

April 30, 2024

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

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
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 Baldwin, Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member Capito, 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) 2025, the organizations signed below thank you for funding the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) - Title IV Part B of Every Student Succeeds Act - in FY 2024. While we understand the challenging fiscal environment at the federal level, and the limits to discretionary funding imposed by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, we also know about the significant increased costs and demand for programs at the local level. In an effort to respond to the needs of students and families, we ask that you and your colleagues increase 21st CCLC to \$2.09 billion as part of the FY 2025 appropriations process.

Afterschool and summer learning programs are a lifeline for millions of children and families. They are especially critical as parents and educators are increasingly concerned about children and teens' well-being, academic progress, mental wellness, social connections, and safety. The pandemic has shown how important robust afterschool and summer learning programs are to working families and students, and how crucial it is to invest in these programs to ensure their availability and efficacy. Every student who wants it deserves the opportunity to pursue passions and explore interests in a quality afterschool and summer program. Unfortunately, increased demand coupled with growing program costs means programs, especially those available to our most underserved youth, are struggling. And there is an access problem. For every 1 student served nationally, 4 are waiting. One in two programs nationwide has a waitlist. Recent data shows support for funding afterschool is at an all-time high; 8 in 10 voters want greater public investment in afterschool^[1], including majorities from all major political parties, age groups, community types, and racial and ethnic groups. With this in mind, we request that you support an increase of \$750 million for the 21st CCLC program in FY 2025. This would bring the total for the 21st CCLC program to \$2.09 billion.

In its 26th year, the 21st CCLC initiative supports all 50 states and the American territories. With funding from 21st CCLC, local school and community-based organizations, along with cities and towns, charter schools, faith-based providers, public housing authorities, and other entities provide students in kindergarten through 12th grade safe and supportive environments where they participate in academic enrichment opportunities, get excited about learning new things, and connect with caring mentors before school, afterschool, and during the summer months.

Federal 21st CCLC formula grants to states enable rural, urban, and suburban communities to leverage local resources by providing 3-5 years of funding to local partnerships among community-based organizations, faith-based partners, science centers and museums, private industry, and school partners (public, private, and charters). The funding provided by 21st CCLC is the foundation of afterschool and summer programming and enables communities to attract other partners and resources, including access to mentors, new learning opportunities, nutritious snacks and meals, as well as supports for mental wellbeing. Funds also are used for training, evaluation, and technical assistance to ensure quality programming is offered. While reflecting the needs of local communities, 21st CCLCs expand student access to activities and services designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program, such as hands-on learning, physical activity, workforce development opportunities, gaining knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields, drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, music and the arts, and more.

Quality afterschool and summer learning programming matters. The outcomes of 21st CCLC funded afterschool and summer learning programs are undeniable. Over decades of work, researchers have built an evidence base for quality and effectiveness by studying afterschool programs across the nation. An independent report[2] published in March 2019 and supported by the Wallace Foundation reviewed research from 2000 to 2017 and found programs improved a wide range of outcomes, including student attendance, achievement in mathematics and English, grade promotion and graduation rates, and student health and fitness. This research spans the country, all age groups, and a wide variety of indicators of well-rounded student success. Furthermore, the most recent Department of Education national annual performance report found that 69% of students increased homework completion and class participation, while 64% of students improved their classroom behavior—all important indicators of student engagement[3]. Central to quality afterschool and summer programs is adequate pay and training for staff. About 50 percent of program providers report that their costs per child have increased in the past year with staffing costs being the major contributing factor.

At a time when more families and students need afterschool and summer programs than ever, 21st CCLC providers must be able to build on 25 years of excellence in the field—not be faced with choosing between serving more youth or paying staff competitive wages. Increasing funding for this proven program will continue to reap benefits not only in the communities where the 10,500 21st Century Community Learning Centers currently thrive, but also where youth are waiting for access, including in many of the other almost 50,000 Title I schools[4] where the program could reach.

We thank you for your continued support of afterschool and summer learning programs, and for your efforts on behalf of children and working families. We ask that the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittees ensure that the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program remains a vital resource to students and families.

