



NEWS RELEASE
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Mixed News for Afterschool Programs in Obama Budget Proposal
Level Funding for 21st CCLC But
Administration Again Diverts Afterschool Funding to Other Programs

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

“President Obama’s FY2013 budget, released this morning, has mixed news for afterschool programs and the millions of students and families that rely on them.

The administration’s budget proposal includes level funding, at \$1.153 billion, for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative, the principal federal funding stream for afterschool, before school and summer learning programs. At a time when many other programs are being consolidated or eliminated, we are pleased the administration wants to continue afterschool funding.

However, the current funding level is grossly inadequate to meet the need. It leaves more than 15 million children at risk and with no safe, supervised activities after the school day ends. Quality afterschool programs keep children safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families. They are in high demand and offer myriad benefits to students, parents and to our education system. The nation needs many more afterschool programs and a much greater federal investment to support and sustain them.

We remain deeply concerned about the Department of Education’s plan, contained in the budget proposal again this year, to open 21st CCLC funds to programs that would extend the school day. 21st CCLC funds should be directed to afterschool, before school and summer programs that offer hands-on learning opportunities that complement but do not replicate school day activities.

The experiment to extend the school day should be supported by new funds and informed by the afterschool experience. We need to build partnerships between schools and community-based organizations that help our children succeed in school and in the workforce – and afterschool programs have a proven track record of doing this. At a time when resources are limited, funding is best spent where we know it will make a difference.

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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.