



Afterschool Advocate

A media outreach newsletter published by the Afterschool Alliance

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'07 ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE

The hard work and powerful advocacy of afterschool advocates across the country will begin bringing tangible benefits to children and families this summer when the \$100 million increase to the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21st CCLC) begins flowing to the states.

In late December, President Bush signed into law a spending bill that included the first increase in afterschool spending in six years. Throughout the year, allies in Congress had pressed for the increase in afterschool funding. The President vetoed the bill the first time it crossed his desk, causing Congress to make cuts to reduce overall health, education and labor spending – but Congress preserved the afterschool funding increase in the version of the bill the President eventually signed. Some 100,000 more children nationwide will have access to afterschool programs as a result.

“This increase is most welcome and long overdue,” Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant said. “We are delighted that Members of Congress held firm and worked together to make more afterschool programs available to America’s children and families. We are especially grateful to long-time afterschool supporter Chairman David Obey (D-WI) who worked with Ranking Member Jim Walsh (R-NY), as well as Senate counterparts Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Ranking Member Arlen Specter (R-PA), for keeping the afterschool increase in the final appropriations bill. Congress is finally listening to voters, who see a real need for more afterschool programs in this nation.”

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.’

“This increase is only a start,” Grant noted. “The *No Child Left Behind Act* authorized \$2.5 billion for the 21st CCLC in FY 07, but years of freezes and across the board cuts have left programs badly underfunded and millions of children without the safe, supervised after school activities they need. By increasing the 21st CCLC appropriation to \$1.1 billion next year, lawmakers are starting to put the nation back on the road to providing afterschool programs for all children. But at a time when more than 14 million kindergarten through 12th-graders are unsupervised and at risk after the school day ends, we need to do much more to invest in quality afterschool programs. Every child deserves safe, supervised, educational activities after the school day ends.”

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2008 EVENTS

Mark your calendar now for the “Afterschool for All Challenge” in Washington, D.C. on May 13 and 14. The Afterschool Alliance will team with the National League of Cities to provide two days of workshops, speakers, advocacy opportunities and fun for hundreds of afterschool providers and leaders from around the country, and some of the parents and children they serve. The 9th annual *Lights On Afterschool* will be on October 16 this year. Check the Afterschool Alliance website, www.afterschoolalliance.org, regularly for updates and information on both events!

OUTREACH

LET MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HEAR FROM YOU

The Afterschool Alliance is urging afterschool advocates around the country to write letters and emails thanking their Representative and Senators for standing firm and winning a \$100 million increase to the federal afterschool budget in Fiscal Year 2008. Because many Members of Congress are hearing from constituents who are angry about the many worthy children's and education programs that were cut, it is especially important to thank them for the afterschool funding increase. Go to www.afterschoolalliance.org and click on the blue Contact Congress button on the left side of the homepage to find out who your Members are, and send an email. Following is language for a letter or email that can be localized and sent.

Dear [Representative/Senator Name]:

Thank you so much for helping to increase the federal budget for 21st Century Community Learning Centers by \$100 million in Fiscal Year 2008. After six years of level funding and painful across-the-board cuts, afterschool programs here in [your city or town and state] urgently need this increase so they can serve more children who otherwise would have no safe, supervised activities after the school day ends.

Afterschool programs keep students safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families. [Insert a sentence or two on your program, the number of students it serves and the activities it provides.]

The *No Child Left Behind Act* authorized \$2.5 billion for 21st Century Community Learning Centers last year, so I'm sure you agree that the \$1.1 billion 2008 appropriation is just a down payment on what our children and families need. I look forward to working with you to protect this increase and build on it next year. Thank you again for taking a stand for [state]'s children and families.

Sincerely,

[Your name, title, affiliation]

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

Afterschool for All totals 17,682 partners this month. Among the new partners are ASPIRA of New York, the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York, and the University of Minnesota's Center for Youth Development.

