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## **America's Kids and Families Will Be Much Better Off When the Trump Administration Disburses Afterschool and Summer Funds Next Week, But the Delay and Uncertainty Caused Real Harm**

*Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance, on the Trump Administration Releasing the FY25 Afterschool and Summer Learning Program Funds It Had Previously Withheld*

"In communities all across this country, people are tremendously relieved that the Trump Administration will release the FY25 afterschool and summer learning program funds it had withheld. Working parents in particular are breathing an enormous sigh of relief. These funds, which Congress appropriated, were due to 50 states and D.C. on July 1. While we are thrilled the funds will be made available and thank the bipartisan lawmakers and the state attorneys general who fought for their release, the administration's inexplicable delay in disbursing them caused massive chaos and harm, with summer learning programs abruptly shutting down and a large number of afterschool programs cancelling plans to open in the fall. Those programs have now fallen behind on hiring, outreach, contracting, and other work needed to fulfill their essential mission to keep students safe, inspire them to learn, and give working parents peace of mind that their kids will be safe and supervised when schools are out.

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) – the chief federal funding stream for afterschool and summer learning programs – supports more than 10,000 local programs serving nearly 1.4 million children nationwide. States run their own competitions to distribute 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funds to programs designed by local communities. We remain deeply concerned that the administration is proposing \$0 for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC next year, instead collapsing it into a 'K-12 Simplified Funding Plan' with dramatically reduced support. If Congress agrees to that, we will see more children and youth unsupervised and at risk, more academic failures, more hungry kids, more chronic absenteeism, higher dropout rates, more parents forced out of their jobs, and a less STEM-ready and successful workforce as our child care crisis worsens dramatically.

Just as parents, educators, and an overwhelming bipartisan majority of voters mobilized to fight for the release of the FY25 funds, we will mobilize to convince Congress to continue and expand 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funding next year. Investments that support children, youth and working families are essential to our country's future. States and communities need robust federal investments across the board to maximize student success."

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*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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*