen "increases over time in participation rates at every level of family income, but the increase was greatest among the lowest income youth, resulting in a narrowing of the gap between youth from low income families and youth from higher income families."

The study is available online at HFRP's website, at http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afte rschool/resources/demographic.html.

## **REIMAGINING AFTERSCHOOL**

On April 20, afterschool advocates, practitioners, policy makers, business leaders and academics participated in a Capitol Hill symposium, "Reimagining After-School," to discuss the pivotal role afterschool plays in preparing students to succeed in high school, college and beyond. The symposium was sponsored by Citizen Schools, Afterschool Alliance, Education Trust, and YMCA of the USA.

Participants noted that recent media coverage focusing on the "crisis" in American education has increased the sense of urgency facing youth workers. A Citizen Schools analysis based on the national average of inschool hours found that 80 percent of a child's waking hours are spent out of school. Symposium participants said the challenge is to maximize out of school time to ensure that youth are adequately prepared for high school and that the next generation has the skills to get a college degree and succeed in the work force.

Each participant emphasized the need for greater collaboration between schools and afterschool programs. Dr. Edmund Gordon, director of the Institute for Urban and Minority Education, stressed that "the teaching and learning that happens in school and out of school time is complementary... Unless we tackle the broader things that happen in the lives of youngsters, we are not going to solve the problem."

Diverse leaders shared successful practices and discussed strategies for moving forward and ensuring that afterschool programs do their part to prepare youth to succeed. *More information is available at www.citizenschools.org/reimagining.* 

### **REACHING OUT, BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS**

PlusTime New Hampshire's afterschool program is generating support for afterschool in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina and, in the process, building relationships locally. "We're here to support New Hampshire afterschool programs," said Beth Falconer, Vice President of Public Relations for New Hampshire PlusTime. "We want afterschool for all."

With that goal in mind, students from PlusTime and their Americorps\*VISTA members set out to provide relief to afterschool programs in Louisiana by coordinating a statewide school supply drive. PlusTime acquired support from two shipping companies and the donation of a storage area for the supplies. These area businesses that previously had not been aware of PlusTime are now engaged in afterschool – and, as a result of their efforts, many Louisiana students received new school supplies and PlusTime students developed meaningful pen pal programs with students in the affected area.

Recognizing the program's success, on April 11 Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) announced \$247,999 in federal funds to provide additional support to PlusTime's programs. He said, "PlusTime is an example of a program that works, a program that provides high quality, educational after school programming critical for the development of children, especially in those communities that are most in need. With these funds, PlusTime will be able to continue providing these services around New Hampshire, and I applaud PlusTime New Hampshire and all they do for the children of our state."

More information on the program is available at the PlusTime web site, www.plustime.org.



#### **IN THE NEWS**

Alabama – "American Idol" winner Ruben Studdard announced plans to launch an afterschool program. The Music Alternative Project will focus on keeping youth away from gangs by involving them in the behindthe-scenes aspects of music production including songwriting, marketing, accounting and mixing. According to the *Associated Press*, the Birmingham-based program will reach approximately 100 students each year in the state, and will include distance-learning for students who are unable to attend in person. Studdard unveiled his plan to the Alabama Legislature's Joint Prison Committee, noting "I had a lot of friends involved in gang activity." He said that many were very talented musicians, "but they didn't have a vehicle to push them."

California - Some youth in Compton are literally soaring above others in the Aero Squad After School Program, part of Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum at the Compton Airport. The brainchild of Robin Petgrave, youth in the program earn credit toward flight lessons in exchange for community service. Those who successfully complete the program earn free flight training that counts toward requirements for a Commercial Pilot License, giving them a career opportunity when they graduate from high school. The students also participate in activities that promote concentration and imagination, and emphasize positive personal experiences. Petgrave finances the free program with profits from his stunt helicopter business, Celebrity Helicopters. National Public Radio's Luke Burbank described Petgrave as "Peter Pan in a flight suit," noting that he is a true role model for the students. For information, visit www.mentormall.cc/aerosquad.cfm.

