

Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe, Engage Kids in Learning and Help Working Families

A powerful convergence of factors—including a lack of federal, state and local funding, and families and communities beset by tight budgets—leaves 15.1 million 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 moms and dads during the out-of-school hours. There are approximately 8.4 million school-age children in afterschool programs. This includes 1.6 million 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 Offer a Range of Benefits:

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

- 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 non-participants. (Weissberg, R.P., et.al, 2010)
- 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)

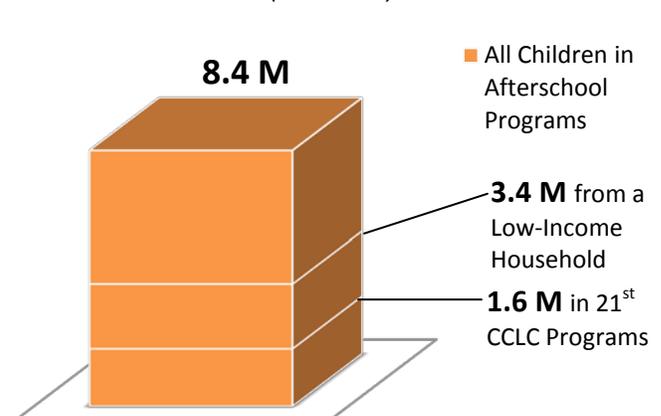
Need for Afterschool Programs by the Numbers:

18.5 million kids would participate in an afterschool program if one were available to them.

15.1 million kids on their own in the hours after school.

23 million parents of school-age children work outside of the home full time.

Children in Afterschool Programs (in millions)



- Students who attended 21st CCLC programs made significant improvements in their classroom behavior, completion of their homework and participation in class. Gains were also made in 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)
- 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)
- An evaluation of New York City's Out-of-School Time Programs found that 74 percent of parents agreed that afterschool programs made it easier to keep their jobs, and 73 percent agreed with the statement that they missed less work now compared to before their child became involved in the program. (Russell, C.A., et. al., 2009)

Students who drop out of school and do not obtain a high school diploma are more likely to live in poverty, be unemployed and earn less when in the workforce.

In a longitudinal study, researchers at UCLA found that dropout rates among LA's BEST students were significantly lower than the overall district dropout rate.

State of Federal Funding for Afterschool Programs:

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, 22 million kids across the country are eligible to participate in a 21st CCLC program. However, just 1.6 million kids attend a 21st CCLC program due to lack of federal funding.

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

- The 21st CCLC initiative is authorized to be funded at \$2.5 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. The current amount appropriated is less than half of the authorization level, at \$1.1 billion.
- Over the last 10 years, \$4 billion in local grant requests were denied because of the lack of adequate federal funding and intense competition.
- More than 4,000 additional grants could be awarded if full funding for 21st CCLC were available.

Estimated Number of Children Participating in 21 st CCLC Programs*	
2011	1,154,000
2012	1,152,000
2013	1,094,090
*Numbers are based on the cost of \$1,000 per child	
2013 figure incorporates the 5% sequester cut	

