For Immediate Release
July 1, 2025

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'A Stunning Betrayal that Will Cause Lasting Harm to Students, Families, Our Education System, Our Workforce, and Our Economy'

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance, on the Trump Administration Withholding FY25 Afterschool and Summer Learning Program Funds

"Afterschool and summer learning programs are an American success story. The Trump Administration's decision to withhold FY25 afterschool funding is a stunning betrayal. States have always received these funds on July 1. Congress appropriated and all 50 states and D.C. have already committed these funds to individual afterschool and summer learning programs, most of which are expecting their grants now. Withholding these funds will cause lasting harm to students and families, and to our education system, our future workforce, and our economy. If these funds are not released very soon, we will quickly see more children and youth unsupervised and at risk, more academic failures, more hungry kids, more chronic absenteeism, higher dropout rates, more parents forced out of their jobs, and a less STEM-ready and successful workforce as our child care crisis worsens dramatically.

21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) – the chief federal funding stream for afterschool and summer learning programs – supports more than 10,000 local programs serving nearly 1.4 million children nationwide. Congress appropriated $1.329 billion for them in this fiscal year. All 50 states have run their own individually designed competitions to distribute 21st CCLC funds. Many local community- and faith-based programs that secured funding are in the midst of multi-year grants their states awarded to them with federal money.

The administration is also proposing $0 for 21st CCLC next year, instead collapsing it into a 'K-12 Simplified Funding Plan' with dramatically reduced support. That would be a grave, costly and wildly unpopular mistake. A recent public opinion survey finds that 87% of voters, including large majorities of Republicans and Independents and rural voters, agree that afterschool programs are 'an absolute necessity.' Four in five Republicans favor greater investments in these programs. Presented with the choice of eliminating or funding federal investments in afterschool and summer learning programs, 86% of Republicans and 88% of Trump voters favor investments.

We will mobilize parents, educators, and the overwhelming majority of voters who support afterschool and summer learning to fight for release of the FY25 funds and to reject the administration's FY26 proposal and instead continue – and increase – 21st CCLC funding. A powerful body of research confirms

the tremendous benefits afterschool and summer learning programs provide, including a study released in May by the esteemed National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Afterschool and summer learning programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and give working families peace of mind that their kids are safe, supervised and learning when schools are out. Our country will be much better off if we continue investing in afterschool and summer learning through 21st CCLC."

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This map shows the impact of losing 21st CCLC funds on each state.

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.