As the primaries heat up, afterschool advocates nationwide are using the *Afterschool for All* outreach toolkit (http://www.afterschool2010.org/partner_tools.cfm) at many campaign events to raise awareness for afterschool. Recently, the South Carolina Afterschool Alliance reported that, in partnership with Every Child Matters, it solicited more than 300 signatures in support of *Afterschool for All* during a rally held in the state for a presidential candidate. Are you interested in doing something similar in your community? Visit www.afterschool2010.org for helpful tools like a sample community petition and talking points to help make the case for afterschool.

Questions or concerns? Contact Marie Coichy at mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org.



FUNDING NEWS

The Afterschool Alliance has numerous resources on its website for afterschool providers, including tips for initiating relationships with funders and businesses, and for identifying funding opportunities. To learn more, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding_main.cfm.

GRANTS/AWARDS AVAILABLE

Awards for High School Students

NetAid, an initiative of Mercy Corps, is offering Global Action Awards to honor high school students who have shown leadership in efforts to alleviate global poverty; prevent disease; stop hunger; protect the environment; promote human rights; and more. Honorees will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship or can use the award for a charitable cause. The application deadline is January 31. For more information, visit http://www.netaid.org/global_action_awards/.

Grants for Music Education

The Mockingbird Foundation is offering one-time grants to programs that provide music education to children and youth, with a particular emphasis on creative expression – including composition, instrumentation, vocalization and improvisation. Grants range from \$50 to \$5,000. Letters of inquiry are due February 1. For more information, visit <http://www.mockingbirdfoundation.org/funding/>.

Grants for Literacy Programs

Dollar General is offering Youth Literacy Grants to implement or expand literacy programs for new readers, below-grade-level readers or readers with learning disabilities. Programs must be located within 20 miles of a Dollar General store. Grant amounts do not exceed \$3,000. The application deadline is February 5. For more information, visit <http://www.dollargeneral.com/community/communityinvestments.aspx>.

Grants for Programs Highlighting Native American Culture

The First Nations Native Youth and Culture Fund is offering grants of \$5,000 to \$20,000 for projects that incorporate Indigenous culture and tradition to address youth social issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, mental health, etc. Tribal programs or Native nonprofits in or near Indian Country, including organizations in Alaska and Hawaii, are eligible to apply. Letters of intent are due February 8. For more information, visit <http://www.firstnations.org/nativeyouthculturefund.asp>.

Grants for Dance Programs

The Capezio Ballet Makers Dance Foundation is offering grants to fund and support programs that affect the field of dance and promote various forms of dance. Grants range from \$500 to \$1,000. The application deadline is April 1. For more information, visit <http://www.capeziodance.net/about/foundation/grant/priorities.html>.



NEW PROGRAM EVALUATION ISSUE BRIEFS

In January, Child Trends, an independent research center focused on children's issues, released four new research briefs designed to guide afterschool programs through the sometimes complicated process of a formal evaluation.

Outcome Evaluation: A Guide for Out-of-School Time Practitioners by Tiffany Allen and Jacinta Bronte-Tinkew, and *Process Evaluations: A Guide for Out-of-School Time Practitioners* by Lillian Bowie and Jacinta Bronte-Tinkew discuss *what* programs should consider evaluating. *Quasi-Experimental Evaluations* by Kristin Anderson Moore, and *Random Assignment Evaluation Studies* by Kristin Anderson Moore and Allison Metz explore different research *approaches*. They are the latest in a series on Practical Evaluation Methods.

Other titles include, *Why Conduct a Program Evaluation? Five Reasons Why Evaluation Can Help an Out-of-School Time Program*, and *Five Steps for Selecting an Evaluator: A Guide for Out-of-School Time Practitioners*.

All are available online at http://www.childtrends.org/_listResources.cfm?LID=85404DAF-BC61-4DCF-94554EC9C51115CA#er.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

"It does not matter where you are, kids get in trouble. A lot of times it's because of idle time. [This grant] provides an alternative to going home and playing on the PlayStation or smoking pot in the arroyo."

-- Rio Rancho Department of Public Safety Sergeant Brett Denison, on a new \$25,000 grant to create before- and afterschool programs to address juvenile delinquency, November 14, 2007, *Albuquerque Journal*

"We have already taken several steps forward. We trained hundreds of Advanced Placement teachers and helped more students take Advanced Placement math and science tests. We built more technologically-advanced classrooms, and we funded afterschool programs in math and science... Our changes are working... I recommend \$1.1 million for afterschool programs, which help students learn, stay fit, stay safe, and stay out of trouble."

