

April 28, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House LHHS-ED Appropriations
Subcommittee
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House LHHS-ED Appropriations
Subcommittee
2467 Rayburn House Office
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you begin work on the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, the organizations signed below thank you for increasing funding for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) (Title IV Part B of the Every Student Succeeds Act) in FY 2022, allowing an additional 30,000 students to access quality afterschool, before-school and summer learning programs. The pandemic has shown how important robust afterschool and summer learning programs are to working families and our most vulnerable students, and how vital resources are to support these programs to ensure they are available and effective for the children who need them. With this in mind, we request that you support a funding level of \$500 million for the 21st CCLC program in FY 2023.

Through the 21st CCLC initiative, which serves about 1.8 million students in all 50 states and the American territories, local school and community-based organizations provide students in kindergarten through 12th grade with a safe and supportive environment where they participate in academic enrichment opportunities, get excited about learning new things, and connect with caring mentors before school, afterschool, and during the summer months. 21st CCLC programs serve students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools, and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, these programs were a vital source of support for underserved communities. Now, with students back in-person at school after having spent significant amounts of time out of the classroom since March 2020, feeling isolated from their teachers and peers, and in need of additional enrichment and learning opportunities, 21st CCLC programs are more essential than ever.

We are grateful that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) included set-aside language allowing comprehensive afterschool and summer learning and summer enrichment programs to be eligible to receive emergency Covid-19 relief funds to help student recover missed instructional time; however, increased staffing and program costs as well as unprecedented demand for local afterschool programs have pushed programs to the brink. The most recent America After 3PM report from the Afterschool Alliance found an all-time high of 24.6 million children were unable to access a program, with cost and program availability as the leading factors.¹ Additionally a fall 2021 survey of 1,000 afterschool program providers found that 54% had waiting lists, a significantly greater percentage than in the past.² While ARPA funds for out of school time programs are focused on the specific challenges related to the pandemic and are primarily directed to local school districts; community based providers including nonprofit, faith-based, park and recreation, library, and other non-school providers serving a wide range

¹ America After 3PM, 2020 <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/>

² Afterschool in the time of Covid-19 tinyurl.com/362ff68f

of vulnerable students continue to struggle to access the funding resources they need, with only 19% of providers surveyed reporting the ability to access federal Covid-19 relief funds.³

Federal 21st CCLC formula grants to states enable rural, urban and suburban communities to leverage local resources by providing 3-5 years of funding to support local partnerships among community-based organizations, faith-based partners, private industry, and school partners (public, private, and charters). This funding infrastructure provided by 21st CCLC is foundation of afterschool and summer programming and enables communities to attract other partners and resources for students including access to mentors, new learning opportunities, nutritious snacks and meals, as well as helping address student mental health programs. Funds also are used for training, evaluation, and assistance to ensure quality programming is offered. While reflecting the needs of local communities, 21st CCLCs expand student access to activities and services designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program, such as hands-on learning, physical activity, workforce development opportunities including gaining knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, the arts, and more.

In addition, the outcomes of 21st CCLC funded afterschool and summer learning programs are undeniable. Over a span of twenty years, researchers have built an evidence base for quality and effectiveness by studying afterschool programs across the nation. An independent report published in March 2019 and supported by the Wallace Foundation, reviewed research from 2000 to 2017 and found programs improved a wide range of outcomes including student attendance, achievement in mathematics and English; grade promotion and graduation rates, and student health and fitness. This research spans the country, all age groups and a wide variety of indicators of well-rounded student success. Furthermore, the most recent Department of Education national annual performance report found that 70% of students increased their rates of homework completion and class participation while 63% of students improved their classroom behavior. Increasing funding for this proven program will continue to reap benefits in the communities where the 10,500 21st Century Community Learning Centers currently thrive.

We thank you for your continued support of afterschool and summer learning programs, and for your work on behalf of children and working families. We ask that the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittees ensure that the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program remains a vital resource to students and families moving forward.

Signed by:

National Organizations

Afterschool Alliance

³ Ibid

After-School All-Stars

AlphaBEST Education, Inc.

America SCORES

Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Camp Fire National

Children's Defense Fund

City Year, Inc.

Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

Committee for Children

Communities In Schools

Council of Administrators of Special Education

EDGE Consulting Partners

Every Hour Counts

Food Research & Action Center

Forum for Youth Investment

Foundations, Inc

Girls Inc.

