



CONGRESS EXTENDS FY '10 BUDGET TO NEXT MARCH

As the 111th Congress prepared to adjourn, both the House and Senate passed a “continuing resolution” that will extend the fiscal year 2010 budget through March 4 of next year. That means the federal budget for the year that ended on September 30, 2010, will remain in place at least until next March. The new Congress will decide whether to extend it further, or adopt a new budget for the second half of fiscal year 2011.

There was not enough support in the Senate to advance an omnibus spending bill that, among other things, would have increased funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) by \$135 million while also opening up 21st CCLC funding to extended learning programs that include school-community partnerships.

That means that, through March 4, the 21st CCLC initiative will continue to be funded at last year’s level of \$1.16 billion, and the Child Care Development Block Grant will continue to be funded at last year’s level of \$2.2 billion.

“The afterschool field did an extraordinary job educating lawmakers and advocating for the children and families who need afterschool programs this year,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “We thank everyone who was a part of the effort, which included more than 8,000 messages to Congress in support of afterschool funding. The work we have done and the skills we have acquired as a movement position us for even greater success in the future. We are stronger than we’ve been before, and well positioned to Congress continued on page eight...

MORE AFTERSCHOOL MEALS FOR HUNGRY KIDS

On December 13th, President Obama signed the *Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010* into law. A high priority for the afterschool community, among other things the new law will expand the afterschool meals program to all 50 states.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that such an expansion will increase the number of afterschool meals served annually from 19 million now to 40 million by 2015 and to 50 million by 2020. These meals are served to at-risk children, and are expected to dramatically lower the number of students who leave school hungry.

“A heartfelt thank you goes out to the thousands of afterschool advocates who contacted Congress over the past three years in support of afterschool meal expansion,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “With this bill, millions more children will have access to healthy nutritious food after school, helping them stay strong and ready to learn.”

This strengthening of the afterschool meals program will provide an estimated \$215 million in federal reimbursements to afterschool program providers from 2011 to 2015.

The bill also requires childcare providers participating in the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP) to serve only low-fat or fat-free milk to children aged two and up, among other nutrition standards, and encourages physical activity.

Afterschool Meals continued on page eight...

OUTREACH

This November brought many changes to the halls of power at the federal, state and local levels, and some of them could affect education and afterschool programs. As we approach the new year, consider reaching out to newly elected members of Congress, governors, mayors, state legislators, school board members and others to encourage them to support afterschool programs.

If you have newly elected public officials in your state or district, consider sending a congratulatory letter to tell them about the program and extend an invitation to for them to visit or tour your program. Or have students send hand-made cards to new officials, or post congratulatory messages on their Facebook pages.

Below is a sample letter to lawmakers, and to see more ideas and advice on how to reach out to policymakers, visit the Afterschool Alliance's [Policy and Action Center](#).

Sample Letter

The Honorable [first and last name]
[Address]

Dear Representative-Elect [last name]:

On behalf of the students and parents of [name of afterschool program] in [community], let me congratulate you on your recent election. I'm sure you know that afterschool programs serve a vital role in the community, keeping kids safe, inspiring them to learn, and helping working families. At [name of program], we serve [###] children each weekday afternoon [insert details about the program here, briefly describing its academic elements, physical activity for kids, other activities]

I would like to invite you to visit our afterschool program. Our students, parents, volunteers and staff would be delighted to meet you, and it would give you a good opportunity to see the work our children are doing. I understand this is a busy time, so please consider this a standing invitation.

Thanks very much, and again, congratulations.

[Your Name and title]
[Name of program]
[Phone Number]
[E-mail Address]

*** And remember to sign the Afterschool Alliance's petition [here](#). ***



FUNDING NEWS

The Afterschool Alliance's website has resources for afterschool providers, including tips for initiating relationships with funders and businesses, and for identifying funding opportunities. *To learn more, click [here](#).*

GRANTS/AWARDS AVAILABLE

Grants for Environmental Solutions

The Siemens Foundation is sponsoring the "We Can Change the World Challenge," to encourage children to develop and share solutions to environmental problems. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade should focus on solutions within their schools; students in grades six to eight should focus on solutions in their communities; and students in grades nine to 12 should focus on solutions worldwide. Prizes vary by grade level and include savings bonds and scholarships, school grants and trips and merchandise. The deadline is March 15, 2011. *For more information, click [here](#).*



2011: THE YEAR OF SCIENCE IN AFTERSCHOOL

The Afterschool Alliance, National AfterSchool Association and National Summer Learning Association recently announced an unprecedented collaboration aimed at promoting science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning during out-of-school hours. The collaboration will include educating afterschool providers and summer practitioners about the importance of teaching STEM, showcasing ways that afterschool and summer learning programs can help excite students about STEM opportunities, advocating for greater public and private investment in STEM, and more. The goal is to make 2011 The Year of Science in Afterschool.

