

A media outreach newsletter published by the Afterschool Alliance

BUSH PROPOSES NO INCREASE FOR 21ST CCLC IN '08

Afterschool leaders, educators and parents were dismayed Monday to learn that President Bush proposes to flat fund the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) afterschool initiative at just \$981 million next year. "That is not nearly enough to meet the needs of our children and families," Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant said. "Children deserve better."

The President requested \$56 billion for discretionary education programs in Fiscal Year (FY) 08. That includes an additional \$1.2 billion for Title I grants to Local Education Agencies targeted to high schools, \$365 million in new funds to improve math and science instruction, and \$300 million to "expand private school choice" and supplemental educational services for the parents of students in Title I schools in need of improvement.

The President's FY 08 budget continues to fund the Child Care and Development Block Grant at \$2.1 billion, and zeroes out the Community Services Block Grants. Fortyfour education programs are targeted for elimination.

"We understand that these are tight budgetary times, but if Congress accepts the President's proposal, more than 14 million kindergarten through 12th-graders will continue to be unsupervised and at risk after the school day ends," Grant added. "That is simply unacceptable."

The *No Child Left Behind Act* authorized \$2.5 billion for the 21st CCLC initiative in FY 07. Instead of following its roadmap,

Volume 8, Issue 2, February 6, 2007

lawmakers have adopted a series of freezes and cuts that have left the initiative badly underfunded, Grant said, noting that the \$981 million the President proposes for FY 08 is more than \$20 million in real cuts to funding provided in 2002.

Strong Support/Inadequate Funding

A 2006 election survey found that 72 percent of voters agree that "our newly elected public officials in Congress should increase funding for afterschool programs." Just 24 percent disagree.

This strong public support has not brought adequate funding from lawmakers, and programs are struggling. A 2006 web survey conducted by the Afterschool Alliance found that many programs are fully subscribed but still unable to meet demand, and budget cuts and stagnation are taking a toll. Many programs have made deep cuts, and leaders say future funding is insecure.

States with Republican and Democratic governors – from California to Connecticut and New Mexico to Missouri to South Carolina – are increasing their afterschool spending. "The federal government must do the same, as federal dollars are critical to leveraging additional state, local and private funds for afterschool programs," Grant added, vowing to convince Congress to increase 21st CCLC spending next year.

The Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee charged Monday that the President's budget proposal would "leave behind two million students who would receive afterschool services if the program were funded at the level promised in *No Child Left Behind*."



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 it 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 homepage. Again, please localize it as needed and email it to your elected representatives – and urge others to do the same!

To the Editor:

The President's 2008 budget proposal is a disappointment for all of us who want to give children safe, supervised activities each afternoon. The President proposes to spend less than \$1 billion for afterschool in Fiscal Year 2008 – far less than the \$2.5 billion authorized by the *No Child Left Behind Act* for afterschool in Fiscal Year 2007. The Afterschool Alliance reports that 14 million K-12 children in this country are unsupervised in the afternoons. Here in, [add info on unmet need in your community]. Our nation can and must do better for its kids.

Afterschool programs keep children safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families. We need more afterschool programs, so that every child has the chance to learn and no child is at risk for unsafe behaviors after schools close and before parents get home from work. Kids and families here in [your community] are counting on Congress to more adequately fund afterschool programs next year!

Sincerely, [Your Name, Program, Daytime Phone Number]

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Dear [Senator/Representative X]:

Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families here in [your state]. President Bush has proposed to flat fund the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative, the chief federal funding stream for afterschool, at just \$981 million in Fiscal Year 2008. If his proposal is approved, it would leave afterschool funding at less than 40 percent of what the *No Child Left Behind Act* authorized in Fiscal Year 2007.

At a time when 14 million K-12 children in the U.S. are unsupervised in the afternoons, and afterschool programs are unable to meet the demand in their communities, we simply must do better. Here in [add information on unmet demand in your community.]

