



For Immediate Release  
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Contact: [Lisa Lederer](#)  
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## **House Appropriations Committee Misses Chance to Support, Stabilize Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs at Today's Mark-Up**

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

“The country’s afterschool and summer learning programs are hurting, as costs skyrocket and pandemic relief winds down. Without additional support, programs will be forced to cut back on hours and activities, and some will have to close their doors. So it is especially disappointing that the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee failed to increase funds for the Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) in the FY2025 spending bill it marked up today. Level federal funding for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC at just \$1.329 billion will create crises for students and families, and harm schools, communities and our economy.

Today in our country, 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 – and this inadequate funding level is sure to cause it to increase still further.

Other House Appropriations Committee cuts to education funding will also harm afterschool, including zeroing out AmeriCorps and making deep cuts to ESSA Title I grants, full-service community schools, school-based mental health services grants, and other programs.

The Afterschool Alliance is urging Congress to ensure that the final FY 2025 Labor-HHS-Education funding bill increases investments in afterschool and other education programs that support afterschool, and reminding members that an overwhelming majority of voters (81 percent) agree that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity for their community. The Alliance will work tirelessly to convince the U.S. Senate to restore the cuts the House made and to increase 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funding, to support the programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and give parents peace of mind. Our children’s success and our country’s future depend on it.”

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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).*