

May 5, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairwoman, Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education &
Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education &
Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS, Education & Related
Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Capito, Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member Baldwin, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin work on the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, the organizations signed below thank you for funding the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) - Title IV Part B of the Every Student Succeeds Act - in the full year Continuing Resolution for FY 2025. While we understand the challenging fiscal environment at the federal level, program providers are facing increased costs as well as growing unmet demand for programs that yield invaluable returns.

To meet the needs of students and families, we ask that you and your colleagues increase funding for 21st CCLC to \$2.09 billion as part of the FY 2026 appropriations process.

Afterschool and summer learning programs are a lifeline for millions of children and families. In 2024, an all-time high of 87% of voters said afterschool programs were an absolute necessity for their communities. Whether rural or urban residents, under age 30 or above age 65, those voting Republican or Democrat, more than 4 in 5 voters felt these programs were critical and want funding increased, not cut^[1]. Further, businesses report a lack of afterschool programs can cost them up to \$300 billion annually^[2].

For every 1 child in an afterschool program, 4 more are left out. That's more than 25 million young people and their families across the U.S. that want access to afterschool programs and don't have it.

It's no surprise demand is rising. Students spend 85% of their waking hours out of school and all parents look for safe, engaging experiences and opportunities for their children to make the most of that time. In addition to being safe spaces for social in-person interaction, afterschool and summer programs help students develop the skills, practical knowledge, confidence and independence they need to reach their full potential. Research also shows they help students catch up and advance academically and socially. A recent longitudinal study looked at students with opportunities to engage in afterschool enrichment activities and found that as adults they were more likely to graduate, earn higher incomes, secure better jobs, and be engaged in their communities.

The 21st Century Community Learning Center program, the only federal funding stream specifically for afterschool and summer programs, helps provide access for families nationwide. In its 27th year, strengthened and supported by bipartisan policymakers, the 21st CCLC initiative reaches nearly 1.4 million children in all 50 states and the American territories. The program operates via a formula that provides each state funds and states determine how to run local competitions to reach rural, urban, and suburban communities. The local funds engage public, charter, and private schools, and community-based partners, including faith-based organizations, science centers and museums, housing authorities, local government and private industry, as well as parents and youth directly. Furthermore, the important expertise housed at the U.S. Department of Education that oversees 21st CCLC must continue in order to ensure coordination of program evaluation and offering quality support to state agencies and local afterschool and summer learning program providers, including through the 21st CCLC National Technical Assistance Center.

21st CCLCs expand student access to activities and services designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program. They get students excited about learning in safe, supportive environments. They offer hands-on learning, physical activity, workforce development opportunities, and the chance to gain knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. They work with community partners to provide drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, access to music and the arts, and more. Funds also are used for training, evaluation, and technical assistance to ensure quality programming is offered.

The impact of sustained investment - alongside the ability to evaluate and strengthen the program over time- is yielding remarkable results. The most recent 21st CCLC annual

performance report found that students in the program saw improvement in their engagement in learning, GPAs, and reading and math state assessments, as well as decreases in chronic absenteeism and in-school suspensions^[iii]. The average program leverages local funds and engages up to 9 different local partners; return on investment studies on afterschool show returns of \$3 for every dollar invested.

Despite the returns for youth, families and communities, 21st CCLC program funding has not kept up with inflation over the last two decades. With higher costs^[iv] for staffing, transportation, goods, and insurance, fewer community-based providers can continue to offer families and communities the high-quality programming that research shows is necessary for impact. Continued and increased investment in 21st CCLC is crucial to ensuring the broad range of providers and locally designed programming that our youth want, our employers need, and our families demand.

We request that you support an increase of \$750 million for the 21st CCLC program in FY 2026. This would bring the total for the 21st CCLC program to \$2.09 billion to ensure the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program remains a vital resource in our communities.

We thank you for your continued support of afterschool and summer learning programs, and for your efforts on behalf of children and working families in our states and districts and across the country.

National Organizations

Afterschool Alliance

After-School All-Stars

Afterschool STEM Hub

AlphaBEST Education, Inc.