**Minnesota** – Youth in Plainview have been eagle watching, ice fishing, and star gazing thanks to a new afterschool program, Project Get Outdoors. Sara Grover, who started the program, is working to expand the initiative statewide. Working with 4-H and Boy and Girl Scouts, the program aims to expose children in grades five through eight to the outdoors. "The big thing is getting them outside and getting them comfortable," Grover told the *Post-Bulletin*. The students most recently completed a hike through Whitewater State Park.

**Oklahoma** – The *Tulsa World* reports that athletes from the Memorial High School's football team are earning praise for tackling youngsters in their afterschool programs. The team is participating in ReCharge, a program sponsored by the National Football League and Action for Healthy Kids that promotes physical activity and healthy eating habits. Children in 20 elementary schools throughout Tulsa are participating in the afterschool activity. At Key Elementary, students take part in modified football agility drills with the Memorial team, increasing their physical activity while being exposed to positive role models. The program is so popular among the high schoolers that limits had to be placed on the number of volunteers. Key Elementary Principal Brenda Jeter said that, in addition to the health and academic benefits, she's noticed that the elementary children "look up to these guys. It's a win/win situation."

Washington – Technology and afterschool are reinventing the concept of "pen-pals" and bringing children closer in Seattle and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, according to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Sponsored by Seattle Community Access Network, the project began in November with children in the Delridge Community Center filming a video for youth from New Orleans who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The Seattle filmmakers were thrilled to receive a return video produced by displaced youth in Baton Rouge, and were surprised to discover shared interests and similarities. While much of the video content focused on the typical "goofing around" of adolescent youngsters, the exchange was also tinged with somber notes when one Seattle youth discussed his fear during an earthquake and a Louisiana youth demonstrated his resilience by singing "We Shall Overcome." The students hope to meet in person, and project directors plan to make a documentary of the video exchanges.

Washington, DC – Afterschool programs in the District of Columbia are joining a plan to eradicate childhood hunger by 2016 by providing healthy snacks and complete dinners to students. The Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in the Nation's Capital included afterschool programs as a key component of its ten part plan, noting that 35,000 children in the District live "on the edge of hunger." The Washington Post reports that 20,000 children participate in D.C. afterschool programs, with the city's Department of Parks and Recreation providing federally subsidized full meals to 5,000 of them. The program is expanding in May to feed 3,000 to 5,000 more children. For information, visit www.askmehowdc.org/.



#### IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

"These programs provide a safe place for students after school, help working families, and inspire students to learn. They are a key strategy in closing the achievement gap and helping all students succeed."

-- St. Mary's County, Maryland Superintendent of Schools Michael J. Martirano, announcing a three year grant of \$787,500 to county public schools to support afterschool programs, *Washington Post*, March 30, 2006

"We're seeing all the data that reflects when you keep young people in a safe environment from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., the crime rate drops, drug use drops. It reduces juvenile crime across the board."

-- Rep. Debbie Benefield (D-Arvada), discussing House Bill 1363, her measure to provide grants to school districts for afterschool programs using a \$75 surcharge on some criminal fines in Colorado, *Rocky Mountain News*, April 13, 2006



#### RESOURCES

## Alliance Web Feature Answers Funding Questions

The Afterschool Alliance continually updates its web feature aimed at helping afterschool programs identify and tap into all available funding sources. The "Funding Forum" will answer funding questions submitted by readers, and carry guest columns on sustainability issues from experts in the field. Now on the site is an interview with Thomas Buckley, External Affairs Manager at AT&T Connecticut. He discusses AT&T Connecticut's involvement in afterschool and offers advice to afterschool advocates who are looking to engage business supporters. Readers can visit the Funding Forum at www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding\_forum.c fm, and submit questions to info@afterschoolalliance.org, with the words "Funding Question" in the subject line.

