

June 28, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt

Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray

Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole

Chairman
House LHHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro

Ranking Member
House LHHS-ED Appropriations
Subcommittee
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray; and Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As your Committees begin the fiscal year 2018 appropriations process, we urge you to maintain or increase federal funding that promotes a healthy childhood weight for our nation's children through support of before and after school, and summer learning programs focused on healthy eating and physical activity.

In particular, the national organizations listed below call on your Committees to prevent cuts, keep level and/or provide increases in funding for the following proved programs:

21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) within the Department of Education provides almost 2 million school-age children and youth with access to local school and community afterschool programs that include physical activity, healthy meals and nutrition education.

Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) within the Department of Health and Human Services provides low-income families with school-age children a voucher to cover childcare services. The 2014 reauthorization of CCDBG mandated health, safety and wellness standards for all programs.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) within the US Department of Agriculture provides more than 340 million healthy afterschool meals and snacks per year to low income children through afterschool programs.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) - within the US Department of Agriculture is a federally funded, state-administered program that reimburses providers who serve free healthy meals to children and teens in low-income areas during the summer months when school is not in session.

CDC funding related to school health and obesity prevention including School Health Branch in the Division of Population Health, which support professional development, and training of staff providing preventative health service to young people in afterschool programs.

Maintaining funding for these programs will ensure afterschool programs continue to be a particularly valuable strategy to improve the health of students from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Afterschool programs:

Serve 10.2 million children for an average of 7 hours per week

Serve children most at risk for being overweight, including children of color and those from lower socio-economic status families.

Occur during a time of the day that many children would otherwise be sedentary and not likely to participate in physical activity.

Provide healthy meals and snacks that can serve as nutritious examples.

Provide staff who understand children's needs and can promote healthy eating and active lifestyles.

Provide an opportunity for young people to interact with role models displaying healthy eating habits and leading healthy lifestyles.

Research shows that programs that utilize the afterschool space as a site for enjoying physical activity and learning about healthy lifestyles can improve student health outcomes:

A 2005 study in the Journal Applied Developmental Science measuring the health and social benefits of afterschool programs found that controlling for baseline obesity, poverty status, and race and ethnicity, the prevalence of obesity was significantly lower for afterschool program participants (21 percent) compared to nonparticipants. (33 percent).

A report by the U.S. Department of Education found that 10-16 year olds who have a relationship with a mentor are 46 percent less likely to start using drugs and 27 percent less likely to start drinking alcohol.

Federal support and policies that encourage widespread adoption of guidelines and standards and funding for staff training and equipment will help afterschool programs effectively promote a healthy childhood for all students. With an established record of accomplishment, afterschool and summer learning programs should not be underestimated as potential 'game changers' in promoting wellness among young people and therefore funding that support these programs must be maintained.

Thank you for your support.

21stCCLC Horizons After School Program
A World Fit For Kids!
Affordable Housing Development Hawaii, LLC
Afterschool Alliance
After-School All-Stars
After-School All-Stars Chicago
After-School All-Stars Cleveland
After-School All-Stars Columbus
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
After-School All-Stars Las Vegas

After-School All-Stars Los Angeles
After-School All-Stars New Jersey
After-School All-Stars New York
After-School All-Stars North Texas
After-School All-Stars Orlando
After-School All-Stars Philadelphia
After-School All-Stars Puget Sound
After-School All-Stars San Antonio
National AfterSchool Association
After-School All-Stars South Florida

After-School All-Stars Tampa
After-School Toledo
After-School All-Stars Washington, DC
Alabama Afterschool Community Network
Alliance of New York State YMCAs
Afterschool Communities
America Walks
American Federation of Teachers
Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence
Austin Tracy 21st Century Eagle's Nest
Bergin Learning Arts
Boys and Girls Club of America
Boys and Girls Club of Ada County
Boys and Girls Club of Huntington County
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee
Boys and Girls Club of Watertown
Boys and Girls Club of Topeka
Bright Yogis, LLC
California AfterSchool Network
California School-Age Consortium
Central Community House
Child Care Aware® of America
Child Care Resource Center
Childrenfoodandfitness.com
Children's Hunger Alliance
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York
Colorado Afterschool Partnership
Columbus State Community College's ESL
Afterschool
Dallas Afterschool
Early Care & Learning Council
Easter Seals Hawaii
Eugene School District 4j BEST Afterschool
Program
ExpandED Schools
Fatima Family Center
Fine Art Miracles, Inc.
Florida Afterschool Alliance
Fremont Area Community Foundation
Genesee Intermediate School District
Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network
Good Shepherd Services
Girls Inc.
Girls on the Run (GOTR)
Girls on the Run of Montgomery County, MD
Greater Cleveland Neighborhood Centers
Association
Hawaii Afterschool Alliance

Hawaii Child Nutrition Programs
HawaiiKidsCAN
Hawaii Youth Services Network
H.O.P.E. For Tomorrow, Inc
Idaho AfterSchool Network
Identity
Ignite Afterschool
Illinois AfterSchool Network
Indiana Afterschool Network
Jack's Treehouse
Kansas Enrichment Network
Kentucky Out of School Alliance—Save the Children
Kids' Country
Kupu
Marathon Kids
Marysville SACC
Michigan AfterSchool Association
Michigan City Area Schools Safe Harbor
Missouri AfterSchool Network
Montana Afterschool Alliance
Mountain View Fellowship
Montana Afterschool Alliance
National Council of Youth Sports (NCYS)
National Institute on Out-of-School Time
National Recreation & Park Association
National Summer Learning Association
NC Cooperative Extension/4H Agent
New Hampshire Afterschool Network
New Jersey School-Age Care Coalition
New Lexington, Ohio 21st Century Afterschool
Program
New York State Network for Youth Success
NJSACC - Statewide Network for NJ's Afterschool Community
North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs
OregonASK
Parents And Children Together
Partnership of African American Churches
PENN SACCA (Pennsylvania Achoolage Child Care Alliance)
Pittsburg Youth Chorus
Safe Harbor
School's Out Washington
SHAPE America —Society of Health and Physical Educators
Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center, Inc
Stem4Girls, Inc
Sublette's BEST 2- 21st CCLC
The Arkansas Out of School Network
The Ohio Afterschool Network
The Sheltering Arms Foundation

The Starke County Youth Club, Inc
The Statewide Network for New Jersey's
Tompkinsville Elementary School Cub Club
TrueNorth Community Services
Texas Partnership for Out of School Time
University of Hawaii
U.S. Soccer Foundation
Utah Afterschool Network
Valley Heights Community Education
Vermont Afterschool, Inc.
Village Academy
Vineyard Community Center
Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time
Wisconsin Afterschool Association
Wisconsin Afterschool Network
Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association, Inc
YMCA of Greater Toledo
YMCA of the USA