



STATEMENT OF
Jodi Grant, Executive Director
Afterschool Alliance on
The President's FY 2016 Budget Proposal

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February 4, 2015

Afterschool Leader Reacts to President's FY2016 Budget Proposals for Afterschool

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

“President Obama’s FY2106 budget proposal has both encouraging and worrisome elements for afterschool. On the one hand, the President has proposed \$1.152 billion — the same funding as for the current year — for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative, the principal federal funding stream for afterschool. On the other hand, as in past years, he proposes to allow the use of 21st CCLC funds for new, non-out-of-school-time purposes.

“In the current budget environment, with many programs facing elimination or consolidation, the President’s proposal to hold 21st CCLC funding steady is testimony to the value and popularity of afterschool and summer learning programs. Significantly, the President’s proposal comes as [ESEA reauthorization efforts in the Senate HELP Committee seek to eliminate 21st CCLC](#). The President’s proposal of dedicated funding for 21st CCLC reflects a tried and true approach, one that offers an important alternative to current proposals in the Senate.

“The Afterschool Alliance supports directing 21st CCLC funds to high-quality afterschool, before-school and summer learning programs that focus on hands-on, engaged learning that complements and enhances but does not replicate the traditional school day. In addition, 21st CCLC funding should continue to support the partnerships between schools and community- and faith-based organizations that help children improve academically, socially and behaviorally while parents are at work.

“Also of note in the President’s proposal is an historic investment in early childhood education, in the form of increased funding for the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). The additional \$82 billion over ten years that the President proposes would increase the number of children served to more than 2.6 million, up from 1.5 million today, and it would ensure that the youngest children from the most vulnerable communities have access to high quality settings, safe and ready to learn. Many afterschool programs benefit from CCDF support.

“In addition, the President proposes a cross-agency science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiative that would increase funding in this vital area. In many communities afterschool programs are taking a lead role in STEM, because it lends itself to the sort of hands-on, sleeves-rolled-up learning that afterschool is uniquely positioned to provide.”

“As the budget process goes forward, we intend to work with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to ensure that the afterschool programs that students, working families, communities and the country need are protected and expanded.”

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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.