

A media outreach newsletter published by the Afterschool Alliance

CALL-IN FOR AFTERSCHOOL MONDAY & TUESDAY

With 21st Century Community Learning Centers in jeopardy as a result of President Bush's proposal to slash funding and transform the federal afterschool initiative it into a voucher program next year, activists are organizing to protect the programs children and families urgently need. On Monday and Tuesday, February 25 and 26, afterschool supporters across the country will call their Representative and Senators to urge them to reject the President's proposal and instead increase afterschool funding in Fiscal Year 2009.

Those days were chosen because U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings is scheduled to testify before the House Appropriations Committee responsible for afterschool funding on February 26. The hearing could have a significant impact on Congress' decision about afterschool funding, so Members of Congress need to hear from their constituents beforehand about the importance of afterschool programs to their communities.

"Any cut to afterschool funding means that more children will be unsupervised, without the educational and enrichment opportunities they need, and at risk in the hours after the school day ends," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "That is why we urgently need students, parents, educators, business and community leaders, law enforcement experts and concerned citizens to call Congress next week and urge the officials they elected to stand up for afterschool programs." Volume 9, Issue 3, February 25, 2008

"Since the budget announcement," Grant said, "we have seen a tremendous outpouring of support from every corner of the country, from tweens to seniors and everyone in between. People are standing up and speaking out for the quality afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. Now we need to keep the momentum going by placing calls on February 25 or 26, to ensure that our elected officials do the right thing for America's kids."

To contact Congress, please call the Capitol switchboard at 202/224-3121 and ask for your Representative. To find out who your Representative is, go to https://forms.house.gov/wyr/welcome.shtml. Talking points for the National Call-In Campaign can be found in the Outreach section of this Advocate.

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

National Call-In Campaign to Support Afterschool Talking Points

On February 25 and 26, the Afterschool Alliance is sponsoring a national call-in day for afterschool. Afterschool supporters are urged to call their Members of Congress and tell them to oppose the President's proposal **and instead increase funding for afterschool**. To contact your Member of Congress, please call the Capitol switchboard at 202/224-3121 and ask for your Representative and your two Senators. Below are sample talking points.

- The President's proposal to cut \$300 million from 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) 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 [insert name of state], [insert number of children] would be left with no place to go after the school day ends. [The Afterschool Alliance's chart with information on how funding would affect your state is available at: *www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Presidents_FY09_vs_FY08_est.pdf*]
- President Bush also proposes to convert the very successful 21st 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.
- Afterschool programs play a vital role in our community. They keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. I am asking you to please do all you can to ensure that Congress dismisses the President's proposal and instead increases funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers next year.

Afterschool for All

Afterschool for All totals 18,099 partners this month. Have you visited the *Afterschool for All* website lately? Don't forget to visit *www.afterschool2010.org* for a tally of new partners and see who in your region has pledged their support for afterschool for all youth. *Contact us with your questions and comments mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org or at 646/943-8662.*



FUNDING NEWS

The Afterschool Alliance's website has numerous resources 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.

"Extreme" Fundraising

Mayor Sheldon Anderson of Wyoming, Minnesota came down off the roof of the Wyoming Municipal Building after spending nine chilly days and nights in a roof-bound tent. The act of "extreme fundraising" benefits the Forest Lake Teen Center, which offers afterschool programs to youth in grades seven through nine. It was at risk of closing and needed \$35,000 to remain open, the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* reports. The Mayor pledged to stay on the roof until needed money was raised. He began his roof-top fundraising on February 2, weathering nights with wind chill factors of nearly 40 degrees below zero while collecting donations from passer-bys in a five gallon bucket lowered from the roof with a rope. The Mayor surpassed his goal, raising nearly \$40,000. *Mayor Anderson kept a blog of his adventure that can be read at www.extremefundraising.blogspot.com.*

GRANTS/AWARDS AVAILABLE

Grants for Health, Wellness, and Literacy

Build-A-Bear Workshop is providing Champ-A Champion Fur Kids grants to programs with measurable outcomes that support children's health and wellness, focusing on child safety and special needs. Grants are also available for programs with measurable outcomes that support literacy and education, such as summer reading programs. The grant request deadlines are February 29 and August 30. *For more information, visit*

http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/grants/default.aspx.

Grants for Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS)

The U.S. Department of Education is sponsoring grants that will support projects that propose to establish full-service community schools offering a range of student services that may include early childhood education, remedial education and academic enrichment, mentoring, parent education, job training, nutrition services, and more. Projects should include collaboration among state and local agencies, community service organizations, and parents. The schools must provide comprehensive academic, social, mental, physical, and vocational programs and services to meet individual, family and community needs. Notices of Intent to Apply are due March 17. *For more information, visit*

http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20081800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-2934.htm.



CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING ON AFTERSCHOOL IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

One-fifth of the nation's children attend public schools in rural communities – areas that persistently have the highest poverty rates, and where children often face social isolation, lack of positive role models and scarce opportunities. Afterschool programs can make all the difference in helping children overcome these barriers to success. On February 11, the Afterschool Alliance and partners sponsored a Congressional briefing at which experts discussed the ways afterschool programs help children in rural communities, and the challenges rural communities face in providing programs. Experts used the event to urge Congress to increase funding for rural afterschool programs.