A 2006 survey found that 72 percent of voters agree that "our newly elected public officials in Congress should increase funding for afterschool programs." I hope that you will do so. Afterschool programs are a worthwhile investment. Research shows they reduce teen pregnancy, substance abuse, juvenile crime and gang involvement. That's why states with Republican and Democratic governors – from California to Connecticut and New Mexico to Missouri to South Carolina – are increasing afterschool spending. But federal funds are crucial. Please, increase funding for the 21st CCLC next year. Thank you.

[Your name and contact information]

FUNDING NEWS

The Afterschool Alliance has numerous resources on its website to help afterschool providers, including tips on initiating new relationships with funders and businesses, and on identifying funding opportunities. *For more information, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding_main.cfm*.

GRANTS/AWARDS AVAILABLE

Awards for Essays on Scientific Discoveries

The DuPont Center for Collaborative Research and Education is sponsoring the DuPont Challenge Science Essay Competition. Students in grades seven through 12 are invited to write essays discussing a scientific theory, discovery, event or technology application that has captured their interest. Winners will be selected for junior and senior divisions and are eligible for prizes ranging from \$100 to \$3,000. The deadline is February 12. *For more information, go to www.glcomm.com/dupont/index.htm.*

Awards for Youth Mystery Writing

The Mystery Writers of America is sponsoring the Joan Lowery Nixon Award mystery writing contest for students in grades two through ten. Students are encouraged to create unique mystery stories and winners will be awarded \$250. The deadline is February 28. *For more information, visit http://www.mysterywriters.org/pages/news/nixon.htm or call 212/888-8171.*

Awards for International Awareness and Website Design

The US Department of State is sponsoring the Doors to Diplomacy competition for teams of two to four students to design and create websites that teach about the importance of international affairs and diplomacy with the help of up to two adult coaches. The websites should address one of eight categories, including science and technology; safety and security; or business, trade and economics. Each student member of the winning team will be awarded a \$2,000 scholarship and each of the winning coaches' schools will receive a \$500 award. The deadline is March 15. *For more information, visit www.gsn.org/gsh/doors/index.html*.

Awards for Providers Working with Special Needs Children

Heartspring is sponsoring the 2007 Heartspring Award for Innovation and Creativity in Special Education. Providers who utilize creative means to reach out to special needs children are invited to apply. The award consists of a \$1,000 prize and an expense-paid four day summer session to learn more about the field alongside other special education providers. The deadline is March 15. *For more information, go to www.heartspring.org/resources/professionals/outstandingeducator/ or call 316/634-8792*.

Awards for Youth Community Service

The Hitachi Foundation is sponsoring the Yoshiyama Awards for Exemplary Service to the Community, which honors up to ten high school seniors for their community service. Afterschool providers may nominate students. Those selected will be awarded up to \$5,000 each over two years. The deadline is April 2. *For more information, and to apply, visit www.hitachifoundation.org/yoshiyama/index.html or call 202/457-0588*.

STEVE AZAR JOINS FORCES WITH THE AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE

Just before joining Bob Seger & the Silver Bullet Band for the February 8 Dallas performance of their *Face the Promise Tour* at the American Airlines Center, country music blues rocker Steve Azar will visit with the students of the Project S.A.F.E. afterschool program at John Haley Elementary School in Irving, Texas.

Project S.A.F.E. is supported by a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant, which funds ten afterschool programs in the Irving school district. The program at John Haley began this fall, and serves approximately 75 students each day, providing homework assistance, tutorials and academic enrichment, as well as recreational activities such as Robotics, Cooking, Origami and Mad Science.

Following an open house, Azar will perform some of his hit songs which have soared to the top of the Billboard charts, including "I Don't Have to Be Me ('Til Monday)," "Waitin' on Joe" and his latest, "You Don't Know a Thing." Songs from his new album, INDIANOLA, are available exclusively at his Seger concert dates through March, with a national retail and online release expected later in the spring.

Azar will also speak with students about what they like best about afterschool learning and will meet with the principal to discuss the school-wide improvements that are directly attributable to the afterschool program.

The visit marks Azar's first collaboration with the Afterschool Alliance; he met with Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant before a recent D.C. concert. "We're looking forward to a long and productive relationship that builds even greater awareness about the need for more afterschool programs," Grant said. For future concert information and to download songs, visit www.steveazar.com/.