American Psychological Association

BellXcel

BOOST Collaborative

Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Brains & Motion Education

Breakthrough Collaborative

Camp Fire

Children's Funding Project

Coalition for Community Schools

Committee for Children

Council of Administrators of Special Education

EDGE Consulting Partners

EduTech Consulting

Every Hour Counts

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

First Quarter Strategies

Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)

Foundations, Inc

Girlstart

Healthy Teen Network

Horizons National

Institute for Educational Leadership

International Rescue Committee

Joe Bertolotti Consulting

Justice Policy Institute

MANGO Math Group

MENTOR

Mission: Readiness

National 4-H Council

National AfterSchool Association

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)

National Association for Music Education

National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)

National Girls Collaborative Project

National Network for Youth

National Summer Learning Association (NSLA)

Outward Bound USA

Partnerships in Education and Resilience (PEAR)

Right At School

Search Institute

STEM Ecosystems, TIES

STEM Next Opportunity Fund

Strategies for Youth

the Forum for Youth Investment

The Gault Center
The Learning Agenda
The National Association for Regulatory Administration
TNTP
Together Friends Organization Inc.
UnidosUS
YMCA of the USA
Youth Changes

State and Local Organizations

Alaska Afterschool Network	State	AK
Alaska Children's Trust	State	AK
Southeast Regional Resource Center	State	AK
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Kenai Peninsula	Local	AK
Monroeville Area YMCA	State	AL
YMCA of Greater Montgomery	State	AL
Alabama Alliance of YMCA's / Brewton Area YMCA	Local	AL
Dearborn YMCA	Local	AL
Enterprise YMCA	Local	AL
Heart of the Valley YMCA, Huntsville, Alabama	Local	AL
Prattville YMCA	Local	AL
The CARE Center	Local	AL
The Young Men's Christian Association of Selma Dallas County	Local	AL
YMCA of Birmingham	Local	AL
YMCA of Calhoun County	Local	AL
YMCA of Chilton County Alabama, Inc	Local	AL
YMCA of the Shoals	Local	AL
YMCA of Tuscaloosa	Local	AL
The Alabama - Mississippi YMCA Alliance	State	AL, MS
Arkansas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	State	AR
Boys & Girls Club of Faulkner County	State	AR
Boys & Girls Club of Benton County	Local	AR
Boys & Girls Club of Central Arkansas	Local	AR
Boys & Girls Club of Magnolia	Local	AR
Boys & Girls Club of McGehee	Local	AR

Boys & Girls Club of Union County - Arkansas	Local	AR
Boys & Girls Clubs of Saline County	Local	AR
Boys and Girls Club of Ashley County	Local	AR
Boys and Girls Club of Jefferson County	Local	AR
Boys and Girls Club of South Logan County	Local	AR
Donald W. Reynolds Boys & Girls Club	Local	AR
Fort Smith Boys & Girls Clubs	Local	AR
YMCA of Southern Arizona	State	AZ
Prescott YMCA of Yavapai County	Local	AZ
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Colorado River	Local	AZ, NV
California AfterSchool Network	State	CA
California School-Age Consortium	State	CA
California Teaching Fellows Foundation	State	CA
ExpandLA	Local	CA
Los Angeles Conservation Corps	Local	CA
San Jose Sports Authority	Local	CA
Youth Alliance	Local	CA
Colorado Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	State	CO
YMCA of the Rockies	State	CO
YMCA of Metropolitan Denver	Local	CO
YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region	Local	CO
Riverside Education Centers	Local	CO
YMCA of Colorado and Wyoming	State	CO
Connecticut Network for Children and Youth	State	CT
EdAdvance	Local	CT
Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware	State	DE
Florida After School, Inc.	State	FL
The Florida State Alliance of YMCAs	State	FL
Kidokinetics	Local	FL
Prime Time Palm Beach County	Local	FL
Dodge County Board of Education	State	GA
Georgia Alliance of YMCAs	State	GA
Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network	State	GA
Meriwether County 21st CCLC Program	State	GA
Voices for Georgia's Children	State	GA
Dodge Connection-Communities In Schools of Dodge County, Inc.	Local	GA