[1] <http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Voters-Agree-Afterschool-Programs-Are-A-Priority-January-2023.pdf>

[2] <https://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/pages/afterschool-programs-a-review-of-evidence-under-the-every-student-succeeds-act.aspx>

[3] <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2022/11/21st-CCLC-Overview-of-the-Annual-Performance-Data-2020-2021.pdf>

[4] https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/202021_summary_3.asp

National Organizations

Afterschool Alliance
After-School All-Stars
Afterschool STEM Hub
AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society)
American Psychological Association Services
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)
Bertoletti Consulting
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
City Year Inc.
Coalition for Community Schools
Committee for Children
Council for a Strong America
Council of Administrators of Special Education
EDGE Consulting Partners
Every Hour Counts
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids
First Focus Campaign for Children
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Forum for Youth Investment
Girlstart
Healthy Teen Network
Horizons National
Institute for Educational Leadership
Knowledge to Power Catalysts
MENTOR
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of School Psychologists
National Center for Families Learning
National Child Care Association
National Girls Collaborative Project
National Summer Learning Association
National Women's Law Center
National Youth Justice Network
Outward Bound USA
Partners for Rural Impact
Save the Children
Search Institute
STEM Next Opportunity Fund
STRATEGIES FOR YOUTH

Student Association for STEM Advocacy
The Gault Center
The Learning Agenda
TNTP
YMCA of the USA

State and Local Organizations

Alaska Afterschool Network	AK
Alaska Children's Trust	AK
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Kenai Peninsula	AK
Alabama Expanded Learning Alliance	AL
Alabama Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, Inc	AL
Boys & Girls Club of Southeast Alabama	AL
Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Alabama	AL
Arkansas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	AR
Boys & Girls Club of Benton County	AR
Boys and Girls Club of South Logan County	AR
Boys and Girls Club of Jefferson County	AR
Boys & Girls Club of El Dorado	AR
Boys & Girls Club of Central Arkansas	AR
Boys and Girls Clubs of the Arkansas River Valley	AR
Boys & Girls Club of McGehee	AR
The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Texarkana	AR
Small Wonders Foundation Inc	AR
Four States Urban Development Project	AR
EduCare Foundation	CA
California Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	CA
Edventure More (EDMO)	CA
California AfterSchool Network	CA
California Academy of Sciences	CA
A World Fit For Kids!	CA
Boys & Girls Clubs of Carson	CA
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver	CO
Riverside Education Centers	CO
Connecticut Network for Children and Youth	CT
EdAdvance	CT
DC STRINGS WORKSHOP	DC
Shaw Community Center	DC
BEST Kids	DC
Fair Chance	DC
DC Action	DC

Jubilee Housing	DC
SHAW COMMUNITY CENTER	DC
The T.R.I.G.G.E.R. Project	DC
The Fishing School	DC
Global Kids, Inc.	DC
Children's Art Studio	DC
Common Good City Farm	DC
One World Education	DC
Young Women's Project	DC
Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware	DE
Georgia Alliance of YMCAs	GA
Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network	GA
Voices for Georgia's Children	GA
Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier	GA
Everybody Wins! Iowa	IA
Illinois State Alliance of YMCAs	IL
Afterschool for Children and Teens Now	IL
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council	IL
Metropolitan Family Services	IL
Boys & Girls Clubs of Dundee Township	IL
YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago	IL
Union League Boys and Girls Clubs	IL
Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago	IL
Indiana Alliance of YMCAs	IN
Indiana Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	IN
Boys & Girls Clubs in Indiana	IN
Boys & Girls Clubs of Elkhart County	IN
Kansas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	KS
Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence	KS
Boys & Girls Club of Manhattan	KS
Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance	KY
Kentucky Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	KY
KY/WV YMCA State Alliance	KY
Boys & Girls Club of Glasgow-Barren County	KY
Oscar Cross Boys & Girls Club	KY
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Bowling Green Area	KY
Young Audiences of Louisiana	LA
Massachusetts Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	MA
SciTech2U Inc	MD
STUDENT GLOBAL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM	MD
Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School	MD

