



## ADVOCATES VOW TO DEFEAT BUSH AFTERSCHOOL PROPOSAL

On Monday, President Bush released his Fiscal Year 2009 budget proposal, asking Congress to cut funding for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLCs) from the current \$1.1 billion level to just \$800 million next year. If Congress agrees, 300,000 students would lose access to afterschool programs next year. The *No Child Left Behind Act* authorized \$2.5 billion for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC in Fiscal Year 2007.

Claiming that there has been little improvement in key academic outcomes for afterschool since 2004, the White House also recommended transforming 21<sup>st</sup> CCLCs into an afterschool and summer school scholarship program, renamed 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Opportunities. The goal, according to the budget document, is “to give parents greater choices in the selection of extended-learning opportunities for their children.”

“This proposal is a serious mistake that would be disastrous for afterschool programs receiving federal funds – and for America’s children and families,” Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant said. “It has two fatal flaws. First, the proposal unwisely cuts funding by 27 percent from this year’s level, denying afterschool programs to hundreds of thousands of children who urgently need them. Second, it converts the very successful 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative to a risky and unwise voucher program.”

“The President’s Fiscal Year 2009 budget proposal is going to require substantial modifications by the Congress,” Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) said. “The proposed

budget for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies is nearly \$3.8 billion below FY08 levels. This is totally insufficient for vital health and education programs, including... 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers and mentoring initiatives.”

“It is sadly ironic that the President calls his afterschool budget proposal ‘21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Opportunities,’ said Representative Dale Kildee (D-MI). “In fact, his proposed \$281 million cut and conversion of the program to vouchers would prevent hundreds of thousands of children from accessing safe, enriching opportunities that are critical to them and their families, and would undermine the many outstanding local partnerships that are providing these opportunities.”

This is the second time President Bush has proposed a severe cut to afterschool programs. In 2003, a similar proposal touched off a tidal wave of grassroots support for afterschool programs. The resulting bipartisan effort led to the proposal’s defeat by a Republican-controlled Congress.

“The President’s afterschool proposal this year deserves to be immediately dismissed,” Grant continued. “With millions of children unsupervised after school, funding for these programs should go up, not down. That’s what the President agreed to in *No Child Left Behind*, it’s what America’s children and families need, and it’s what Congress should provide.”

David Kass, President of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a national nonprofit anti-crime organization, said, “Law enforcement leaders across the country agree: this threatens public safety.”

*Continued on page eight...*

## **OUTREACH**

*Afterschool advocates can make a difference by speaking out right away against the President's afterschool budget proposal. Below are talking points; a sample letter to Congress that can be localized and sent to your Representative and Senators through the Afterschool Alliance's website, at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org); and a sample letter to the editor that can be localized and sent to a local newspaper.*

### **Sample Letter to Congress**

Dear [Representative/Senator Name]:

As you know, President Bush's budget calls for a drastic cut in funding for afterschool programs, as well as transforming the federal afterschool initiative into a voucher program. I hope you'll reject both proposals and instead increase afterschool funding next year. Our children and families need it.

Afterschool programs are extremely important here in [your state, city or town]. [Insert a sentence or two about your program, describing its benefit to your community.]

The proposed cut renews the President's 2003 effort to cut afterschool funding, a plan rejected by a Republican-controlled Congress. This year, Congress increased funding for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) to a historic level to \$1.1 billion – the first increase in six years. The \$1.1 billion is just a down payment on *No Child Left Behind's* promise of \$2.5 billion. Yet, President Bush would undo that increase and cut funding to \$800 million next year, denying afterschool to 300,000 children.

Afterschool funding should increase, not decrease, in Fiscal Year 2009. Millions of families rely on these programs to keep children safe, inspire them to learn, and relieve parents of worries about what their children are doing in the afternoons. Funding shortfalls have meant that there are not nearly enough afterschool programs to meet the need. We must do better.