-- Missouri Governor Matt Blunt, State of the State Speech, January 15, 2008, announcing his proposed Fiscal Year 2009 education budget



IN THE NEWS...

Arkansas – American roots music is alive and well in Mayflower, thanks to the dedication and direction of Sally Stuart, a bluegrass musician who began an afterschool program last year for gifted and talented students. The program focuses on teaching them to play bluegrass, one chord at a time. Students practice on mandolins, bass, guitars, Dobro and banjos. Stuart developed a curriculum and has been honored by the International Bluegrass Association for using bluegrass in the classroom. The talented fourth through eighth grade musicians will perform an outdoor concert for the community in the spring, reports the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

California – Eight-year-old Rafael Garcia dreams of "being an artist, like Vicente Fernandez or Alejandro Fernandez," he told the *Monterey County Herald*. His dreams of big-time mariachi stardom are being helped along by instructor Juan Ramos and fellow classmates in the advanced mariachi afterschool program at Martin Luther King Jr. Academy in Salinas. The program is funded by Measure V, a half-cent tax approved by Salinas voters in 2005 for afterschool

programs. The Alisal Union School District hopes to make advanced mariachi a signature program.

Colorado – Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center is playing a larger role with Pueblo’s youth, in an effort to reduce the negative effects of a \$6 million reduction in the Pueblo City Schools budget. The Center plans to introduce afterschool programs that focus on the arts, open to all students on Fridays when students are released early from schools. “We are hoping to fill two needs,” Dawn DiPrince, Center associate director told the *Pueblo Chieftain*. “Parents don’t have a place for day care and, with all the budget issues and mandate issues, arts has unfortunately been eliminated from some school programs.” *For more information, visit <http://www.sdc-arts.org/youngart.html>.*

Illinois – High School students taking part in Chicago Public Schools’ Education to Careers afterschool program are gaining first hand experience in public safety careers. The two-year program, run jointly with the police and fire departments and the City Colleges of Chicago, gives students hands-on training at police and fire department training academies including scaling up 100-foot ladders perched outside downtown buildings. “I think it was the experience of a lifetime,” Keith Stiggers, 16, told the *Chicago Tribune*. “I learned that anything is doable with a little help.” In addition to career training, students receive two paid internships and high school credits for their public service. *For more information, visit <http://www.etcchicago.com/clusterview.asp?CV=12&CID=52>.*

Maine – Westbrook Police Chief William Baker, city councilor Drew Gattine and other public safety and city officials braved the frigid waters of Saccarappa Falls recently to raise money for Mission Possible, which runs afterschool programs for teens. Chief Baker, who is a whitewater rafting guide, organized

the fundraising activity. Participants barreled down the 16-foot Saccarappa Falls in rubber rafts in 25-degree weather; half ended up in the Presumpscot River. “I hope [the fundraiser] sends the message that the police chief, the City Council and the community do care about the kids in this community,” Baker told the *Portland Press Herald*. The event raised more than \$1,000 which will be used to purchase clothes, school items and cleaning supplies for the teen center. *For more information, visit <http://www.mptcteens.org/>.*

South Dakota - At-risk youth in Sioux Falls have a new option to help them succeed – the McCrossan Boys Ranch recently initiated an afterschool program that is open to both boys and girls. The Evening Treatment Program provides homework help, behavioral therapy and activities on the Ranch. Program administrators provide transportation from Sioux Falls schools to students who may be referred by the state Department of Corrections, social services, schools and parents. The addition of girls is a first for the Ranch. “We really wanted to try it out and see how the girls do, and let them enjoy the Ranch as much as the boys do,” Rachel Kock, program coordinator, told the *Argus Leader*. *For more information, visit <http://www.mccrossan.org/index.php>.*



AFTERSCHOOL PROFILE:

A FOCUS ON HEALTH

An innovative afterschool program in Kansas is working to make sure children in the rural manufacturing and farming community of Iola have access to needed health care.

