

Protect the Funding That Supports Our Afterschool Program

Dear Afterschool Family,

We are reaching out with important news that affects our afterschool and/or summer program. The afterschool program your child participates in is made possible by a federal grant called the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program (21st CCLC). This funding pays for the staff, materials, enrichment activities, and academic support we provide every day after school.

That funding is now at serious risk.

A new federal budget proposal released by the Trump administration would eliminate dedicated funding for 21st CCLC by combining it with 17 other education programs into a single, reduced education fund. With \$12 billion in cuts to education overall, this plan would effectively defund afterschool and summer programs like ours across the country.

If this proposal is approved, programs like ours may be forced to reduce hours, limit enrollment, or **shut down altogether**—directly impacting the opportunities, support, and safety we provide for your child(ren).

The good news is that Congress has the final say on what gets funded. That's why it's so important that lawmakers hear from families like yours right now.

We're asking you **to speak up and share what this program means to your family**. Has it helped your child with schoolwork? Given you peace of mind while you're at work? Helped your child grow and build confidence?

There are several ways to make your voice heard.

1. Call or write to your **U.S. Representative** to tell them why afterschool programming is important to your family.
2. Mail the attached postcards to **Nebraska's Federal delegation** with a note saying how cutting 21st CCLC funding could affect your family and community.
3. Encourage **family and friends** to contact their elected officials to share their disapproval with the proposed spending cuts to 21st CCLC afterschool programs.

Thank you for being part of our afterschool family—and for standing with us to keep these programs strong for your child(ren) and our community.

Continued



Not sure what to say? Use the sample language below or use the Afterschool Alliance's email system (QR code) to quickly send all three congressional leaders a pre-written email.



Sample call script:

Hi, my name is [Your Name], and I'm a parent from [City], Nebraska.

I'm calling because I'm very concerned about a federal budget proposal that would eliminate funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program.

My child participates in an afterschool and/or summer program at [Program Name or School], and it's made possible by 21st CCLC funding. This program provides academic support, enrichment activities, and a safe place for my child while I'm working.

The new budget proposal from the Trump administration would eliminate this funding or combine it with 17 other education programs into a much smaller block grant. That would effectively defund afterschool and summer programs like the one my child depends on.

If this funding is cut, our program would have to reduce hours, limit how many kids it can serve, or shut down completely. This would be devastating for my family and many others in our community.

I'm asking you to please protect and fully fund 21st CCLC in the upcoming federal budget. Our kids and our working families depend on it.

Thank you for your time—and for standing up for Nebraska families like mine.

Sample letter text:

Dear [Representative/Senator Last Name],

My name is [Your Name], and I'm a parent from [City], Nebraska. I'm writing to express my deep concern about the federal budget proposal recently released by the Trump administration, which would eliminate or drastically reduce funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program.

My child participates in an afterschool and/or summer program at [Program Name or School], and it is made possible by 21st CCLC funding. This program has been a lifeline for our family. It provides academic support, enrichment, and—most importantly—a safe and supervised environment for my child while I'm at work.

Eliminating or consolidating this funding into a reduced block grant would be devastating. If this proposal goes through, our program may be forced to cut hours, limit enrollment, or shut down entirely. Many families in our community, including mine, rely on these services not only for academic support, but also for the childcare that allows parents to work and support their households.

I respectfully urge you to protect and fully fund the 21st CCLC program in the federal budget. This funding directly impacts children and working families in your district—and we are counting on your support to keep these vital programs alive.

Thank you for your time and for your service to Nebraska families.