The President also proposes converting 21<sup>st</sup> CCLCs into what amounts to a voucher program. The proposal would undermine existing public, private and community partnerships that are working well, and destabilize afterschool programs by making their funding even more precarious. 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grantees receive federal support for three to five years, giving programs the chance to build quality and leverage community resources. A voucher system that encourages students to migrate in and out of programs, taking funding with them as they come and go, would pull the rug out from under quality programs that families need.

Moreover, the conversion to a voucher program is aimed at solving a problem that doesn't exist. Community organizations, including faith-based groups, are already active participants in 21<sup>st</sup> Century grants. The overhaul would solve no problem, but cause much instability for afterschool programs and the families and children they serve.

The real problem with the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative is that it is under-funded. I hope you will dismiss the President's proposal and instead increase funds for afterschool next year. With more than 14 million children unsupervised after the school day ends, we need more afterschool programs. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
[name], [program/affiliation], [contact info]

**Sample Letter-to-the-Editor**

To the Editor:

President Bush's new budget proposal includes a double dose of bad news for children and families who rely on federal funding for afterschool programs. Not only does the President call for a 27 percent cut in funding for afterschool, he proposes turning the federal initiative that funds afterschool into a voucher program.

Afterschool programs are so important here in [your state, city or town]. [Add a sentence or two about how local programs are serving the community.] The funding cutback the President proposes would mean that some 300,000 children across the nation would lose their afterschool programs. To its credit, Congress just increased funding for afterschool, for the first time in six years. That's the direction funding should be going – up, not down – so that we can provide programs for many more of the millions of students who are currently unsupervised after the school day ends.

The afterschool voucher proposal would destabilize funding for afterschool programs that are already struggling to make ends meet. It's a proposal that creates problems while solving nothing.

Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. They need reliable funding. Let's hope Congress rejects the President's ill-considered proposal, and instead increases funding for afterschool.

Sincerely,  
[name]  
[program/affiliation]  
[contact info]

**Talking Points on the Proposed Budget**

- The President's proposal to cut \$300 million from 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers – the chief federal funding stream for afterschool – is a serious mistake. It would be disastrous for afterschool programs receiving federal funds, and for the nation's children and families.
- If Congress agrees to this cut, hundreds of thousands of children would lose their afterschool programs.
- In 2003, a similar proposal for a deep cut generated a tidal wave of broad-based, bipartisan grassroots support for afterschool programs. Deservedly, the proposal was defeated by a Republican-controlled Congress. We will work tirelessly to ensure that this proposal, too, is rejected.
- President Bush also proposes to convert the very successful 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative into a risky voucher program. Doing so would undermine existing public, private, community and faith-based partnerships that are working well, and destabilize afterschool programs by making their funding even more precarious.

- Study after study has found that afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families.
- But there aren't nearly enough afterschool programs in this country to meet the need. On any given day, more than 14 million children are unsupervised after school. States are able to fund a mere 25% of applications for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC support.
- The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative is the only federal money supporting the establishment of afterschool programs that serve low-income communities. It is a strong program that encourages public/private partnerships including community- and faith-based organizations. If these dollars are converted to vouchers as the President has proposed, it will be difficult to ensure quality and accountability. Rural programs could be particularly hard hit.
- Policy makers on both sides of the aisle have long recognized that afterschool programs are immensely popular with voters because they offer tremendous benefits to families and communities. With today's weakening economy, we should be looking for ways to increase this investment in our children and support for families.
- We will do all we can to ensure that Congress dismisses the President's proposal and instead increases funding for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers next year.

## AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

*Afterschool for All* totals 18,048 partners this month. Among the new partners are the University of Idaho, the New York Hall of Science, and the Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership.

The Donald W. Reynolds Boys & Girls Club of Fayetteville, Arkansas reports using the sample afterschool petition from the *Afterschool for All* toolkit to demonstrate community support for afterschool. The program invited parents and youth to sign the petition to urge lawmakers to make more quality affordable afterschool programs available to Arkansas youth. As a result of this outreach, the Club collected more than 250 signatures to send to Senator Blanche Lincoln.