The SAFE BASE program opened its doors in 2000, with support from a federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant. The state of Kansas subsequently renewed 21st Century support for the program,

and it now serves about 300 K-12 children a day. Children begin their afternoons with academic assistance – help with homework, extra instruction, one-on-one tutoring, math and science classes – and then move to a series of enrichment or athletic activities that include jewelry-making, scrap booking, bike-riding, fishing, field trips and more.

For the past three years, the program has operated health fairs in conjunction with school registration. With donated school supplies offered as an incentive, students are invited to participate in a SAFE BASE-sponsored health fair at which local doctors, dentists, student nurses, and dental hygienists volunteer their time, providing free immunizations, physicals, vision care, head lice checks, and dental screenings.

Children who need follow-up dental care receive a voucher from SAFE BASE for a free office visit, and many of those who need care or treatment beyond that initial visit receive financial support. SAFE BASE also arranges transportation to and from the dentist’s office for students who need it, something that Project Director Angela Henry says is particularly important for children whose parents are unable to leave work during office hours.

“We’re deeply grateful to everyone who has helped support the program, particularly the REACH Healthcare Foundation – which funds our dental project,” Henry says. “The Iola and Humboldt Rotary Clubs, the Moran Ruritan Club, as well all the medical professionals and students – they’ve all made an enormous difference in the lives of these kids.”

After its successful first year, the health program expanded beyond Iola to cover the county’s other two school districts. This past year, the program conducted three separate health fairs, serving more than 950 students in August in a county with 16,000 total residents. The program is providing follow-up dental treatment to 252 students countywide. Two measures of impact stand out: Over the years, more than 700 cavities

have been filled as a result of the screenings, and school nurses tell program leaders that head lice cases have dropped dramatically during the school year since the August screenings began.

In fall 2007, SAFE BASE began providing mental health care for its Iola students, with support from a grant from Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City. “It’s starting out very well,” Henry says of the new initiative. “A lot of the kids using the service would otherwise get counseling during the regular day, which would take them out of class, and also raise stigma issues. Many of these students are struggling academically already. Removing them from the classroom only adds to this concern. After school counseling works better on all fronts – longer sessions, no missed class time, and no stigma attached. A lot of the counseling is done in small groups, and they’re focused on anger management, life skills, grief and loss, divorce issues, and so on. At the elementary level, we provide a lot of classes that have therapeutic values – art therapy, pet therapy with dogs, music therapy, and life skills, for example.”

“It’s helped our kids, and it’s helped our program,” she continues. “It gives us a very useful tool for helping kids who have anger problems or other types of concerns. I can say to the parents, ‘we have this anger management program, and maybe that’d be something to think about enrolling your child in.’ Or if we get to a situation where our teachers are having difficulty handling a child with a problem, we can get advice and a referral from a mental health professional.”

For children and families in Iola, SAFE BASE is more than living up to its name.



CALIFORNIA UPDATE

Proposed Afterschool Budget Cut

The California School-Age Consortium reports that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is proposing a series of cuts to try to balance the state budget. Child development programs in the state could see cuts as deep as \$198.9 million in 2008/2009, and the After School Education and Safety (ASES) program could see a reduction of \$59.6 million. Because ASES funding resulted from a ballot initiative, the Schwarzenegger Administration has to propose a ballot initiative to amend Proposition 49 to achieve these savings. According to the Governor's budget proposal, "the impact of this reduction would be minimal because a number of recent grant recipients have not implemented the program or have not achieved the enrollment levels initially anticipated."

