



Statement of Jodi Grant  
Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance  
May 7, 2009

Contact: Gretchen Wright  
202-371-1999

## **Afterschool Community Deeply Disappointed In President Obama's Budget Proposal**

“With millions of children unsupervised and at risk after schools close each afternoon, President Obama’s budget proposal is a deep disappointment. Flat-funding 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers at its current – grossly inadequate – level is a serious mistake that will result in millions of children having no safe, supervised, educational activities after the school day ends, and millions of worried working parents struggling to find care for their children.

During the election campaign, President Obama and Vice President Biden promised to double funding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC), the chief federal funding stream for afterschool. We hoped – and expected – to see progress toward that goal this year. Every delay puts more of our children at risk for drugs and alcohol, gangs and other kinds of crime, teen pregnancy, and other unhealthy behaviors each afternoon.

Current funding for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC stands at just \$1.13 billion – less than half the \$2.5 billion authorized by the *No Child Left Behind Act*, which itself is just a fraction of what is needed to make afterschool programs available to all children who need them.

We will work hard to convince Congress and the Administration to consider the risks associated with leaving children with nowhere to go after the school day ends, and to increase 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funding to its authorized level.

Study after study shows that afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families. Americans know it, which is why they support increased funding for afterschool in overwhelming numbers. Congress must improve on the President’s proposal.”

# # # #

*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).*