



NEWS RELEASE
July 14, 2004

CONTACT: Gretchen Wright
202/371-1999

Leading Afterschool Group Applauds Providence After-School Alliance

Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Judy Y. Samelson today praised Providence, Rhode Island and its Mayor, David N. Cicilline, for forming the Providence After-School Alliance (unrelated to the Afterschool Alliance, a national organization). Mayor Cicilline launched the new public-private venture in late June with the goal of developing a comprehensive, citywide system to substantially increase high-quality, affordable out-of-school time learning opportunities for Providence's children and youth.

"Under Mayor Cicilline's leadership, Providence has taken on a national leadership role in promoting quality afterschool programming for its youngest citizens," said Samelson. "Today's announcement of very significant support from the Wallace Foundation for the effort is an indication of the broad support afterschool programs enjoy in Providence and around the nation. We have high hopes that the initiative will pay huge dividends for Providence's families, while setting a national standard for public-private ventures in support of out-of-school time learning."

"This initiative will change how Providence cares for its kids," Mayor Cicilline said. "We intend to create a network of neighborhood-based opportunities that provide fun and learning for kids, relief for parents and increased safety for everyone. These are the hours when kids are most vulnerable to violence and also when they are most likely to commit crimes, get addicted, or get pregnant. I am extremely proud of the way this public-private partnership brings unprecedented services to our families while saving tax dollars."

In June, the Mayor accepted a \$1 million gift for the project from the FleetBoston Financial Foundation, a Bank of America philanthropic organization.

In May, the Afterschool Alliance released *America After 3 PM: A Household Survey on Afterschool in America*, the most in-depth study ever to explore how America's children spend their afternoons. It found that just 6.5 million children are in afterschool programs, while the parents of another 15.3 million children say their children would participate if an afterschool program were available. *America After 3 PM* was funded by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. GE Consumer Finance donated the team of experts who analyzed the data. More information about the *America After 3 PM* is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org/america_3pm.cfm

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

#