



For Immediate Release
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FY2024 Budget the House of Representatives Passed Today Does Not Come Close to Meeting the Nation’s Need for Afterschool Programs

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

“The budget package the U.S. House of Representatives passed, that will likely be signed into law this weekend, is disappointing because it flat funds the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21st CCLC) at just \$1.329 billion. That is not nearly enough for the chief federal funding stream designed to support afterschool and summer learning programs across all 50 states and territories. At this time when the parents of [roughly 25 million students](#) who want their children in afterschool cannot find a program, when the costs associated with operating a program have skyrocketed, and when pandemic relief is winding down, this funding level will mean afterschool programs can serve fewer children and youth. Because of that, it lets the country down.

The afterschool community recognizes that overall education spending – and funding for many worthy programs – was cut, and that increases to Title I spending and the Child Care and Development Block Grant will provide some support to out-of-school-time programs. But this is the first time since 2013 that Congress failed to increase 21st CCLC funding. Our continuing failure to make afterschool and summer learning available to students and families causes great harm to students’ safety and success, parents’ ability to work, and our country’s ability to thrive. Families must be able to find the programs that keep their children safe, inspire them to learn, and give parents peace of mind.

We thank Chairman Robert Aderholt (R-AL) and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), and Chairwoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) for their leadership and bipartisan support, as well as Senate Afterschool Caucus Co-Chairs Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Tina Smith (D-MN) for continuously championing afterschool funding. The Afterschool Alliance will work with allies and with our champions in Congress to increase funding for 21st CCLC in FY2025. Our country’s children and youth deserve a much stronger federal investment in the afterschool and summer learning programs that help them succeed in school and in life.”

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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.