“Today’s students will work in an economy and live in a world in which science, technology, engineering and math learning is crucial,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “It’s absolutely vital to their success that their primary and secondary education excites students about STEM and gives them a solid grounding for advanced learning and subsequent careers in STEM fields. Because they offer hands-on, experiential learning opportunities, mentoring and career development, afterschool and summer learning programs are uniquely positioned to help educate the next generation of scientists, mathematicians and engineers.”

“American students trail children of other nations in math and science,” said Dr. Paul Young, President & CEO of the National AfterSchool Association. “That’s both a disservice to them and a threat to our nation’s future as an economic power and even a viable, vibrant economy. The key to turning that around is to engage kids and get them excited about science, technology, engineering and math. That’s a task uniquely suited to afterschool and summer learning programs because they don’t have to teach to the test, but instead have the time and space

for the kinds of hands-on learning that engages students.”

With generous support from the Noyce Foundation, the three organizations plan to rally their tens of thousands of partners at the national, state and local levels in a series of measures to improve and expand STEM education. They plan to:

- Build support for partnerships between schools and community-based organizations to bring more STEM opportunities to students in afterschool and summer learning programs;
- Showcase the ways afterschool and summer learning programs can help engage and excite children and youth about STEM topics and careers;
- Increase awareness within the afterschool and summer learning communities about opportunities for quality STEM learning in these spaces;
- Educate afterschool and summer practitioners and provide pathways to professional development to help deliver high-quality STEM programming;
- Increase national, state and local media coverage of STEM learning outside the traditional school day;
- Educate national, state and local policy makers about best practices in STEM learning outside the school day;
- Advocate for greater public and private investment in STEM; and
- Highlight the urgency of providing our children with a strong background in STEM.

“Often working in concert with community partners, summer learning and afterschool programs introduce children and youth to everything from vegetable gardens to alternative energy sources to robotics, and they usually do it in a hands-on way that complements the school-year curriculum – their sleeves rolled up and digging right in,” said Ron Fairchild, chief executive officer of

the National Summer Learning Association. “Not only do those experiences help children learn about STEM disciplines in an experiential way, they also introduce students to men and women who have made STEM their careers. That gives children the license to imagine themselves pursuing STEM, and that’s the spark we need to be competitive in the 21st century.”

In important ways, American students are underachieving in STEM subjects. In recent international research by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, U.S. students placed far down in an international ranking of student achievement, ranking 25th in math and 21st in science. According to the ACT’s 2007 College Readiness Report, 43 percent of graduating high school seniors are ready for college mathematics, and just 27 percent are ready for college science.

Afterschool and summer learning programs are already working to address these deficiencies. About 90 percent of afterschool programs report that they offer some sort of hands-on science programs, for example. And program evaluations show that participating students develop positive attitudes toward science, as well as greater awareness of STEM careers. Many go on to pursue STEM topics in high school and beyond. Research has also demonstrated that the development of an interest in science by the 8th grade is an excellent indicator of a student’s eventual pursuit of a college degree in science – an even better indicator, for example, than high math grades.

All three partner organizations in the new project are planning a strong focus on STEM learning at their respective national conferences. NSLA’s Summer Changes Everything™ conference this month featured a STEM-focused general session with astronaut Leland Melvin, NASA’s associate administrator for education, and six STEM-specific workshop sessions. NAA recently announced that Bill Nye, the Science Guy will headline its 2011 Annual Convention,

and the Afterschool Alliance will feature STEM in afterschool as a major focus of its 2011 Afterschool for All Challenge in Washington, DC.

To learn more about afterschool and STEM, go to www.AfterschoolAlliance.org and to see the MetLife issue brief from September, click [here](#).



CITIES CUT AFTERSCHOOL, POLL FINDS

Facing the worst economic climate in decades, mayors across the country have made the difficult decision to cut afterschool programs and more, according to a new *Reader’s Digest*/Harris Interactive poll. The purpose of the poll was to discern the level of cutbacks in city services that communities across the country have made as a result of the recession.

According to the poll, 22 percent of mayors said they had already reduced or cancelled afterschool opportunities for children in their communities. Additionally, three out of four mayors said they expect financial challenges to worsen in the coming year, and 39 percent said the worsening will be substantial.