Mark Shriver, Vice President and Managing Director for U.S. Programs at Save the Children, discussed the challenges facing rural children and how Save the Children's programs provide early childhood education services, literacy support, and encourage physical activity and good nutrition. Shriver said rural children have higher rates of obesity, 40 percent do not have access to public transportation, one in four lives in a house with no telephone, and one in five lives in poverty. "We heard about the potential cuts to the 21st Century program and we are hopeful that this doesn't happen, and in fact [funding] does increase," he said. "Poor kids in rural America get shortchanged in so many ways."

Jimmy Cunningham, Superintendent of Danville Public Schools in Arkansas, stressed the tremendous need for the enrichment opportunities afterschool programs provide among children in his district. Programs also fulfill a more basic need, providing a daily snack because many students are required to eat an early lunch to accommodate schedule and capacity constraints in school buildings. That leaves them hungry at the end of the school day, he said. Cunningham said that most afterschool programs struggle for funding, and many of the smaller districts do not have 21st Century Community Learning Center grants because they lack the time and staff to apply for them.

In rural Maine, one of the biggest challenges facing afterschool programs is transportation. "If we don't have buses to move children, we don't have children," Charles Harrington, Director of Maine Sea Coast Mission/The EdGE, told Congressional staffers.

Harrington's program plays a pivotal role in the lives of the young people who attend it – without afterschool activities, they would have nothing to do. The program strives to "embed" afterschool in the school day's activities. Students go mountain biking through blueberry fields or sea kayaking in the same waters in which their parents harvest lobster, and then they calculate the time and distance of their trips. The program involves children in positive risk taking, teaches skills necessary in the 21st century workplace, and brings improvements in reading and math.

"The people working in afterschool programs are creating opportunities and changing lives," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "One third of programs funded by 21st Century Community Learning Centers are in rural communities."

The briefing was co-sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance, the American Association of School Administrators, Save the Children, The National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition and The National Center for Family Literacy.

"I can't think of a better way to spend money than on kids," said Cunningham to the capacity crowd. "Please, please look into more money for afterschool funding."

A newly updated Brief on rural afterschool issues is available from the Afterschool Alliance at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_br.c fm (scroll down to Issue 4).



FOUNDATION SPEAKS OUT FOR AFTERSCHOOL

The Atlantic Philanthropies, an international philanthropic organization dedicated to bringing about lasting changes in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people, argues against the Administration's proposed cuts to 21st Century Community Learning Centers in its most recent online newsletter, *Atlantic Currents*.

"Correcting Bush's Math on Afterschool for Kids" emphasizes the critical role afterschool programs play in the lives of low income children. The column provides a powerful argument in support of afterschool programs and talks about the importance of protecting these programs from budget cuts. It says, in part: "Affluent families are able to pay for their children to participate in structured afterschool study programmes, sports teams, and art, music, and religious education. Unfortunately, poor families cannot afford the same options, but their kids need afterschool learning as much as, if not more than, kids from more affluent families. To make matters worse, President Bush has recommended cuts in federal programmes that support afterschool opportunities for lowincome kids, many in communities of color."

To view the column, go to http://www.atlanticphilanthropies.org/about/a tlantic_currents#Correcting%20Bush's%20M ath%20on%20Afterschool%20for%20Kids.

IN THE NEWS...

Florida – World record breaker and hometown hero Barrington Irving is spending his days in afterschool programs with Miami-Dade inner-city youth. Irving, the youngest person and first African American ever to fly solo around the world, is encouraging youth to take to the skies. The students are receiving lessons and will later construct an airplane that Irving intends to fly. "I'm going to have complete trust in them," Irving told the *Miami Herald*. "Now it's their turn to be the world's inspiration."

Maryland – In a reversal of roles, tech savvy students at Marriotts Ridge High School in Marriottsville are offering afterschool instruction to adults. The students participate in Technology Thursdays, an afterschool program that allows youth to teach courses in Photoshop, game design, web design, Microsoft Office and more to members of the community. "It's a neat opportunity to have our students, our staff and the greater community working together," Principal Pat Saunderson told the Baltimore Sun. "Some afternoons, I'll walk down the hall and see our students giving workshops for middleschoolers through senior citizens. It's just impressive that our students are able to take on that leadership role."

New York – Young football fans in New York City have another reason to be grateful for the Giant's recent Super Bowl win – the chance to practice with their own brand new footballs. Modell's Sporting Goods pledged to donate 2,008 footballs to the City if the Giants won. Students at Beacon Community Centers, Out-of-School-Time programs and the Department of Youth and Community Development programs (DYCD) are receiving the donations. "Sports and recreation are an important component of DYCD's afterschool programs," said DYCD Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav. "The combination of the Giants' spectacular win and the generous donation of 2,008 footballs are sure to inspire young people across the City to get active and have fun."

