



MEDIA ALERT  
For Tuesday, June 11, 2024

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## **Innovative Afterschool Programs from D.C., Maryland, and Virginia to Be Showcased on Capitol Hill Tuesday as Advocates from 45 States Urge Congress to Increase Funding for Afterschool and Summer Learning**

With pandemic relief winding down and looming funding shortfalls threatening afterschool programs nationwide, more than 200 afterschool providers, community leaders, educators, parents, and youth from around the nation will be on Capitol Hill next Tuesday, June 11, to educate Congress about the urgent need to increase federal funding for afterschool and summer learning programs. Advocates will ask lawmakers to provide a \$750 million increase for [21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers](#) – the chief federal funding stream for afterschool and summer learning – in Fiscal Year 2025.

The [Afterschool for All Challenge](#) will include an Afterschool Showcase featuring the innovative activities afterschool programs offer, from STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) to health and wellness, from civic engagement to the arts, from job readiness to family support. The Showcase will be:

**2:30 – 4 pm, Tuesday, June 11**

**Hart Senate Office Building, Room #902**

**With:**

**U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)**

**Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance**

**Afterschool Providers and Supporters from Around the Country**

Featured programs at the Showcase:

- From Virginia, Alternatives World Changers (Hampton) and Edu-Futuro (Arlington)
- From Maryland, Wide Angle Youth Media (Baltimore), Digital Harbor Foundation Tech Lab (Baltimore), Y in Central Maryland (multiple sites), and the Maryland Youth Advisory Council (Crownsville)
- From D.C., Life Pieces To Masterpieces, BEST Kids, DC Scores, and East of the River Steelband.

All day Tuesday, afterschool supporters from 44 states and the District of Columbia will meet with members of Congress to discuss the many ways afterschool programs boost students, families, schools, communities, and our future workforce. They will remind elected officials that quality afterschool and summer learning programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and give working parents peace of mind that their children are safe and supervised after the school days ends and until the workday is over. Tens of thousands more afterschool supporters will participate via email and social media.

Today in the United States, for every child in an afterschool program, four more are waiting to get in. Some 24.7 million children not in an afterschool program would be enrolled, if a program were available to them, according to a survey of approximately 1,500 parents commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance and conducted by Edge Research in 2022. That is the highest number ever recorded. Unmet demand for afterschool programs is significantly higher among Latino and Black children (at 60% and 54% respectively) than among children overall (49%). Cost is the top barrier to enrollment, cited by 57% of parents as a reason for not enrolling their child. Ninety percent of parents rate the quality of the afterschool program their child attends as excellent (51%) or very good (39%).

*Note: To arrange an interview with an afterschool provider from a particular state, please contact Magen Eissenstat ([magen@prsolutionsdc.com](mailto:magen@prsolutionsdc.com) or 202/609-9889).*

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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).*