## Increasing Family Involvement in Afterschool

The After-School Corporation recently released a guide on the positive benefits of involving parents and families in afterschool. The guide demonstrates that engaging parents in afterschool programs helps to increase student success and can also connect families to student services and supports. The guide offers 15 examples of how programs are successfully engaging parents and also provides sample materials and advice. *The free guide is available at http://www.tascorp.org/publications/catalog/* 

parentengagement.

# Multigenerational Partnerships for Positive Action

The Innovation Center for Community and Youth Development has released two new reports that explore the concept of multigenerational relationships as an important component of encouraging positive social change, particularly among youth. Sponsored by the Philanthropy and Volunteerism Program of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the reports examine civic movements of the past that were fueled by youth and also serve as a call to action to youth today and the elders who would guide them. The reports detail the findings of a recent seminar exploring the issue. "Youth Engagement: A Celebration across Time and Culture: Framing the Issue" and "Youth Engagement: A Celebration across Time and Culture: Proceedings Summary" are available at

www.theinnovationcenter.org/events.shtml.



# NEW YOUTH POLICY ACTION CENTER

The Afterschool Alliance has helped launch a new version of the Youth Policy Action Center

(*www.youthpolicyactioncenter.org*), a website that engages young people in real-time democracy to weigh in on policies that affect young people's lives. The Alliance will post timely action alerts on the Youth Policy Action Center, so youth in afterschool programs can contact elected officials when key policies are being discussed.

Visit the site and get youth involved in advocacy! It features action alerts, state pages, policy tools, an information portal, social networking, videos, and links to help people register to vote and find opportunities to volunteer.



## AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL: PROJECT 2010

The number of partners in *Afterschool for All: Project 2010* has increased by more than one-third in the past six months, bringing the total to more than 3,200 individuals and organizations that have pledged support for making afterschool available to all by the year 2010. Among the new partners are the American Heart Association, Catholic Charities of Maine, City of New York Parks & Recreation, and Kentucky State Police.

If you haven't visited recently, check out www.afterschool2010.org to see whether your agency and its allies have joined Afterschool for All: Project 2010. The fast-growing number of partners makes a powerful statement about the broad support for afterschool. The site now includes new tools and up-to-the-minute information on partner activities. Help make afterschool a priority for the nation!

# SUMMER READING TO HELP K.I.D.S.

Afterschool and summer programs promoting children's literacy this summer can also encourage young readers to support a good cause. Scholastic publishers has partnered with the organization, Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc. (K.I.D.S.), to donate a new book to a K.I.D.S. charity for every book that is read and logged onto its site. The project, "Turn Reading into Giving," has the goal to reach 50,000 books read and, in turn, donated.

K.I.D.S. (*www.kidsdonations.org*) distributes new donated merchandise for children and youth to more than 1,000 nonprofit agencies that work with children in poverty-stricken communities, homeless shelters, foster-care facilities, hospitals, AIDS clinics and relief organizations in the United States and abroad.

The new site, "Summer Reading Buzz," includes activities and contests for youth, and tips and resource materials for parents and educators. *The site is, www.scholastic.com/summerreading/*.



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Grants for Media Smart Youth**

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the Academy for Educational Development are seeking requests for proposals from afterschool programs to receive funding to implement the Media Smart Youth Program. The interactive program targets students age 11 to 13 with the goal of teaching them about the complex media world around them, and how it can affect their health – especially regarding nutrition and physical activity. The deadline for applications is May 26. *For information on the program, visit* 

www.nichd.nih.gov/msy/msy.htm. Please contact Ronne Ostby-Malling, Media Smart Youth Program Manager at 202/884-8235 or rostby@aed.org to submit an application.

#### Grants for Community Preservation Projects

The History Channel is sponsoring Save Our History grants of up to \$10,000 for afterschool programs that partner with history organizations (such as museums, historical societies, preservation organizations, archives, libraries or government agencies) to undertake educational, creative and compelling community preservation projects. The deadline for applications is June 2. *For information, visit* 

www.saveourhistory.com/pres\_org/grants.html.

