



Afterschool Alliance

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## ***Jodi Grant Named Afterschool Alliance's New Executive Director***

WASHINGTON, DC - After a nationwide search, the board of directors of the Afterschool Alliance today named Jodi Grant, a career-long advocate for children and families, to be the organization's new Executive Director. With an annual budget of more than \$3 million, the Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy group working to ensure that all children have access to afterschool programs by the year 2010.

Since its founding in 1999, the Afterschool Alliance has been a leading national voice for afterschool, building public awareness about the value of afterschool programs and the need for increased funding and support. It organizes national and local afterschool events including the organization's signature event, *Lights On Afterschool*; conducts research on the need and support for afterschool; develops public service advertising campaigns with The Advertising Council; creates tools for afterschool practitioners; and connects afterschool leaders to national, state and local opinion leaders.

"On any given day, 14.3 million children leave school without a safe place to go," Grant said. "Afterschool programs are a solution. They keep kids safe, help working families and inspire children to learn. I look forward to working with policy makers, educators, parents, business leaders and advocates to make afterschool programs available to every child who needs them."

"The Afterschool Alliance is delighted to have Jodi Grant on board," said Dr. Terry Peterson, Chair of the Afterschool Alliance's Board of Directors. "She is an extraordinary leader with strong experience in the nonprofit world, and inside and outside of government. She is part of a new generation of leaders who know how to get things done."

"I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Afterschool Alliance on its new Executive Director, Jodi Grant," said U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), the Republican Co-Chair of the House Afterschool Caucus. "The Alliance's mission, to make afterschool programs available to all families that need them by the year 2010, is critically important and I look forward to working with Ms. Grant as part of the House Afterschool Caucus to meet that goal."

"Jodi Grant will be a wonderful addition to the afterschool movement and a powerful leader who knows what a big difference afterschool initiatives make in student achievement and success later in life," added U.S. Representative Nita M. Lowey (D-NY), the Democratic Co-Chair of the House Afterschool Caucus. "This is an issue that matters deeply to Americans, and I look forward to working with Jodi on important afterschool programs around the nation."

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Before joining the Afterschool Alliance, Grant served as Director of Work and Family Programs for the National Partnership for Women & Families. In that position, she was a member of the team that successfully defended the Family & Medical Leave Act before the U.S. Supreme Court, advised the Bush Administration on proposed regulatory changes to the law, and advanced work and family initiatives at the state and national levels. She built a number of strong, enduring coalitions that brought together business, women's, children's, religious, senior and other groups.

Grant has also held several prominent positions on Capitol Hill, where she worked closely with the business and other communities, forging broad alliances that addressed education, school safety, the digital divide, workplace and women's issues, and health care. Her legislative accomplishments include expanded support for the child tax credit, the Child Health Insurance Program and class-size reduction. Grant also served as liaison between a congressional committee and the National Governors Association, working closely with Republican and Democratic governors.

Grant graduated with honors from Yale University in 1990, and received her law degree from Harvard University. As a student, she volunteered at an afterschool program. She lives in Bethesda, Maryland, with her husband and two children; her older daughter will begin attending an afterschool program in September.

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*The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities working to ensure that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by 2010. More information is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*