You can do the same in your community. Visit the *Afterschool for All* website, [www.afterschool2010.org](http://www.afterschool2010.org), for community sign-up forms, and templates for letters, emails and newsletter items to raise awareness of afterschool in your community.

Questions? Contact Marie Coichy, *Afterschool for All* Project Manager at [mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org) or 646/943-8662.



## 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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding_main.cfm).

### GRANTS/AWARDS AVAILABLE

#### Grants Supporting Joint Community and Police Initiatives

The MetLife Foundation and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation are sponsoring Community-Police Partnership Awards that identify partnerships between community groups and police to promote neighborhood safety and revitalization. Grants range from \$10,000 to \$25,000. The application deadline is February 29. *For more information, visit <http://www.lisc.org/section/areas/sec1/safety/awards/>.*

#### Grants for Skateparks

The Tony Hawk Foundation is sponsoring grants to promote high-quality public skateparks in low income areas. Applicants should demonstrate a strong grassroots commitment to the project, and should be located in an area with a high population of at-risk youth. Grants are, on average, \$25,000 each. The application deadline is March 1. *For more information, visit [http://www.tonyhawkfoundation.org/grant\\_application.asp](http://www.tonyhawkfoundation.org/grant_application.asp).*

#### Grants Supporting STEM

The Motorola Foundation is offering Innovation Generation grants that will provide up to \$4 million to groups that engage kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> graders in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Priority will be given to programs that engage students and teachers in innovative, hands-on ways; teach innovation and creative problem-solving skills; focus on girls and underrepresented minorities; and engage Motorola employees as volunteers. Organizations may request grants up to \$100,000 value. The application deadline is March 1. *For more information, visit <http://www.motorola.com/content.jsp?globalObjectId=8153>.*

#### Grants for Programs that Work with Special Needs Children

The Innovating Worthy Projects Foundation is offering grants to organizations that provide direct care for children with special needs, acute illnesses or chronic disabilities. Grants support new ideas and approaches to providing services as well as equipment purchases. The application deadline is August 31. *For more information, visit <http://www.iwpf.org/>.*



## WOMEN SENATORS URGE AFTERSCHOOL INCREASE

A bipartisan group of all 16 women Senators sent a letter to President Bush on January 23 urging him to increase funding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) afterschool initiative in his Fiscal Year 2009 budget proposal. The letter was sent before the President released his budget this week. The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative is the chief federal funding stream for afterschool programs.

The women Senators' letter says, in part, "Today the federal afterschool program, which provides grants to programs serving approximately 1.3 million children, is vital to children and families across America... The demand for affordable, quality afterschool programs far exceeds the availability of these programs. We all hear from our constituents, as well as local officials, that more afterschool programs are needed... In Fiscal Year 2008, the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC received its first increase in six years. If we do not continue this trend, it will become more difficult for the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program to meet the needs of the children currently served, and it will prevent the program from reaching the children who need a safe place to go after the school day ends."

"It is important to provide children with an after school program that offers parents an option in providing a safe and enriching environment after the school bell rings," said Senator Susan Collins (R-ME).

Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Collins were the lead sponsors of the letter, and Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Mary L. Landrieu (D-LA), Blanche L. Lincoln (D-AR), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Patty Murray (D-WA),

Olympia Snowe (R-ME), and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) signed on.

"Communities across the country look to afterschool programs to help keep kids off the streets and engaged in enriching activities until parents get home from work," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "The women Senators know that quality afterschool programs benefit communities and that, even in these tough economic times, giving our children alternatives to crime, gangs, substance abuse and sexual activity is a good investment. In addition, these programs give our children the skills they need to keep America strong and competitive. With more than 14 million kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> graders unsupervised and at risk after the school day ends, President Bush should listen to the women Senators and increase funding for the afterschool programs next year."

