

Afterschool Programs in Illinois

A powerful convergence of factors—including a lack of federal, state and local funding, and families and communities working with tight budgets—leaves 641,975 of Illinois’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 363,253 school-age children in afterschool programs in Illinois. This includes 50,298 kids who attend 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st 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:

- Students enrolled in the variety of afterschool and summer learning programs offered by Project Exploration were found to graduate from high school at a 95 percent rate, nearly double the overall rate of those attending Chicago Public Schools. (Project Exploration, 2011)
- 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 21st 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 Illinois by the Numbers:

845,397 kids in Illinois would participate in an afterschool program if one were available to them (44%).

641,975 kids are on their own in the hours after school in Illinois (28%).

363,253 kids in Illinois participate in afterschool programs (16%).

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)

- A study found that—after controlling for baseline obesity, poverty, race and ethnicity—the prevalence of obesity was significantly lower for children participating in an afterschool program when compared to nonparticipants. (Mahoney, et. al., 2005)

"Access to after-school programming is a win-win for our children: it is shown to both increase academic progress and reduce violence."

-Rahm Emanuel
Mayor, City of Chicago

State of Federal Funding for Afterschool Programs in Illinois:

In Illinois, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs. Investment in 21st 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, 758,491 kids in Illinois are eligible to participate in a 21st CCLC program. However, just 50,298 students attend a 21st CCLC program due to lack of federal funding.

A Closer Look at 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)

- If the 21st CCLC initiative were funded at the fully authorized level, the Illinois share would be \$99,896,672 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. The current amount appropriated is \$50,297,549.
- 156 additional grants in Illinois could be awarded if full funding for 21st CCLC were available.

| Estimated Number of Children Participating in 21 st CCLC Programs* | |
|---|--------|
| FY2011 | 46,168 |
| FY2012 | 50,298 |
| FY2013 | 50,298 |
| *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 Illinois | Federal Share | Percentage of children receiving subsidies who are school-age |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| \$334,175,187 | \$207,126,847 | 40% |