



NEWS RELEASE
July 14, 2004

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Mayors throughout Nation Call for Full Funding of Afterschool

Mayors from Akron to Anchorage rallied behind afterschool programs at last month's 72nd annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting. The mayors passed a resolution calling on President Bush and Congress to increase funding for the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) afterschool initiative to \$2 billion next year.

President Bush has asked for just \$1 billion for 21st CCLC next year, which would mean flat-funding the initiative for the fourth consecutive year. The "No Child Left Behind Act" authorizes twice that amount. The 21st CCLC initiative currently funds afterschool programs serving 1.4 million children; full funding would double the number of youth served to 2.8 million.

"We are delighted that mayors have taken a stand for high-quality afterschool programs in their communities," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Judy Y. Samelson. "There is a great need for these programs. Our new study, *America After 3 PM*, finds that the parents of 15.3 million children in this country would send their children to an afterschool program if one were available." It also finds that 14.3 million kindergarten through 12th graders take care of themselves after the school day ends. The JCPenney Afterschool Fund supported *America After 3 PM*.

Noting the gap between children currently served by afterschool programs and those without access, the U.S. Conference of Mayors resolution urges federal, state, and local governments to increase their investments in afterschool programs. It also encourages mayors to join *Afterschool for All: Project 2010*, a new united national voice in support of afterschool programs. *Project 2010* has brought together nearly 350 powerful groups and national leaders who believe that all children and youth should have access to high-quality, safe and enriching afterschool programs by the year 2010.

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Add One

The Mayors Conference resolution notes that afterschool programs “provide a way for communities to reduce the risk of youth involvement in crime, violence, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and gangs” and “enhance the physical, social, emotional and moral development of youth.”

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities working to ensure that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by 2010. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of the nation's 1183 U.S. cities with populations of 30,000 or more. More information is available at <http://www.usmayors.org> and the afterschool resolution is posted at: www.usmayors.org/72ndAnnualMeeting/AdoptedResolutions04.pdf

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