SAVE THE DATES

The Afterschool Alliance has announced that the 2007 *Afterschool for All Challenge*, including the *Breakfast of Champions*, will be held on Monday, April 23 and Tuesday, April 24 in Washington, D.C. Events will be held at the Hilton Washington Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. *Check future Advocates and the Alliance website, www.afterschoolalliance.org, for details.*

IN THE NEWS...

Colorado – The Pueblo Youth Project is easing the transition from girlhood to womanhood by offering quinceañera preparation classes after school. Although now considered the Latino version of a "sweet sixteen" celebration, according to the Pueblo Chieftan, a quinceañera was a traditional Latin American rite of passage for girls moving from self-focused childhoods to community-focused adulthoods. The program was designed in response to Pueblo County's high rate of teen pregnancy among Hispanics. "We teach abstinence education, not only from sex but from drugs, gang activity, bad choices. We teach life skills," said Bridget Trujillo, Executive Director of the Project. Both the classes and the graduation ceremony are free to participants and the Project contributes to the cost of the girls' graduation dresses.

Iowa – Sioux City is facing an increase in gang activity, reaching a ten-year high. "Peewee gangs," groups of nine and ten year olds who claim to be gangs, are also on the rise, reports the *Sioux City Journal*. Much of this renewed gang activity is attributable to a decrease in state and federal funding for programs to keep youth busy and out of

Afterschool Advocate

trouble after school, said Sioux City gang prevention specialist Leo Miller. "We haven't lost control, but we're moving in a direction I'm not happy with...Money cuts are hurting us," Miller told the newspaper.

New York – Students at the Harlem Children Zone's afterschool program had a brush with royalty when they hosted England's Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall. According to the *Associated Press*, the students impressed the royals with their savvy investment skills. In the program, students make virtual investments in the stock market as part of their finance education. If the investment is successful, the student earns real money, although there are no penalties for unsuccessful investments. *For more information on the program, visit http://www.hcz.org/.*

Oregon – Although worlds away, students at the BLAST afterschool program in Hillsborough are reaching out to raise funds to help Afghani girls get math and literacy lessons. The students have begun a penny drive at Minter Bridge Elementary, reports the *Oregonian*, and each \$75 raised pays for nine months of classes for one girl in Afghanistan. The BLAST students regularly complete community service projects at their program, but decided to address the needs of a community abroad after learning more about Afghan culture in their diversity classes. *For information, go to*

http://www.abchomeandplanet.org/WFAW/Lit eracyforanAfghanGirl.aspx.

Wisconsin – Youngsters in the Community Culture Dance Club, an afterschool program that helps Hmong refugees adjust to life in Wausau, have lent their skills to help others with the acculturation process. The students illustrated two bilingual children's books, in Hmong and English, that families can read together and practice their language skills, reports the *Wausau Daily Herald*. "The Myth of the Owl" and "My Family is Special to Me" were written by program coordinator Bao Xiong, who organized the team of young artists. Proceeds from the book sales go directly to the Club. *To order the books contact Xiong directly at 715/845-8022*.

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL: PROJECT 2010

Afterschool for All: Project 2010 can be an effective tool to rally contacts, create relationships with new funders and build strong partnerships with community groups. We want to shine a spotlight on your advocacy! Please send your success stories to: *mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org* or call Marie Coichy at 212/548-0309. And if you've been meaning to tell friends and colleagues about Afterschool for All: Project 2010, now is the time! It takes less a minute to sign on at *www.afterschool2010.org*.

DIRECT DEMOCRACY AFTERSCHOOL

A marriage of technology and civics has brought youth in Fairfax County, Virginia, into greater contact with their elected officials. The program, "Listening to Democracy's Next Generation," is sponsored by the Equal Footing Foundation and is available to high school seniors in the Gums Springs Community Center Computer Clubhouse afterschool program.