To help communities that are struggling, *Reader’s Digest* is sponsoring “We Hear You America,” an online contest offering cities a share of \$5 million in funds and promotional support. For more information, [click here](#).



IN HER OWN WORDS...

Voices from the Afterschool Storybook...

“Today, I am working in a job that allows me to help other people and I would not have it any other way. I am proud to be able to make a difference. That would not be possible if it had not been for the Children’s Aid Society afterschool program. This non-profit organization allows teens to get off the streets and make something of themselves. It gives them the chance to move forward with their lives and become successful.”

--Mery Del Rosario, New York, New York

To read Del Rosario’s story, and read more afterschool voices from across the country, [click here](#). Share your story [here](#).



IN THE NEWS...

Indiana – Children in Anderson who have been designated homeless or who have been displaced from their homes are getting the academic help they need thanks to the Kid Connection afterschool program. The program, which is a collaboration between a women’s shelter and Anderson schools, provides tutoring for 15 children, many of whom have fallen behind because they have changed schools multiple times, the *Herald Bulletin* reports. The program enlists volunteer “study buddies,” often education majors, from Anderson University to work with the children. “[T]he school district has ensured that students in the worst homeless situations have some of the best chances for success,” Lauren Auld of the Indiana Department of Education said.

Iowa – A handful of lucky residents in Burlington had the leaves raked out of their yards, as a community service project of the Aldo Leopold Middle School afterschool

program. The program provides students with an hour of academic help and lessons, followed by an art project, community service project or guest speaker, the *Hawk Eye* reports. The students raked leaves for six home-owners, using teamwork and improving their social skills. “Raking leaves is fun because it gives you exercise,” eighth-grader Nardica Higgins said. “My arms are tired right now.”

Mississippi – High school students across the state participated in the [Mississippi BEST Robotics Competition](#) at Mississippi State University last month, using their after school time to build robots that are smart enough to distinguish between magnetized and demagnetized items. Each team, including one of 39 Oak Grove High School students, was given six weeks to assemble a robot from a box of materials, the *Hattiesburg American* reports. The students also had to create an engineering notebook for the project, an educational exhibit and a website, and they gave an oral presentation and a judge’s interview. “This allows those students who are interested in pursuing careers in the science, technology, engineering and math fields to get hands-on experience,” said Eric Heiselt of the Mississippi BEST competition. *To see pictures from the Mississippi BEST Robotics Competition, and for more information, click [here](#).*



HFRP’S LATEST PUBLICATION FOCUSES ON SUCCESS OF 21ST CCLC PROGRAMS

The newest publication from the Harvard Family Research Project (HFRP) is a *Research Update* spotlighting key findings about 21st Century Community Learning Centers, drawing on a voluminous data set of afterschool program evaluations in the HFRP’s extensive database.

The publication’s core conclusion is that the research about 21st CCLC programs supports their effectiveness. Specifically, HFRP writes:

More than a decade of research evidence supports the value of 21st CCLC funds in offering positive learning experiences for children and youth. The research base on 21st CCLC is vast and varied, ranging from in-depth descriptive studies of program implementation to rigorous outcome studies examining the benefits of program participation. While not all studies demonstrate benefits for youth participants, research suggests that three elements of afterschool programs (including those with 21st CCLC funding) are connected to positive outcomes: (a) Access to and sustained participation in programs; (b) Quality programming, as demonstrated by such factors as appropriate supervision and structure, well-prepared staff, and intentional programming; and (c) Partnerships with families, other community organizations, and schools.

The Update goes on to connect a series of conclusions about afterschool programs to specific research from the HFRP database, drawing evidence-based conclusions that 21st CCLC programs “provide a wide array of quality afterschool experiences for children,” “work toward improving academic success,” “contributed to improved child well-being,” and “promote health and wellness.”

The Research Update is available for free download [here](#). HFRP’s comprehensive database of OST studies is available [here](#).



SEND IN YOUR SIGNED PETITIONS!

Since the petition launched earlier this fall, thousands have signed on. It is essential to make sure that every signature in favor of afterschool funding is counted! If you gathered signatures on petitions at your *Lights On Afterschool* event or at another event, please be sure to send the signed forms to the Afterschool Alliance by mailing them to: Petitions, Afterschool Alliance, 1616 H Street, NW, Suite #820, Washington, DC, 20006.



