Budget Analysis for FY 2017-18 State Budget

The FY2017-18 State Budget includes $35 million in new funding for the Empire State After-School Program, which will provide 22,000 additional children and youth from high-need communities with access to afterschool programs. Unfortunately, despite the new investment in the Empire State After-School Program, existing youth development programs sustained cuts to their funding levels this year. The Advantage After School Program saw a $2.5 million reduction over last year’s budget total for an appropriation of $19.8 million, and the Youth Development Program saw a $199,000 cut for a total investment of $15.6 million.

Record investments in community schools continued this year with a $50 million increase to Community Schools Aid, providing school districts with schools identified as “struggling” or “persistently struggling” with the resources to transform those schools into community schools. This year’s final budget also provides necessary funding for technical assistance for community schools, with $1.2 million appropriated for Regional Community Schools Technical Assistance Centers to provide guidance and assistance to districts establishing or operating community schools.

New Afterschool Funding

Empire State After-School: The final state budget includes new funding of $35 million to expand afterschool programs in cities and school districts (A) located in municipalities participating in the empire state poverty reduction initiative, (B) located in counties or school districts with a child poverty rate in excess of 30 percent, (C) or located in a school district with a child poverty count greater than 5,000 but less than 20,000, as determined by the 2015 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates produced by the United States Census Bureau. School districts or school districts in collaboration with community-based organizations will be eligible to apply for grants to serve students at a per-student allotment of $1,600. The Request for Proposals (RFP) will be developed jointly by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and the State Education Department (SED).

Major Funding Streams

Advantage After School: The final state budget includes $19.8 million for the Advantage After School Program, a $2.5 million reduction over last year’s Enacted Budget. Due to the final appropriation amount, a new RFP for this funding stream this year is uncertain. We will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Extended School Day / School Violence Prevention: Funding is at the same level as last year’s Enacted Budget ($24,344,000).

Youth Development Program: The final state budget includes $15.6 million for the Youth Development Program (YDP), a $199,000 reduction over last year’s total.

New York City SONYC funding (through education aid): The final state budget maintains language that will allow school districts of a city with a population of one million or more to allocate funding to afterschool programs. This language remains the same as previous years, providing New York City with the flexibility to continue SONYC funding for SY17-18.
School-Community Partnership Competitive Grant Programs
No new funding is provided for the Community Schools Grant Initiative. Round Two grants are scheduled to end in June 2017.

No new funding is provided for Extended Learning Time grants, which are scheduled to end in June 2017.

Community Schools
Community Schools Aid: The final budget includes $150 million in community school aid for FY17-18 to support the conversion of schools identified as “struggling” or “persistently struggling” to community schools. This is a $50 million increase over the FY16-17 Enacted Budget.

Community Schools Technical Assistance: The final budget includes $1.2 million for Regional Community Schools Technical Assistance Centers. These funds will establish three regional centers run by nonprofit entities with expertise in community schools to provide technical assistance to school districts establishing/operating community schools.

Child Care Subsidies
The final state budget includes $799 million for child care subsidies, a reduction of $7 million over last year’s budget. Title XX funding, which was initially diverted by the Governor in the Executive Proposal to maintain funding for child care subsidies at last year’s level, was restored to its original use.

Additional Youth Funding Streams
Summer Youth Employment: Funding is at $36,000,000, an increase of $5,000,000 over last year’s Enacted Budget.

Runaway and Homeless Youth: Funding is at the same level as last year’s final Budget ($4,484,000).

Sexually Exploited Children and Youth: Funding is at the same level as last year’s final Budget ($3,000,000).

Additional Funding
QUALITYstarsNY: Proposed funding is at the same level as last year’s Executive Proposal ($5 million).

CACFP Participation: $250,000 is allocated for a competitive grant to a non-profit to increase participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program among afterschool and early care providers. Funding is at the same level as last year’s Enacted Budget.

Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Improvement Program: $20,000,000 is allocated for a new round of payments and grants to eligible nonprofit human services organizations for capital projects that improve the quality, efficiency, and accessibility of services to New Yorkers.