ACRES a project of Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance	ME
Kieve Wavus Education, Inc.	ME
Main Street Skowhegan	ME
Michigan Afterschool Partnership	MI
YMCA of Saginaw	MI
TrueNorth Community Services	MI
Boys and Girls Clubs of Minnesota	MN
Missouri AfterSchool Network	MO
Missouri Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, Inc.	MO
Boys & Girls Club of the Ozarks	MO
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis	MO
Boys and Girls Club of West Central MO	MO
Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Missouri	MO
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Columbia Area	MO
Boys & Girls Club of Poplar Bluff	MO
Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield	MO
Boys & Girls Club of Jefferson City	MO
ourBRIDGE	NC
Boys & Girls Club of Haliwa-Saponi Tribe in Indian Country	NC
Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest New Jersey	NJ
Boys & Girls Clubs of Cumberland County	NJ
Boys & Girls Club of Garfield	NJ
Boys & Girls Clubs of Lower Bergen County	NJ
Boys & Girls Club of Newark	NJ
Boys & Girls Clubs of Gloucester County	NJ
Boys & Girls Club of Paterson and Passaic	NJ
FOCUS Hispanic Center for Community Development, Inc.	NJ
Northwest New Mexico Arts Council	NM
REFORMA de Nuevo Mexico	NM
Nevada Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	NV
Church Women United in New York State	NY
Rural Schools Association of New York	NY
ExpandedED Schools	NY
Jewish Institute of Queens	NY
YMCA of Greater New York	NY
Trail Blazers	NY
Ohio Afterschool Network	OH
Ohio Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	OH
The Community Building Institute Middletown	OH
McWatters Consulting	OH
Oregon Alliance of YMCAs	OR

Springfield Public Schools 19	OR
Nutritional Development Services	PA
YMCA of Greater Erie	PA
Philadelphia Outward Bound School	PA
MENTOR Independence Region	PA
Alliance for Refugee Youth Support and Education, Inc.	PA
South Carolina Alliance of YMCAs	SC
Greater Kingsport Family YMCA	TN
Big Thought	TX
Texas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	TX
Boys & Girls Clubs of Victoria	TX
Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County	TX
Dallas Afterschool	TX
Boys and Girls of Sherman	TX
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston	TX
Boys & Girls Club of Washington County	TX
Boys and Girls Club of Zapata County	TX
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Dallas	TX
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Bend	TX
Boys & Girls Club of Trinity	TX
Boys & Girls Club of Beeville	TX
Boys and Girls Clubs of Harlingen, Texas	TX
Boys & Girls Club of Walker County Texas Inc.	TX
Boys & Girls Clubs of El Paso	TX
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Permian Basin	TX
Boys & Girls Club of Alice	TX
BGC of Bandera and Uvalde	TX
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Central Texas	TX
Boys & Girls Clubs of Deep East Texas	TX
Boys & Girls Club of El Campo	TX
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Tarrant County	TX
Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Texas	TX
Sheppard AFB Madrigal Youth Center	TX
USAG Fort Bliss-Youth Plex-Replica YC	TX
Boys & Girls Clubs of Edinburg	TX
Boys & Girls Club of Pharr - San Juan	TX
Utah Afterschool Network	UT
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Salt Lake	UT
Youth Impact Inc	UT
YMCA of Northern Utah	UT
Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST)	VA
Virginia Alliance of YMCAs	VA

Vermont Afterschool	VT
Schools Out Washington	WA
SOP Projects (Seeds of Peace)	WA
Washington State Boys & Girls Clubs Association	WA
Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue	WA
Boys & Girls Club of the Columbia Basin	WA
Boys & Girls Clubs of Thurston County	WA
Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County	WA
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula	WA
Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington	WA
Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County	WA
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound	WA
Upper Midwest Alliance of YMCAs	WI
Wisconsin Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	WI
School District of Arcadia - CLC Program	WI
Madison Out of School Time	WI
YMCA of the Fox Cities	WI
Boys & Girls Club of Fond du Lac	WI
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Chippewa Valley	WI
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Bay & Lakes Region	WI
Appleton Area School District	WI
YMCA of the Fox Cities	WI
Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area	WI
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley	WI
Boys & Girls Clubs of Barron County	WI
Think Kids	WV
Playmates Preschools & Child Development Centers, Inc.	WV
Wyoming Afterschool Alliance	WY