RESOURCE

Physical Activity Plan

The National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity (NCPA) has created a guide for incorporating physical activity into the lives of all Americans, including strategies to use in afterschool programs. NCPA has convened leading national organizations to create the strategies outlined in “Make the Move,” including the National Association of State Boards of Education and the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. Powered by Nxtbook Media, the Plan is available in an easy-to-read digital publication that offers strategies, successful examples and additional resources to get America moving. For more information, click [here](#).



KEEP UP WITH AFTERSCHOOL NEWS!

Hungry for the latest news on afterschool? Be sure to check out [Afterschool Snack](#), the Afterschool Alliance’s up-to-the-minute blog on afterschool news, trends and information

from across the country. Recent posts include:

- [New MetLife Brief: Health and Wellness for Teens and Pre-Teens](#)
- [Child Nutrition Reauthorization Redux](#)
- [Welcome to the 2010-2011 Afterschool Ambassadors](#)

And be sure to tune in every Wednesday for a national news round-up, and throughout the week for your daily dose of afterschool. *Check out Afterschool Snack [here](#).*



Congress continued from page one... advance our goal to make quality afterschool programs available to all children who need them.”

To stay up-to-date on federal policy developments related to afterschool, and to take action quickly and easily, visit www.AfterschoolAlliance.org.



Afterschool Meals continued from page one...

Highlights of the new law’s out-of-school time provisions include:

- Expanding the Afterschool Meal Program (through the Child and Adult Care Food Program) to all states. The program currently is available in only 13 states (Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin) and the District of Columbia.
- Requiring school food authorities to coordinate with Summer Food sponsors on developing and distributing Summer Food outreach materials.

- Eliminating the requirement that private nonprofit Summer Food sponsors serve no more than 25 sites with any more 300 children at any of the sites unless the sponsor receives a waiver.
- Extending the California year-round Summer Food pilot until 2015 (the length of the reauthorization).

Other provisions include nutrition standards for foods sold in schools outside of the federal child nutrition programs (for example vending machines), increased funding and technical support to improve the nutritional quality of school meals, strengthened local school wellness policies, and funding for farm-to-school programs. *A complete summary of the new law is available [here](#).*



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

February 23 – 26, 2011

The 14th annual Beyond School Hours conference, hosted by Foundations, Inc., will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. Afterschool advocates will gather for professional development. Participants will also address before- and afterschool, extended day, community-based and summer opportunities, as well as workforce development, higher education, and field-building research. *For information, click [here](#).*


March 10 – 13, 2011

The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) will host the NSTA National Conference on Science Education in San Francisco, California. The conference will focus on: “Embracing Technology in the 21st-Century Classroom;” “Accessing Language through Science and Mathematics Content;” “Exploring Earth, Wind and Fire;” and “Building Scientific Minds: Inspiring


Teaching and Effective Learning.” *For more information, click [here](#).*

 **April 6 – 9, 2011**


The National Youth Leadership Council is sponsoring the National Service Learning Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. More than 2,200 people will participate in three days of general sessions, interactive workshops, thought leader spotlights, service-learning projects, and networking. The conference will include more than 100 exhibits, and more than 200 hands-on workshops and service-learning projects. *For more information, click [here](#).*

 **April 16 – 18, 2011**

The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) will its annual convention in Orlando, Florida, featuring more than 200 member-led workshops to obtain new ideas, learn best practices, and gather solutions to the challenges in the workplace. The 2011 NAA convention will feature five primary themes focused on the key issues that every afterschool professional faces every day, including: “STEM Beyond the Classroom;” “Global Learning in Afterschool;” “Advancing the Afterschool Profession;” “Leading Afterschool;” and “Learning in Afterschool.” *For more information, click [here](#).*

 **April 27 – 30, 2011**

The Best Out-of-School Time Collaborative (BOOST) is sponsoring the BOOST Conference in Palm Springs, California. The conference will offer a blend of networking and team-building opportunities, exceptional workshop presenters, and the latest trends and research in out-of-school time programming. More than 125 exhibitors will share the newest resources, products and services to enhance programs. *For more information, click [here](#).*

 **May 16 – 17, 2011**

The Afterschool Alliance will host the 10th annual *Afterschool for All Challenge* in Washington, D.C. The annual event brings together afterschool leaders, advocates, educators and local and state officials to discuss the hottest issues in afterschool, meet with Members of Congress and celebrate afterschool accomplishments. *For more information, click [here](#).*

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.

The Alliance is proud to count among its founding partners the Mott Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, JCPenney Afterschool Fund, Open Society Institute/The After-School Corporation, the Entertainment Industry Foundation and the Creative Artists Agency Foundation.

The *Afterschool Advocate* is produced for the Afterschool Alliance by PR Solutions, Inc., Washington, DC;
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