



## Afterschool Programs in Connecticut

A powerful convergence of factors—including a lack of federal, state and local funding, and families and communities working with tight budgets—leaves 172,417 of Connecticut’s school-age children alone and unsupervised in the hours after school. Afterschool programs are essential to keep kids safe, engage children in enriching activities, and give peace of mind to working moms and dads during the out-of-school hours. There are approximately 112,663 school-age children in afterschool programs in Connecticut. This includes 8,022 kids who attend 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC)—programs that serve children living in high-poverty areas and attending low-performing schools. At a time when families and communities are struggling financially and kids are falling behind academically, afterschool programs are needed more than ever.

### **Afterschool Programs Are More than a Safe Space:**

Afterschool programs not only keep kids safe, they also help improve students’ academic performance, school attendance, behavior and health, and support working families:

- A longitudinal study of more than 650 afterschool program participants in Connecticut found that students involved in the programs were more likely to experience reductions in obesity compared to nonparticipants. (Mahoney, J.L. and Lord, H., 2005)
- A study of nearly 3,000 low-income students at 35 high-quality afterschool programs across the U.S. found students who regularly attended programs over the course of two years, compared to their peers who were routinely unsupervised during the afterschool hours:
  - Made significant improvements academically and behaviorally;
  - Demonstrated gains in their standardized math test scores; and
  - Saw reductions in teacher-reported misconduct and reduced use of drugs and alcohol. (Vandell, D.L., et. al., 2007)
- Students who attended 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs made significant improvements in their classroom behavior, completing their homework and participating in class. Gains were also made in

### **Need for Afterschool Programs in Connecticut by the Numbers:**

**168,228** kids in Connecticut would participate in an afterschool program if one were available to them (33%).

**172,417** kids are on their own in the hours after school in Connecticut (28%).

**112,663** kids in Connecticut participate in afterschool programs (18%).

### **Attendance, behavior and coursework are three key indicators of whether a middle school student will likely graduate from high school.**

An analysis of 68 afterschool studies found that students participating in high-quality afterschool programs went to school more, behaved better, received better grades and performed better on tests compared to students who did not participate in afterschool programs.

students' math and English grades. (Learning Point Associates, 2011)

- Evaluations of LA's BEST revealed that participation in the afterschool program improved students' regular school day attendance. Students also reported higher aspirations regarding finishing school and going to college. (Huang, D., et.al., 2005)

*"It is education that makes opportunity real for kids, and nowhere is this more true than with afterschool programs."*

-Rosa DeLauro  
U.S. House of Representatives (3rd)

**State of Federal Funding for Afterschool Programs in Connecticut:**

In Connecticut, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs. Investment in 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs helps ensure children from high-poverty and low-performing schools have access to a safe and supervised space; keeps kids involved in interest-driven academic enrichment activities that put them on the road to become lifelong learners; and helps support working families. Currently, 148,142 kids in Connecticut are eligible to participate in a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program. However, just 8,022 students attend a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program due to lack of federal funding.

*A Closer Look at 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC)*

- If the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative were funded at the fully authorized level, the Connecticut share would be \$18,795,433 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. The current amount appropriated is \$8,021,705.
- 34 additional grants in Connecticut could be awarded if full funding for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC were available.

Estimated Number of Children Participating in 21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC Programs*	
FY2011	8,686
FY2012	8,022
FY2013	8,022
*Numbers are based on the cost of \$1,000 per child	



**The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)**

In 2012, the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)—which provides vouchers or subsidies for low-income parents to pay for child care, including preschool, before-school, afterschool and summer care for children ages 6 to 12—received \$5.21 billion. Although Pres. Obama's most recent FY2013 budget proposed an additional \$825 million national increase to CCDF, further support for this federal funding source will be necessary to promote greater access to quality afterschool programs.

Total FY2012 CCDF funds in Connecticut	Federal Share	Percentage of children receiving subsidies who are school-age
\$88,281,595	\$51,610,908	30%