The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative received a modest funding increase in the Fiscal Year 2008 budget, after six years of flat funding and small cuts. While the increase will give an additional 100,000 children access to safe and enriching afterschool programs, it remains far short of the \$2.5 billion authorized by *No Child Left Behind Act*.



## AFTERSCHOOL AT THE SC DEBATES

Hundreds of students, parents, school administrators and afterschool supporters came to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for the Democratic and Republican presidential debates in January. When the candidates arrived, they were greeted by students and supporters rallying outside the sites. They chanted and talked to candidates, guests and the media about the importance of funding afterschool programs and why children's issues should top the agendas of candidates as

well as voters. The South Carolina Afterschool Alliance (SCAA) and Every Child Matters organized the rallies.

SCAA organized youth trainings prior to the events, to prepare participants to answer questions from candidates and the media. The trainings proved valuable as the students engaged with candidates, attendees and journalists.

Outside the Democratic debate, John Edwards' campaign coordinator boosted enthusiasm and led the youth in chants. Edwards later spoke with rally participants, as did Barack Obama.

The experience gave students firsthand knowledge of the electoral process and the power of ideas, while demonstrating to the candidates that afterschool is an important issue for voters.



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

"Last week's opening of a new, free, afterschool program at the McDougald Terrace public housing community was reason to cheer. The Community Learning Center (CLC) promises to become an integral part of Durham's strategy to improve the academic skills of children who live in some of the city's most economically challenged communities... We're impressed that the programs enroll older children who can find trouble in the hours after school. Many in grades 6 – 12 are especially vulnerable to gangs and peer pressure. Providing a place to go after school where they can get academic help and guidance should help curb some of the behaviors that can propel a young person down the wrong path."

-- Editorial, *Herald Sun* (Durham, North Carolina), January 22, 2008



## IN THE NEWS...

**National** – First Lady Laura Bush announced the winners of the Coming Up Taller Awards, granted to out-of-school-time arts and humanities programs that promote educational achievement and productive lives, in late January. Winners included innovative programs from across the United States, Mexico and China. The afterschool programs honored included DREAMS of Wilmington (NC), Inc.; La Pilita Youth Docent Program in Tucson, Arizona; and Hampden Family Center/Youthlight Photography Project in Baltimore. Each received a \$10,000 award.

*For more information, visit <http://www.pcac.gov/CUT.htm>.*

**Florida** – Afterschool leaders in Florida are concerned about the impact of a ballot proposal, passed last week, which will cut property taxes and, as a result, funding for public services. Amendment 1 will cut property taxes by \$9.3 billion in its first five years, giving primary homeowners and homesteaders an estimated \$240 in annual savings, reports the *Associated Press*. City and county governments, police and fire departments were among those opposing the measure out of concern for its impact on basic municipal functions.

**New York** – New York City principals were surprised on January 31 to learn that Mayor Michael Bloomberg's budget proposal included hefty budget cuts ranging from \$9,000 to \$447,587 per school, reports the *New York Times*. The principals had not expected the budget cuts in the middle of the school year, and many expressed concern about how their afterschool programs will be affected.

**Virginia** – Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation sponsored a city-wide KidzQuest Connect Four Tournament that attracted 1,500 participants from almost every public elementary school afterschool program in the

city. The competition came to a close at Birdneck Elementary, with only a few players battling it out to the finish. Winners were categorized by grade levels. The event is in its second year, and continues to draw tremendous support from the community. Organizers told the *Virginian-Pilot* that because of their continued success, they will try to hold a statewide competition next year at the convention center.

**Wisconsin** – Girls at Middleton High School's IMAGINE: A Healthy Mind, Body and Sprit Club in Middleton have been spending their after school hours during the cold winter months knitting and crocheting. Program coordinators organized the activities to give the girls a healthy outlet and to relieve stress. "I have friends here and it's like a social hour," ninth grader Alyssa Lovely told the *Wisconsin State Journal*.



