



Afterschool Programs in New Jersey

A powerful convergence of factors—including a lack of federal, state and local funding, and families and communities working with tight budgets—leaves 421,824 of New Jersey’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 213,883 school-age children in afterschool programs in New Jersey. This includes 22,798 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:

- A 2009-2010 evaluation of New Jersey’s 21st CCLCs associated increased participation in the programs with greater academic gains among students. Students attending the afterschool programs for at least 70 days performed better on state assessments in math than non-participants. The report also positively associated students’ multiple year attendance in the programs with their performance on state assessments in reading and math. (Naftzger, N., et. al., 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)

Need for Afterschool Programs in New Jersey by the Numbers:

444,995 kids in New Jersey would participate in an afterschool program if one were available to them (35%).

421,824 kids are on their own in the hours after school in New Jersey (28%).

213,883 kids in New Jersey participate in afterschool programs (14%).

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 who attended 21st CCLC programs made significant improvements in their classroom behavior, completing their homework and participating in class. Gains were also made in 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)

"To prevent juvenile crime, we need to keep New Jersey's children safe, healthy, and off the streets. We're working together at the local, state, and federal levels to give our children real opportunities and alternatives to turning to gangs and crime... [We] will keep fighting to fund after school, anti-drug, and anti-violence programs."

-Frank R. Lautenberg
U.S. Senate

State of Federal Funding for Afterschool Programs in New Jersey:

In New Jersey, 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, 435,192 kids in New Jersey are eligible to participate in a 21st CCLC program. However, just 22,798 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 New Jersey share would be \$49,425,607 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. The current amount appropriated is \$22,798,466.
- 84 additional grants in New Jersey could be awarded if full funding for 21st CCLC were available.

Estimated Number of Children Participating in 21 st CCLC Programs*	
FY2011	22,842
FY2012	22,798
FY2013	22,798
*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 New Jersey	Federal Share	Percentage of children receiving subsidies who are school-age
\$184,878,513	\$112,479,493	33%