



For Immediate Release
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Afterschool Leader Calls \$40 Million Increase for Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs ‘Badly Needed, Very Welcome, But Not Nearly Enough’

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

“The bipartisan budget package announced this morning includes an important funding boost for afterschool and summer learning programs. When the legislation, with its \$1.329 billion appropriation for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21st CCLC), is approved by both chambers and signed by President Biden, this will be the ninth consecutive year lawmakers have provided a modest increase for afterschool. This increase is badly needed and very welcome, but at a time when the parents of [roughly 25 million students](#) who want their children in afterschool cannot find a program, it is not nearly enough.

The 21st CCLC initiative is the federal government’s principal funding stream for afterschool and summer learning programs. This year’s increase is an important step forward that will allow tens of thousands more children to access a program, where they will get homework help, hands-on learning opportunities, engagement in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and physical fitness, access to mentors, college and careers, and more. Such programs are vital, particularly as we work to help children recover from learning loss and the other lingering effects of the pandemic.

But we are still a very long way from making afterschool available to every child who needs it. So even though the new federal budget marks an all-time funding high, too many families will still be unable to find the programs that keep their children safe, inspire them to learn, and allow parents to hold jobs. The federal government is not the only source of funding for afterschool, but it can and should do much more.

We thank House Appropriations Committee and Labor HHS Education Subcommittee Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), House Labor HHS Education Subcommittee Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK) and Senate Appropriations Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-AL), as well as Senate Appropriations Labor HHS Education Subcommittee Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Roy Blunt (R-MO), and the members of both Committees. We also thank Afterschool Caucus co-chairs Representative David Cicilline (D-RI) and Senators Tina Smith (D-MN) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), as well as House and Senate leaders for their commitment to afterschool and summer learning. In the months ahead, the Afterschool

Alliance will work with allies in the afterschool community and our champions in Congress to make further progress. Our country's children and youth deserve a much stronger federal investment in the afterschool programs that help them succeed in school and in life."

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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.