



For Immediate Release
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Biden Budget Proposal a Good Start in Reversing the Chronic Underfunding of Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs, Afterschool Leader Says

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

“The Biden administration’s FY 2022 budget proposal, released today, is a much-needed step that will bring critical afterschool and summer programs to an additional 50,000 young people across the nation. The country’s families, educators, and community leaders welcome the \$52 million increase the Biden administration proposes.

This is a welcome change from four long years during which the Trump administration proposed defunding the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC), the chief federal funding stream for afterschool, before school and summer learning programs. But while the Biden budget is a step in the right direction, it would still leave millions of children without the afterschool programs they need. Before the pandemic, [the families of 24.6 million children](#) were unable to access an afterschool program, with low-income, Black and Latinx families most likely to be left behind. For every student in an afterschool program, three more were waiting to get in – so an increase of less than 4% in federal funding for afterschool, while welcome, is not sufficient.

The afterschool community will work hard to convince Congress to add to Biden’s 21st CCLC budget proposal. Quality afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and giving parents peace of mind that their children are safe, supervised, and learning after the school day ends and until they return home from their jobs. Students who are unsupervised after school are at increased risk for falling behind, dropping out, and engaging in risky behaviors. Kids deserve better, especially now, when so many are struggling after more than a year of isolation, social and emotional struggles, trauma, and learning loss. The funds in the American Rescue Plan are providing an important but temporary boost, but recovery will take time and we must support the programs that are essential to students’ success.

We will encourage Congress to add to the Biden administration’s proposed \$1.310 billion budget for 21st CCLC. The country needs a substantially greater investment in out-of-school time programs if we are to meet the challenges we face today.”

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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.