Dodge County Board of Education	Local	GA
Girls Aiming Towards Positivity	Local	GA
John & JeJuan Stewart Jr. Foundation	Local	GA
SOAR with BES, Berrien County 21st CCLC After School Program	Local	GA
Thomasville Community Resource Center	Local	GA
YMCA of Metropolitan Chattanooga	Local	GA
YMCA of Metropolitan Columbus, GA	Local	GA
Hawai'i State Alliance of YMCA's	State	HI
Iowa Alliance of YMCAs	State	IA
Everybody Wins! Iowa	Local	IA
Idaho State Alliance of YMCAs	State	ID
Lincoln County Board or Commissioners	Local	ID
Lincoln County Youth Center	Local	ID
Afterschool for Children and Teens Now (ACT Now) Coalition	State	IL
Illinois YMCA Youth and Government	State	IL
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council	Local	IL
Carole Robertson Center for Learning	Local	IL
East Side Aligned	Local	IL
YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago	Local	IL
Indiana Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	State	IN
Kansas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	State	KS
Kansas State Alliance of YMCAs	State	KS
Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence	Local	KS
Boys & Girls Club of Southeast Kansas	Local	KS
Ashland Area YMCA	State	KY
Kentucky Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	State	KY
Boys & Girls Clubs of Hopkinsville-Christian County	Local	KY
Boys and Girls Club of Franklin-Simpson	Local	KY
Partners For Change	Local	KY
Learning Grove	Local	KY, OH
KY/WV YMCA State Alliance	State	WV
SCILS Region 8 LASTEM Center	State	LA
Massachusetts Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	State	MA
Maryland Out of School Time Network	State	MD
SciTech2U inc	State	MD

Baltimore's Promise	Local	MD
Rural Youth Institute	State	ME
YMCA Alliance of Northern New England	State	ME, NH, VT
Michigan Afterschool Partnership	State	MI
Sound Mind Sound Body Foundation	State	MI
TrueNorth Community Services	State	MI
Clare-Gladwin Regional Education School District	Local	MI
Project FOCUS- TrueNorth Community Services	Local	MI
Youth Development Resource Center	Local	MI
Missouri Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, Inc.	State	MO
Missouri's YMCAs	State	MO
Junius Ward Johnson Memorial YMCA	Local	MS
MS Gulf Coast YMCA	Local	MS
The Family YMCA of SE MS	Local	MS
The Montana Afterschool Alliance	State	MT
New River YMCA	Local	NC
ourBRIDGE for Kids	Local	NC
YMCA of Catawba Valley	Local	NC
YMCA of the Triangle Area, Inc	Local	NC
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Red River Valley	Local	ND
Civic Nebraska	State	NE
Nebraska Alliance of YMCAs	State	NE
Cardinal Community Learning Centers	Local	NE
Collective for Youth	Local	NE
Completely KIDS	Local	NE
Kids Can Community Center	Local	NE
Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Hampshire	State	NH
New Hampshire Afterschool Network	State	NH
New Jersey Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	State	NJ
Boys & Girls Club of Garfield	Local	NJ
Boys & Girls Club of Newark	Local	NJ
Boys & Girls Club of Paterson and Passaic	Local	NJ
Boys & Girls Clubs of Cumberland County	Local	NJ
Boys & Girls Clubs of Lower Bergen County	Local	NJ
Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County	Local	NJ
Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest NJ	Local	NJ
Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City	Local	NJ

Boys and Girls Club of Clifton	Local	NJ
FOCUS Hispanic Center for Community Development, Inc.	Local	NJ
New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network	State	NM
The Family YMCA	State	NM
YMCA of Central New Mexico	State	NM
Zuni Public Schools	Local	NM
Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Nevada	State	NV
Nevada Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	State	NV
YMCA of Southern Nevada	Local	NV
Alliance of New York State YMCAs	State	NY
Church Women United in New York State	State	NY
Digital Girl, Inc.	State	NY
Plattsburgh YMCA	State	NY
Saratoga Regional YMCA	State	NY
Tri-County YMCA of NY	State	NY
United Neighborhood Houses	State	NY
YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County	State	NY
YMCA of the Twin Tiers	State	NY
BestSelf Behavioral Health	Local	NY
Capital District YMCA	Local	NY
ExpandedED Schools	Local	NY
Fulton Family YMCA	Local	NY
New Rochelle YMCA	Local	NY
Oneonta Family YMCA	Local	NY
Partnership for After School Education (PASE)	Local	NY
Polish Community Cebter of Buffalo, Inc.	Local	NY
Rockland County YMCA	Local	NY
Silver Bay YMCA	Local	NY
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County	Local	NY
YMCA Buffalo Niagara	Local	NY
YMCA of Greater New York	Local	NY
YMCA of Greater Rochester	Local	NY
YMCA of Ithaca & Tompkins County	Local	NY
YMCA of Long Island, Inc.	Local	NY
YMCA Of Middletown	Local	NY
YMCA of the Greater Tri-Valley	Local	NY