## RESOURCES

### PBS Educational Materials Online

PBS and iTunes are collaborating on a new project designed to provide free educational content to the public through iTunes U, the educational arm of iTunes. PBS materials from its stations in San Francisco, Boston and Washington D.C., including video clips of solar eclipses and coral reefs, documentaries on Europe, Africa and Asia, interviews with leading authors and lesson plans, are all available on iTunes U. *To access the site, afterschool programs should sign up for iTunes U at <http://www.apple.com/education/itunesu/>.*

### Science for Girls Afterschool

The Educational Equity Center at the Academy for Educational Development has a new initiative to enhance the role of afterschool education to broaden and sustain girls' interest and persistence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics

(STEM). Great Science for Girls is an online resource designed to build the capacity of afterschool programs in engaging girls in STEM activities. The website includes research, STEM-focused websites for girls, webcasts, and other resources. *To visit the site, go to [www.afterschool.org/gsg](http://www.afterschool.org/gsg).*



## YOUTH AND THE 2008 ELECTION

Youth Service America recently launched a new website, ServiceVote, to serve as a hub of information for young people on the 2008 election. ServiceVote provides youth with news on the various races, candidates and defining issues. The website also provides space for youth to take action on issues that matter to them and allows them to post videos, images and audio files. *To visit the site, go to <http://www.servicevote.org/>.*

NBC News is giving students and teachers the chance to ask its political reporters questions about the 2008 presidential election on the website, HotChalk. Each Thursday, top political reporters, including Tim Russert, will provide a video answer to one question. *To view responses and ask a question, visit <http://www.hotchalk.com/>.*



*Continued from page one...*

### Voucher Program

Experts warn that a voucher program for afterschool would undermine existing public, private and community partnerships that are working well, and destabilize afterschool programs by making their funding even more precarious. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers grantees receive federal support that lasts three to five years, so programs have time to build quality and leverage community resources. A voucher system that encourages students to migrate in

and out of programs, taking funding with them as they come and go, would pull the rug out from under quality programs that are currently serving families in need, they say.

Moreover, the conversion to a voucher program is aimed at solving a problem that doesn't exist, Grant said. Community organizations, including faith-based groups, are already eligible for and active participants in 21<sup>st</sup> Century grants. There is no benefit to such a radical overhaul. Experts estimate that nearly one in five federally funded afterschool programs has a faith-based partner.

"If Congress agrees to this devastating proposal, millions of children and families that need quality afterschool programs will lose," Grant concluded. "Study after study has found that afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families. Americans know it, which is why they support increased funding for afterschool in overwhelming numbers. Congress must reject this proposal."

*A chart with figures for what President Bush's proposed cut would mean for each state is available at:*

[http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Presidents\\_FY09\\_vs\\_FY08\\_est.pdf](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Presidents_FY09_vs_FY08_est.pdf)

*Watch for information about upcoming opportunities to speak out on the future of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, including a Call-In Day in late February and the "Afterschool for All Challenge" in May, in future Afterschool Advocates.*



## 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://wwwFOUNDATIONSINC.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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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/Summar>*

*[y.aspx?e=436adcc2-0f3e-4d90-ba86-b2622cc0bd6b](http://www.naaconference.org/y.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>.*

 **May 13 - 14, 2008**

The Afterschool Alliance and the National League of Cities will host the "Afterschool for All Challenge" in Washington, D.C. The event will include 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. *For more information, visit*

*[http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/challenge\\_2008.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/challenge_2008.cfm).*

**\*\* And mark your calendars now for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual *Lights On Afterschool* on October 16, 2008!**

***More information on upcoming conferences and events is available at***

***[www.afterschoolalliance.org/states/calendar\\_main.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/states/calendar_main.cfm).***

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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](http://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.

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