



NEW RELEASE
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New ‘Roadmap to Afterschool for All’ Charts Course to Expand Quality Afterschool Programs

Study Finds Parents Pay 76% of Afterschool Costs, Federal Government Just 11%

Washington, D.C. – Our nation today is serving too few of the children who would benefit most from participating in afterschool programs. According to a report released today by the Afterschool Alliance, there are programs for children whose parents and guardians can afford to pay tuition and fees, but our afterschool system is leaving behind millions of low-income children whose parents cannot pay. *Roadmap to Afterschool for All: Examining Current Investments and Mapping Future Needs* recommends significant increases in afterschool investments, with the federal government leading the way to ensure that the 5.6 million low-income children who need afterschool have access to quality programs.

The *Roadmap* analyzes data on federal, state and local funding for afterschool programs and charts a course for expansion that would eventually give all children access to quality afterschool programs. Right now, the federal government covers only eleven percent of the total cost of afterschool, it finds, even though 29 percent of children in programs qualify for federal assistance. The report concludes that a federal investment of less than \$18 billion would give 5.6 million low-income youth access to the academic support, supervision, mentoring and fitness opportunities, healthy snacks, and other benefits that quality afterschool programs provide.

The *Roadmap* finds that parents of children in afterschool programs are paying the majority of the afterschool bill. On average, parents pay more than three-quarters (76 percent) of the cost of afterschool programs through tuition and fees. Even in low-income communities, parents pay more than half of afterschool costs (54 percent). On average, families are paying \$2,400 per year per child for afterschool programs, and low-income families are paying an average of \$1,722 per year per child.

“Right now, the nation is coming together to address huge challenges, and setting priorities for the future,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “Unless we give every child safe, supervised, enriching activities, we lose a real opportunity to give children a brighter future, strengthen families, and improve our economy. Now more than ever, we need to increase the investment in quality afterschool programs from all sectors. The *Roadmap to Afterschool for All* is designed to point the way – but the real test of America’s commitment to its children will be whether we travel down the road this report maps out.”

According to the new report, the federal government's contribution to afterschool programs is less than \$2.3 billion, which is 11 percent of the cost of these program. That \$2.3 billion includes \$1.13 billion 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), the principal federal funding stream for afterschool. Current 21st CCLC funding is far below the \$2.5 billion authorized in *No Child Left Behind Act*. President Obama pledged to double funding for 21st CCLC, and to create a new funding stream to support summer programs. The *Roadmap* says that would be an essential first step. It also recommends that other sectors increase their investments in afterschool eight-fold – the same increase it recommends for the federal government.

In the United States today, more than 14 million children are on their own after the school day ends. Only 11 percent of all children in grades K-12 are enrolled in afterschool programs.

The *Roadmap to Afterschool for All* was released at the Afterschool Alliance's eighth annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*, which brings together parents, children and educators across the country to encourage Congress to increase funding for afterschool. The research was led by Alison Earle, research scientist at the Harvard School of Public Health and funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the Atlantic Philanthropies.

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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.