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Cuts to AmeriCorps a Major Blow to Nation's Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

“The \$400 million in cuts to AmeriCorps announced late last week are hitting many of our country’s afterschool and summer learning programs hard, at a time when many are already unable to meet the demand due to rising costs and inadequate funding. AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA programs have long been an essential component of afterschool and summer learning. AmeriCorps members support students academically, assist with snacks and meals, coordinate STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and arts activities, provide outreach to the community, and work one-on-one with students to improve their confidence, engagement, and social skills.

Without this support it will be even more difficult for these programs to do their vitally important work to keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and give working families peace of mind that their children are safe, supervised and learning while they are at work. We are still collecting information on the impact of these cuts, and programs are still adjusting. Examples of devastation include:

- In West Virginia, the [Flipside AmeriCorps afterschool program](#) in Marion County, which provides afterschool support, mentorship, and enrichment to hundreds of middle school students, only has funds to remain open through the end of the school year.
- In South Dakota, Mañpíya Lúta – a nonprofit on the Pine Ridge reservation – has lost 10 employees across five sites, causing [reduced support for afterschool and summer learning programs including challenges in covering transportation costs](#).
- Camp Fire Green Country – which has served the Tulsa-area community for 21 years – has 11 members and two staff positions funded by its AmeriCorps grant. Effective immediately, they can no longer provide service hours.

Today in our country, for every child in an afterschool program, four more are waiting to get in. Some 24.7 million children not in an afterschool program would be enrolled, if a program were available to them, according to a survey of approximately 1,500 parents commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance and conducted by Edge Research in 2022. Every support taken away from programs makes this problem even worse.

The Afterschool Alliance and the afterschool community, including parents across the country, are urging the administration to reconsider these cuts and asking Congress to step in. When we shortchange our children, we diminish our country's future."

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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.