

Federal Budget Proposal Threatens Afterschool Programs in Our District—Your Advocacy is Needed

Dear School Leader,

We're reaching out to share urgent news that directly affects your school community. The afterschool and/or summer program at your school is funded by the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program. The 21st CCLC afterschool program provides critical academic support, a broad array of enrichment, and supervision beyond school hours.

The Trump administration released a budget proposal that would eliminate dedicated 21st CCLC funding and merge it into a block grant with 17 other education programs at a significantly reduced level. With \$12 billion in proposed education cuts overall, this move would result in the loss of funding for 21st CCLC programs like ours all across Nebraska.

This would be a devastating blow. Last year alone, more than \$6.5 million in 21st CCLC funding supported over 17,000 Nebraska students, helping them stay safe, supported, and on track academically. If this funding is cut:

- Our program may be forced to reduce services, enrollment, or shut down entirely
- Families in the school community could lose access to reliable afterschool programs
- Students would lose critical academic and enrichment opportunities outside the school day

As a school leader, your voice matters. We ask that you:

- Contact your U.S. Senators and U.S. Representative to urge full funding of 21st CCLC
- Speak with district leadership to emphasize the importance of this program to your school(s)
- Connect with local businesses and community partners who may be impacted by families losing access to afterschool services, and ask them to speak up for afterschool
- Encourage your staff, families, and community to take action at:
afterschoolworksforamerica.org

Thank you for all you do for your students. We hope you'll stand with us in protecting the services that support children, youth, and families beyond the school day.

Sincerely,



To help you contact with your congress members, use a sample call script or letter template - or use the Afterschool Alliance's automatic email system to send a message to your U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators.



Sample Call Script



Sample Letter



Automatic Email

No matter the method you use to communicate with your elected officials, other school leaders, and your school community, here are a few talking points to help along the way.

- Our district relies on 21st CCLC to fund afterschool and summer programming at [School Name(s)], which serves [# of students served] students in our community.
- The proposed budget would eliminate dedicated funding for this program by merging it into an underfunded block grant with 17 other education programs—effectively ending direct support for afterschool and summer learning.
- In Nebraska alone, more than \$6.5 million in 21st CCLC funding supported over 17,000 students last year. Without it, we may be forced to:
 - Reduce services or enrollment in our afterschool programs
 - Eliminate summer learning opportunities
 - Leave working families without reliable afterschool options
 - And deprive students of the academic and enrichment support they count on
- As an education leader, I can attest to how vital these programs are for student success and family stability. We urge you to protect and fully fund 21st CCLC in the upcoming budget.

Nebraska ranks in the top 10 in the nation for afterschool programming and parent satisfaction! Use the facts below when advocating for 21st CCLC funding:

1 in 4 For every child in an afterschool program, 4 more children are waiting to get in.

91% 91% of Nebraska parents are satisfied with their afterschool program's quality of care.

82% 82% of Nebraska parents believe afterschool programs help children develop essential skills such as teamwork, communication, and critical thinking.

#8 Nebraska ranks 8th in the nation for afterschool.