During the program, the students will engage in interactive web-based dialogue with government officials about public policy. They will address three key issues for the Virginia budget –transportation, human services and education. State delegates and members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board and State Board of Education have signed on to the project and are enthusiastic about engaging the next generation of voters.

"Our youth are less engaged in what government does, or should be doing, and I want to change that. On the flip side, elected officials need to be better connected with what our youth are thinking about how government works, and how they can encourage them to get more involved," said Delegate Kristen J. Amundson, (D-44th).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

February 7 - 10, 2007

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, Foundations Inc. is sponsoring the 10th annual Beyond School Hours Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina. World-renowned poet Dr. Maya Angelou will deliver the keynote address on February 8. The conference will include seminars and workshops on professional development, funding and programming strategies. Participants will learn more about current research, curriculum, evaluations and program improvement. *For more information and to register, visit*

http://www.foundationsinc.org/events/confere nce/beyond10/default.asp.

February 7, 8, 13 & 22, 2007

The US Department of Education will be hosting Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Regional Workshops that offer free technical assistance to organizations interested in becoming SES providers. The workshops will take place: February 7 in Arlington, Texas; February 8, in St. Louis. Missouri; February 13 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and February 22 in Charleston, South Carolina. For more information, call (800) USA-LEARN or go to http://www.ed.gov/about/inits/list/fbci/suppser v-workshops.html.

February 19 - 22, 2007

The National At-Risk Educational Network (NAREN) is sponsoring the 4th annual NAREN Conference in Panama City, Florida. Topics include youth empowerment and engagement through extracurricular activities. *For more information and to register, visit http://www.atriskeducation.net/news/conferen ces.html or call 920/907-8337.*

March 4 - 7, 2007

The Georgia Southern University College of Education and Continuing Education Center will host the 18th annual National Youth-at-Risk conference in Savannah, Georgia. The conference offers more than 100 presentations on educational tools, strategies and best practices. *For more information and to register, go to http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/yar20*

07.html or call 912/871-1755.

March 15 - 17, 2007

The California School-Age Consortium (CalSAC) will host the 25th anniversary statewide conference "Soaring With CalSAC," in Irvine, California. The conference will draw approximately 1,000 afterschool providers and offers more than 70 workshops, two general sessions, Awards of Excellence and an anniversary gala. *For more information and to register, visit www.calsacconference.org.*

March 21 - 23, 2007

The National AfterSchool Association will host its 19th annual afterschool conference, the largest afterschool gathering in the world, in Phoenix, Arizona, with more than 300 events, seminars and workshops. *For more information and to register, visit http://www.naaconference.org/ or call (800)* 606-0061.

March 27 - 31, 2007

The Youth Leadership Council will sponsor the 18th annual National Service Learning conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Afterschool Advocate

The conference will draw approximately 3,000 participants from across the country and the world, and offers more than 200 workshops. *For more information and to register, visit*

https://programs.regweb.com/metro/NYLC20 07/registration/ or call (800) 366-6952.

April 23 - 24, 2007

The Afterschool Alliance will host the 2007 Afterschool for All Challenge, including the Breakfast of Champions, in Washington, D.C. Events will be held at the Hilton Washington Hotel. Check future Advocates and the Alliance website, www.afterschoolalliance.org, for more information.

May 8 - 9, 2007

The After-School Institute of the Safe and Sound Campaign in Baltimore will host the Third Annual Eastern Regional Conference on After-School, in Baltimore, Maryland. Topics will include sustainability, rural programming, school/after-school partnerships, programming for older youth and staff recruitment. *For more information, visit*

www.afterschoolinstitute.org/TASI/aboutn/cal endar.aspx.

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 working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs by 2010. More information is available at *www.afterschoolalliance.org.* The Alliance is proud to count among its founding partners the Mott Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, JCPenney Afterschool Fund, Open Society Institute/The After-School Corporation, the Entertainment Industry Foundation and the Creative Artists Agency Foundation.

The *Afterschool Advocate* is produced for the Afterschool Alliance by PR Solutions, Inc., Washington, DC; Phone: 202/371-1999; Fax: 202/371-9142; E-mail: advocate@afterschoolalliance.org.