Pennsylvania – Afterschool programs in Philadelphia are caught in a municipal funding crisis that could affect dozens of programs and countless youth. Philadelphia Safe and Sound, a nonprofit organization that manages city contracts with hundreds of providers, was awarded an extra \$21 million by the previous administration over objections from City Council members. Then-Mayor John Street found money for Safe and Sound by cutting the contracts of other social-service providers. The new Mayor, Michael Nutter, proposed cutting the \$21 million in order to restore funding elsewhere. "It's a fiasco," Debra Proctor program director at ASA Computer Training Center told the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. "We're a safe haven for them. Now what?"

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CALIFORNIA UPDATE

Millions to Afterschool Programs in Southern California

On February 18, Irvine Company Chairman Donald Bren announced one of the largest private donations to afterschool in California history. Irvine Company will donate \$8.5 million to expand the THINK Together afterschool program in Southern California. The fund will benefit youth in the Santa Ana and Eastern Los Angeles County school districts.

"After seeing the difficult challenges facing students in these school districts – including declining enrollment and budget cuts – I felt compelled to meet the need identified by Governor Schwarzenegger for quality afterschool programs, and answer Superintendent O'Connell's recent call to create more business partnerships with local schools to expand programs that have been successful," Bren said.

THINK together is a non profit provider serving more than 20,000 students each day throughout Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. With the Irvine Company gift, THINK Together envisions reaching 30,000 children. *For more information, visit www.thinktogether.org/.*

AFTERSCHOOL FOSTERS SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

The current focus on academics means that student success is often measured by tests, but social development and preventing risky behaviors are also critical. A new MetLife-Afterschool Alliance Issue Brief, "Afterschool Fosters Success in School," explores the various ways afterschool programs support student achievement. It is one in a series of Issue Briefs sponsored by the MetLife Foundation that addresses the benefits afterschool programs provide to children, families and communities.

The new Brief reviews evaluations and studies from across the country, finding that afterschool programs improve students' personal, social and academic skills. The studies found that quality afterschool programs contribute to decreased behavioral problems, improved relationships with others, increased self-confidence, and increased skills to cope with peer pressure. The Brief also reports on studies that show improvements in math and literacy scores among afterschool students, and lists components that all quality afterschool programs should include.

It concludes that afterschool programs provide children and youth with academic support and also offer safe, nurturing environments that can help bolster the social and emotional development critical to academic success. *To view the Issue Brief, go* to

www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_briefs/issu e_sch_success_31.pdf.





2007 YEAR IN REVIEW

What were the afterschool community's greatest accomplishments in 2007? What new studies provided valuable information? Where did funding increase most dramatically? What are the most critical challenges facing the afterschool field in the next year?

Those and other questions are answered in the Afterschool Alliance's informative new publication, "2007 Year in Review." It is available online at www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Year _Review_2007.pdf



RESOURCES

Afterschool Improves Student Outcomes

The Afterschool Alliance recently updated the Issue Overview "Afterschool Programs: Making a Difference in America's Communities by Improving Academic Achievement, Keeping Kids Safe and Helping Working Families." The Overview is a compilation of data from recent studies showing that afterschool programs improve academic achievement, school attendance, engagement in learning, and social and behavioral outcomes, and help working families. *It is online at www.afterschoolalliance.org/after_out.cfm.*

Afterschool Studies and Grants

The William T. Grant Foundation has posted a new page on its website focused entirely on afterschool programs. The web page includes new research findings and information on studies and current and recent grants. *To view the site, visit*

http://www.wtgrantfoundation.org/infourl_nocat4030/infourl_nocat.htm?attrib_id=9052.

New Resources on Quality Rating Systems, Professional Development, and More

The Afterschool Investments Project recently announced that it has added new resources for afterschool providers to its website. New publications address rating systems that can promote quality, the role of licensed family care providers in caring for school-age children, how to build professional development systems, and how state child care subsidy policies promote access to care for school-age children. *The resources are online at http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/.*



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

✓ February 28 - 29, & May 1 – 2, 2008 McREL and the National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning will host the fourth 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 session on March 3 on 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 its 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 10 - 12, 2008

The California School-Age Consortium will host its 26th annual statewide conference, "Mission Possible-26" in Santa Clara, California. The conference will feature high school track workshops, internationally renowned keynote speakers and more. *For more information and to register, visit http://conference.calsac.org/*.

April 11 - 12, 2008

The Cooperative for Afterschool Enrichment is sponsoring Out-of-School Time for High School Youth: Focus on Practice in Houston, Texas. The symposium will increase awareness of the potential of afterschool programs for older youth and begin to build a network of dedicated professionals who are working with high school youth beyond the school day. *For more information, visit http://www.osths.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 with national, state and local policy makers; systematically plan and organize at the school and community levels; utilize research data and information; learn to apply best practices; and more. *For information, visit*

http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summar y.aspx?e=436adcc2-0f3e-4d90-ba86b2622cc0bd6b.

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.

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.

** And mark your calendars now for the 9th 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.

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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*. 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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