Institute for Educational Leadership

integrate opportunity, LLC

KP Catalysts, LLC

MENTOR

National AfterSchool Association

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

National Association of Elementary School Principals

National Association of School Psychologists

National Association of Secondary School Principals

National Girls Collaborative

National Science Teaching Association

National Summer Learning Association

National Urban League

National Recreation and Park Association

Outward Bound USA

Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)

Save the Children

Search Institute

UnidosUS

YMCA of the USA

State and Local Organizations

Alaska Afterschool Network	Anchorage	AK
Alaska Children's Trust	Anchorage	AK
California School-Age Consortium	El Sobrante	CA
A WORLD FIT FOR KIDS!	Los Angeles	CA
EduCare Foundation	Los Angeles	CA
MENTOR California	Oakland	CA
California Teaching Fellows Foundation	Fresno	CA
California AfterSchool Network	Sacramento	CA
EDMO (Edventure More)	San Francisco	CA

Minga Education Group	Bellevue	CO
Onward! A Legacy Foundation dba School Community Youth Collaborative	Cortez	CO
MENTOR Colorado	Denver	CO
Scholars Unlimited	Denver	CO
Sims-Fayola Foundation	Denver	CO
YMCA of Metropolitan Denver	Denver	CO
Academy of Arts and Knowledge	Fort Collins	CO
Riverside Educational Center	Grand Junction	CO
Brady High School	Lakewood	CO
Project Dream with the Lake County School District	Leadville	CO
School Community Youth Collaborative	Mancos	CO
WeldRE5J - Milliken Elementary	Milliken	CO
Pagosa Arts Initiative	Pagosa Springs	CO
Boys & Girls Clubs of Pueblo County	Pueblo	CO
EdAdvance	Litchfield	CT
Prime Time Palm Beach County	Boynton Beach	FL
Communities In Schools of Georgia	Atlanta	GA
Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network	Atlanta	GA

Voices for Georgia's Children	Atlanta	GA
We Love Buford Highway	Atlanta	GA
Parents And Children Together	Honolulu	HI
Iowa Afterschool Alliance	Des Moines	IA
Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Council	Boise	ID
After School Matters	Chicago	IL
ACT Now	Chicago	IL
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council	Chicago	IL
Chinese American Service League	Chicago	IL
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Illinois	Chicago	IL
ReadyNation, Illinois	Chicago	IL
AYS - At Your School	Indianapolis	IN
Boys & Girls Clubs in Indiana, Inc.	Indianapolis	IN
Indiana Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	Indianapolis	IN
Kentucky Out of School Alliance	Berea	KY
Covington Partners	Covington	KY
Kentucky/West Virginia Alliance of YMCAs	Lexington	KY
Maryland Out of School Time Network	Baltimore	MD
Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance	South Berwick	ME
KYD Network	Kalamazoo	MI
Youth Development Resource Center	Detroit	MI
Michigan Afterschool Association	Lansing	MI

Michigan's Children		MI
MENTOR Minnesota	Minneapolis	MN
YouthPrise		MN
MENTOR North Carolina	Durham	NC
Girls Inc. of Santa Fe	Santa Fe	NM
New York State Network for Youth Success	Troy	NY
Ohio Afterschool Network C/O PAST Foundation	Columbus	OH
The Opportunity Project	Tulsa	OK
Tula Public Schools	Tulsa	OK
MENTOR Independence Region	Philadelphia	PA
North End Outreach	Providence	RI
MENTOR Rhode Island	Warwick	RI
ALPHAS	West Warwick	RI
South Carolina Alliance of YMCAs	Rock Hill	SC
South Dakota Afterschool Network		SD
United Way of West Tennessee	Jackson	TN
Girls Incorporated of Kingsport	Kingsport	TN
Greater Kingsport Family YMCA	Kingsport	TN
United Way of Greater Kingsport	Kingsport	TN
United Way of Wilson County and the Upper Cumberland	Lebanon	TN

Memphis Music Initiative	Memphis	TN
MENTOR Memphis Grizzlies	Memphis	TN
Tennessee Afterschool Network	Murfreesboro	TN
United Ways of Tennessee	Murfreesboro	TN
Backfield in Motion	Nashville	TN
Nashville After Zone Alliance/Nashville Public Library	Nashville	TN
Nations Ministry Center	Nashville	TN
YMCA of Middle Tennessee	Nashville	TN
YMCA Y-Quest		TN
Dallas Afterschool	Dallas	TX
BEACON Afterschool Program	Moab	UT
Utah Afterschool Network, Inc.	Salt Lake City	UT
Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST)	Colonial Beach	VA
MENTOR Virginia	Richmond	VA
MENTOR Vermont	Burlington	VT
Vermont Afterschool	South Burlington	VT
Mentor Washington	Bellevue	WA
FuturesNW	Bellingham	WA
Empowering Youth Mentor Program	Bremerton	WA

Communities In Schools of Washington State	Federal Way	WA
Joyce L. Sobel Family Resource Center	Friday Harbor	WA
Change the Narrative	Granite Falls	WA
Mentor Washington	Issaquah	WA
Lopez Island Family Resource Center	Lopez Island	WA
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest WA	Olympia	WA
Hey Mentor	Seattle	WA
Youth Development Executives of King County	Seattle	WA
School's Out Washington	Seattle	WA
Youth in Focus	Seattle	WA
Circle Faith Future	Woodinville	WA
Youth Rise of Washington	Woodinville	WA