Children Now Report Card

The Oakland-based advocacy group Children Now released "California Report Card 2008: The State of the State's Children" in January. It names afterschool as a bright spot among many near-failing categories, giving afterschool a grade of B-plus – the highest mark. High rates of pediatric obesity and violence against children helped reduce marks across the board. "Too many children in California continue to lack access to quality health care, strong educational opportunities and other fundamental building blocks for a healthy, productive life," the report says. Specific to afterschool, it states: "more California children than ever have access to afterschool programs, although ensuring program quality remains a challenge." Among the recommendations: improving school meals, promoting quality physical education; and ensuring the safety of parks and playgrounds. *For more information and to view the report, visit http://publications.childrennow.org/publications/invest/reportcard_2008.cfm.*



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Each state will set its own timetable for making grants with its portion of the increase, but many will hold competitions and even begin distributing the new funds this year. A chart that estimates what the increase will mean for each state, in terms of both dollars and children served, is available on the Afterschool Alliance website at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Current_vs_Final_FY08.pdf

Watch for the next Afterschool Advocate next week, after President Bush releases his Fiscal Year 2009 budget proposal.



DISCOUNT ON SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The Afterschool Alliance partnership with Discount School Supply gives 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.discountsschoolsupply.com. Or mention it when you call 1-800-627-2829 to place an order.





MARK YOUR CALENDARS...


 **February 14 - 17, 2008**

Foundations Inc. will host the "Beyond School Hours XI: Bringing Learning to Life" national conference in Jacksonville, Florida. The keynote speaker is distinguished author and world renowned poet Dr. Maya Angelou. The conference will touch on a wide variety of issues affecting afterschool, including: technology; staff support; summer learning; rural resources; engaging parents,


communities and stakeholders; program quality; funding; and more. *For more information, visit* <http://www.foundationsinc.org/events/conference/beyond11/default.asp>.


 **February 28 - 29, & May 1 – 2, 2008**
McREL and the National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning will host the 4th annual PEAK (Practices that Engage and Attract Kids) Afterschool Events. The first PEAK event will take place in February in Kansas City, Missouri and will focus on arts and literacy. The second PEAK event will take place in May in Denver, Colorado, and will focus on mathematics and science. Together, these workshops offer extensive professional development in their corresponding fields of study. *For further information, visit* <http://www.mcrel.org/peak/>.


 **March 3 - 5, 2008**
The North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs (NC CAP) will host the NC CAP Synergy Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina. The conference will feature more than 50 workshops, 30 vendors, networking receptions and a pre-conference opportunity on March 3 to explore program funding and sustainability. Gary McGuey, who helped develop “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens” workshop, based on the book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, will be a featured speaker. *For more information, visit* <http://www.nccap.net/about/conference.cfm>.

 **March 12 - 14, 2008**
The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) will host the 2008 20th Anniversary Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The NAA conference is the preeminent professional development experience for afterschool professionals. For 20 years, this conference has been the place to connect with colleagues and learn the latest about what afterschool professionals need to know to be able to serve children in high quality afterschool and summer programs. In honor

of 20 years of success, this year’s NAA conference will celebrate the commitment of afterschool professionals to the field. The conference offers more than 200 classes and workshops. This year’s keynote speaker will be CNN anchor and special correspondent Soledad O’Brien. *For more information, visit* <http://www.naaconference.org/>.

 **April 17 - 18, 2008**
The Center for Summer Learning will host its 2008 National Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Attendees will have the chance to learn about the latest research, discuss effective program management strategies, learn more about how to influence public policy and advocate for high-quality summer learning programs, network with likeminded colleagues, and more. *For more information, visit* www.summerlearning.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=105&Itemid=427.

 **April 30 – May 2, 2008**
The Coalition for Community Schools will host the National Forum 2008 in Portland, Oregon. The theme for the Forum is “Community Schools for All.” Participants will learn to mobilize local leadership as champions for community schools systemwide; increase their capacity to advocate for community schools with national, state and local policy makers; systematically plan and organize community schools at the school and community levels; utilize research data and information to make the case for community schools; learn to apply best practices; and more. *For information, visit* <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=436adcc2-0f3e-4d90-ba86-b2622cc0bd6b>.

 **April 30 – May 3, 2008**

The Best Out-of-School-Time (BOOST) conference will be held at the Palm Springs Convention Center and Wyndham Palm Springs Hotel in Palm Springs, California. One of the nation’s largest afterschool conferences, BOOST offers networking and teambuilding opportunities, numerous workshops, and information on the latest trends and research in out-of-school time programming for elementary, middle and high school-age programs. *For more information, visit <http://www.boostconference.org/index.php>.*

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. 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.