Young Mens Christian Association of Geneva, NY	Local	NY
Youth INC	Local	NY
Capital District YMCA	Local	NY
Ohio Afterschool Network	State	OH
Ohio Alliance of YMCAs	State	OH
Community Building Institute Middletown, Inc.	Local	OH
MyCom	Local	OH
YMCA of Greater Toledo	Local	OH
YMCA of Greater Toledo	Local	OH
Youth Success Summit	Local	OH
YMCA of Greater Cincinnati	Local	OH, KY
Boys & Girls Clubs of Green Country	State	OK
Oklahoma Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	State	OK
Oklahoma Partnership for Expanded Learning	State	OK
Boys & Girls Club of Ottawa County	Local	OK
Boys & Girls Club of Sequoyah County	Local	OK
Boys & Girls Clubs of Chelsea	Local	OK
Boys and Girls Club of WRAP	Local	OK
Center for Children and Families, Inc.	Local	OK
The Boys & Girls Club of McAlester	Local	OK
Springfield Public Schools (Springfield, OR)	Local	OR
Allegheny Partners for Out-of-School Time	Local	PA
Allies for Children	Local	PA
Rhode Island Afterschool Network	State	RI
Rhode Island Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	State	RI
Kids On Point	Local	SC
Boys & Girls Club of Watertown	State	SD
South Dakota Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	State	SD
Boys & Girls Club of the Capital Area	Local	SD
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sioux Empire	Local	SD
Tennessee State Alliance of YMCAs	State	TN
An Array of Charm Camps for Youth Development	Local	TN
Aspiring Youth Enrichment Services	Local	TN
Carnegie Writers	Local	TN
DYMON in the Rough (Dynamic Young Minorities of Nashville)	Local	TN
Greater Kingsport Family YMCA	Local	TN

Moves and Grooves Inc	Local	TN
Nashville International Center for Empowerment (NICE)	Local	TN
SHADES of Development	Local	TN
Why We Can't Wait, Inc.	Local	TN
YMCA of Memphis & the Mid South	Local	TN, MS
Texas Alliance of YMCAs	State	TX
Texas Partnership for Out of School Time	State	TX
Andy Roddick Foundation	Local	TX
Dallas Afterschool	Local	TX
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hidalgo County Tx.	Local	TX
BEACON Afterschool Program	Local	UT
Boys & Girls Clubs of Weber-Davis	Local	UT
Community Cares Iron County	Local	UT
Ogden Contemporary Arts	Local	UT
YMCA of Northern Utah	Local	UT
Child Care Aware of Virginia	State	VA
The Improvement Association	State	VA
Victoria's Kitchen Kids Cooking School	State	VA
Virginia Alliance of YMCA	State	VA
Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST)	State	VA
Alexandria Beyond the Classroom (ALX Beyond)	Local	VA
Boys & Girls Club of the Mountain Empire	Local	VA
Culturecated Educational Services	Local	VA
Harrisonburg Out of School Learning Coalition	Local	VA
Henrico County Public Schools	Local	VA
Kidz -R- Cookin'	Local	VA
Local Motion Project	Local	VA
Massanutten Regional Library	Local	VA
NextUp RVA	Local	VA
On the Road Collaborative	Local	VA
Open Space Education	Local	VA
Patrick & Henry Community College	Local	VA
The Improvement Association	Local	VA
Vermont Afterschool	State	VT
School's Out Washington	State	WA
KY/WV YMCA State Alliance	State	WV
Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance	State	WI

Boys & Girls Clubs of Wisconsin	State	WI
Boys & Girls Club of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior	Local	WI
Boys & Girls Club Fox Valley, Inc.	Local	WI
Boys & Girls Club of Janesville, Inc.	Local	WI
Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh	Local	WI
Boys & Girls Club of Portage County	Local	WI
Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area	Local	WI
Boys & Girls Clubs of Barron County	Local	WI
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee	Local	WI
Boys & Girls Clubs of Sheboygan County	Local	WI
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Bay & Lakes Region	Local	WI
Boys & Girls Clubs of West-Central WI	Local	WI
YMCA of Colorado and Wyoming	State	WY

^{i i} <https://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Voters-Say-Afterschool-Programs-Are-A-Necessity-2025.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <https://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Afterschool-Programs-Strengthen-the-Economy-Jan-2025.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ https://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/issue_briefs/21st-CCLC-Overview-2025.pdf

^{iv} <http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Afterschool-Programs-Support-Learning-Recovery-Wave-10.pdf>