

START HERE

What's in this Packet & Why It Matters

YOUR PROGRAM'S FUNDING IS ON THE LINE!

The Trump administration's proposed budget would eliminate dedicated federal funding for afterschool and summer programs by cutting the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative. If approved by Congress, **this proposal could end funding for your program** and thousands of others like it nationwide.

But this isn't final—Congress has the power to stop these cuts.

Now is the time for you to speak up!

This mailing gives you step-by-step resources to take action:

- 1 Give each of your sites the three following enclosed packets.** Each includes:
 - A Site Packet for each site's staff and students to take action and speak up (sample letters, call-in scripts, a congressional map, etc.),
 - A Family Packet for each site leader to give to afterschool program families, and
 - A District Leader Packet for the site leader to give to building and/or district administrators.
- 2 Call, write, or email your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators.** Ask them to keep dedicated funding at the current level for 21st CCLC programs. Not sure what to say? Check out the sample script in the Site Packet or on the Afterschool Alliance website (afterschoolworksforamerica.org) - or use the automated email option available through the QR code below. Note: As a private citizen you can lobby for 21st CCLC funding. **It is ok to do this - and we need you to do this.** Make your phone call from your personal phone on your own time (lunch, after work), and use your personal email address or home address when writing.
- 3 Encourage your staff to call, write, or email too.** Encourage them to share the impact losing their after school job will have on their families. (Again, on their own time from their personal phone or email.)

Continued >>>>



Beyond School Bells™
nebraskachildren

afterschoolworksforamerica.org





START HERE

What's in this Packet & Why It Matters

Now is the time to engage others!

4 Ask your site leaders to engage youth in an activity where youth can tell elected officials about the afterschool program. Educating policymakers about the benefits of afterschool is NOT lobbying. As long as you don't mention the budget, the cards, letters, poems, and videos about your program are just a part of the normal educational outreach, **which is allowed - and encouraged** - of all 21st CCLC grantees! Consider these ideas:

- Older students can write letters or poems sharing the positive impact the afterschool program has had on them and their families.
- Younger students could draw pictures of what they like about afterschool.
- Divide the items, and send them to the U.S. Representative for your program's community, along with both U.S. Senators.

5 Have site leaders pass out the Family Packets and District Leader Packet. These packets contain all the information that family members and school administrators need to help respond to the 21st CCLC funding crisis. The packets include:

- A letter that explains the 21st CCLC funding situation,
- An 'Advocacy Guide' to walk them through the process of speaking up about why the afterschool program is important,
- Sample language (letter and/or script) for writing and/or calling members of Congress,
- A congressional map with contact information for each elected official, and
- The Family Packet even has postcards for the parent or youth to fill out and send to Nebraska's Federal delegation.



USE YOUR VOICE—YOUR 21ST CCLC PROGRAM DEPENDS ON IT.

LET'S MAKE SURE CONGRESS KNOWS THAT AFTERSCHOOL WORKS AND MUST BE FUNDED.



What's in this Packet & Why It Matters



Beyond School Bells™
nebraskachildren

Your program's funding is on the line.

The Trump administration's proposed budget would eliminate dedicated federal funding for afterschool and summer programs, significantly cutting the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative. If approved by Congress, **this proposal could end funding for your program** and thousands of others like it nationwide.

But this isn't final—Congress has the power to stop these cuts.

Now is the time for you to speak up!

This packet gives your program the tools to take action:

- 1 Engage youth in an activity where youth can tell elected officials about the afterschool program.** Educating policymakers about the benefits of afterschool is NOT lobbying. As long as you don't mention the budget, the cards, letters, poems, and videos about your program are just a part of the normal educational outreach, which is allowed - and encouraged - of all 21st CCLC grantees! Consider these ideas:
 - Older students can write letters or poems sharing the positive impact the afterschool program has had on them and their families.
 - Younger students could draw pictures of what they like about afterschool.
 - Divide the items, and send them to the U.S. Representative for your program's community, along with both U.S. Senators.
- 2 Call, write, or email your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators.** Ask them to keep dedicated funding at the current level for 21st CCLC programs. As a private citizen you can lobby for 21st CCLC funding. It is ok to do this - and we need you to do this. Make your phone call from your personal phone on your own time (lunch, after work), and use your personal email address or home address when communicating in writing.



Not sure what to say?



Check out the samples below or use the Afterschool Alliance's automated email system:



Sample Call Script



Sample Letter



Automatic Email

3 Pass out the Family Packets and District Leader Packets. These packets contain all of the information that family members and school administrators need to help respond to the 21st CCLC funding crisis. The packets include:

- A letter that explains the 21st CCLC funding situation,
- An 'Advocacy Guide' to walk them through the process of speaking up about why the afterschool program is important,
- Sample language (letter and/or script) for writing and/or calling members of Congress,
- A congressional map with contact information for each elected official, and
- The Family Packet even has postcards for the parent or youth to fill out and send to Nebraska's federal delegation.

When you pass out the packets, consider sharing this information:

Our program is funded through a federal grant called 21st Century Community Learning Centers, or 21st CCLC for short. This funding helps us provide all the great things your child enjoys—like homework help, enrichment activities, and a safe space to learn and grow after school.

Right now, leaders in Washington are making decisions about education funding, and we want to make sure they hear from the families who benefit from these programs.

If you've seen a difference in your child—or just appreciate having this program in our community—we'd love for you to contact your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators to share what the program means to your family. Everything you need is in this packet.

It only takes a minute, and your voice really does make a difference.

These materials are part of the Afterschool Works for America campaign, created to protect 21st CCLC afterschool and summer programs across the country.

afterschoolworksforamerica.org