#### **Grants for Community Service**

Youth Service America and Lionsgate are sponsoring a "Bee" the Change Community Service Grant of \$1,000 for a youth-led sustainable community service project that focuses on improving literacy. The project should use the movie "Akeelah and the Bee," showing now in theaters, as inspiration. Part of the project must take place on April 20 to 22, 2007, National and Global Youth Service Days. U.S. citizens age five to 25 are encouraged to apply no later than June 9. *For information, call 202/296-2992 or visit www.ysa.org/awards/*.

#### **Grants for Artistic Exploration**

The National Endowment for the Arts is offering Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth grants. They support activities that help youth in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade to appreciate, understand, learn about, and develop skills in the arts. Projects can be school- or community-based and must provide participatory learning and engagement of students with skilled artists, teachers, and excellent art. They must also apply national, state, or local arts education standards. Applications are due June 12. *For information, go to* 

www.arts.gov/grants/apply/GAP07/Learningi ntheArts.html.

# Grants for Projects that Enhance Physical Health

The Balance Bar Company is offering grants of up to \$25,000 to youth organizations that develop projects that help communities pursue a sport or recreational activity that enhances physical health. Past grants have supported the purchase of equipment, training and other activities related to archery, cycling, hiking, martial arts, running, yoga and others. The application deadline is August 31. For information, visit

www.balance.com/grants/GrantTemplate.asp x?type=2&entryid=2&m=modules/rules.

#### **Grants for Promoting Tolerance**

The Southern Poverty Law Center and the Study Circles Resource Center are sponsoring Mix It Up grants of up to \$500 to support youth-directed programs and projects that address social boundaries in schools or communities. Youth must serve as decisionmakers in the project, and create and implement them. Projects must promote collaboration across social boundaries different youth groups, clubs or community groups working together, and should be a part of an ongoing effort or an effort that's getting started but will continue. *For information, contact Mix It Up Grants at 334/956-8200 or www.tolerance.org/teens/grants.jsp.* 

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 8 – 9 and July 27 – 28, 2006 The America's Promise Alliance will host regional forums to share best practices and encourage greater collaboration within communities to see that all young people have the fundamental resources they need to succeed. The first regional forum will take place on June 8 and 9 in Long Beach, California. On July 27 and 28 there will be a regional forum in Providence, Rhode Island. Forums will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, Indianapolis, Indiana and Denver, Colorado this fall. For information and to register, visit

www.americaspromise.org/100Best/regionalf orums.cfm.

#### ✓ June 14 – 16, 2006

McREL and the National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning will host the PEAK Afterschool Conference in Copper Mountain, Colorado. The conference is geared toward practitioners, program directors, community partners and leaders in the afterschool field. Workshops will provide information on sustainability, youth development, professional development, and more. For information and to register, visit www.ascentmeetings.com/mcrel.htm.

#### ✓ 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers 2006 Summer Institute will be held July 10-12 in San Diego, CA. *For information and to register online, go to www.synergyentinc.com/21stcentury/.* 

#### N July 17 - 20, 2006

The National Institute on Out-of-School Time will hold its annual Summer Seminars for afterschool program professionals at the John Hancock Conference Center in Boston. Seminars will offer technical assistance and training and will address issues including professional and organizational development, leadership, funding, curriculum design and quality improvements. *For information, visit www.niost.org/training/sumsem06.html or call 781/283-2546.* 

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The Community Technology Centers' Network will host the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Technology Conference in Washington, DC. The conference includes training workshops, sessions and panels, plus the chance to network with more than 500 individuals in the field of community technology. Afterschool providers and youth development workers are encouraged to attend. *For information, visit www.ctcnet.org/what/conference.* 

### ✓ September 20 – 22, 2006

The North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs will host its annual statewide summit, "SYNERGY: Windows of Opportunity," at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. *For information, visit www.nccap.net/about/conference.cfm*.

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

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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