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Biden Budget Proposal Offers Another Small Step Toward Adequate Funding for Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs, Afterschool Leader Says

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

“The Biden administration’s FY 2023 budget proposal, released by the White House today, is a needed, but small, step on the road to adequate funding for the nation’s afterschool and summer learning programs. If adopted, the administration’s proposed funding increase of \$21 million over the FY 2022 appropriation for Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) will bring out-of-school-time programs within reach of an additional 21,000 students next year. That’s a welcome development and a step in the right direction, but the Biden budget would still leave millions of children and families without the afterschool and summer learning programs they need.

The [best data available](#) show that, even before the pandemic, [the families of 24.6 million children](#) were unable to access an afterschool program, with low-income, Black and Latinx families most likely to be left behind. In fact, for every student in an afterschool program, three more were waiting to get in. For that reason, the relatively modest increase proposed by President Biden is nowhere near sufficient to address the unmet need.

Over the next few months, the Afterschool Alliance, grassroots supporters of afterschool, and the entire out-of-school-time community will urge Senators and Representatives to increase the 21st CCLC budget more significantly. Quality afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and giving parents peace of mind that their children are safe, supervised, and learning after the school day ends and until they return home from their jobs. Children who are unsupervised after school are at increased risk of falling behind, dropping out, and engaging in risky behaviors. Our children deserve better from us, especially now, as we seek to heal the many scars of the pandemic.

We will encourage Congress to add to the Biden administration’s proposed \$1.310 billion budget for 21st CCLC. The country needs a substantially greater investment in out-of-school time programs if we are to meet the challenges our families, schools and communities face.”

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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.