

Afterschool by the Numbers in New Jersey



May 2014

More than a decade of research confirms that quality afterschool programs inspire and motivate children to learn, support children's social and emotional growth, and help raise their academic achievement. However, of New Jersey's 1,485,297 school-age children, 28%—421,824—are alone and unsupervised during the hours after school. Investment in quality afterschool is needed now more than ever to help address our country's growing opportunity and achievement gaps and support the overall well-being of children as they move through school, career and life.

Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe, Inspire Learning and Support Working Families:

- An evaluation of New Jersey's 21st CCLC afterschool programs 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. (American Institutes for Research, 2011)
- A study of outcomes associated with participation in afterschool programs found that students regularly participating during the elementary school years showed a variety of gains, including:
 - ◇ Narrowing the math achievement gap at grade five between high-income and low-income students;
 - ◇ Improving work habits and self-efficiency; and
 - ◇ Reducing the number of school absences. (Auger, A., Pierce, K.M. and Vandell, D.L., 2013)
- Research on 21st CCLC programs shows that 21st CCLC participants 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)

The Need for Afterschool in New Jersey:

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 during the hours after school in New Jersey (28%).

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

22,246 kids in New Jersey participate in a 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) program—programs that serve children living in high-poverty areas and attending low-performing schools.

Afterschool's role in the ABCs of dropout prevention

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 participants in high-quality afterschool programs go to school more, behave better, receive better grades and perform better on tests compared to students who don't participate in afterschool programs.

- 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 non-participants. (Mahoney, et. al., 2005)
- Researchers report that parental concerns about afterschool care cost businesses up to \$300 billion per year in decreased worker productivity. (Catalyst & Brandeis University, 2006)

90% of adults surveyed in New Jersey agree that there should be “some type of organized activity or place for children and teens to go after school every day that provides opportunities to learn.” 80% support public funding for afterschool programs.
(America After 3 PM, 2009)

State of Federal Funding for Afterschool Programs in New Jersey:

In New Jersey, the 21st Century Community Learning Center (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, 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 **22,246** students attend a 21st CCLC program, due in large part to limited federal funding for programs.

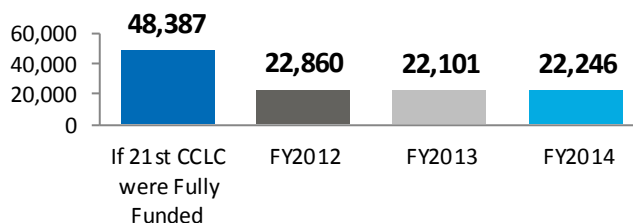
- If the 21st CCLC initiative were fully funded at the most recently authorized level, New Jersey would receive \$48,386,540. The current funding for New Jersey is only \$22,245,615.
- 57 additional grants in New Jersey could be awarded if full funding for 21st CCLC were available.

47
Grantees

118
Communities Served

9 out of 41
Local Grant
Requests Awarded

**Estimated Number of New Jersey Children
in
21st CCLC Programs**



**Numbers are based on the cost of \$1,000 per child*

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF):

FY2014 funding for 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 up to age 12—was \$5.3 billion. Although Pres. Obama’s most recent 2015 budget proposed an additional \$807 million increase to CCDF, further support for this federal funding source will be necessary to promote greater access to quality afterschool programs.

Total FY2013 CCDF Funds
in New Jersey

\$183,607,974

Federal Share

\$111,071,850

Children Receiving Subsidies
Who Are School Age

32%

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.