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New York's Leading Education, Child Care, and Afterschool Organizations Call on Governor Cuomo to Restore Funding for the Advantage After School Program
\$2.5 Million Must Be Restored in FY18-19 NYS Budget to Prevent Students from Losing Afterschool Care

Albany, NY—New York's leading education, child care, and afterschool organizations today sent a letter to Governor Cuomo urging **restoration of the \$2.5 million cut to the Advantage After School Program** in last year's FY17-18 budget.

Advantage After School funds safe, affordable programs where students in low-income communities can receive supervised academic and developmental support during the time when school has ended but most parents are still working - the peak hours of juvenile crime. The program was funded at \$22.3 million in the FY16-17 NYS Budget.

Due to the reduction of \$2.5 million in last year's budget, more than **1,800 students are at risk of losing access** to afterschool programs beginning next school year.

"We are calling on the Governor to restore funding for the Advantage After School Program to \$22.3 million in the FY18-19 budget," the letter states.

The letter outlines what is at stake if funding is not restored to FY16-17 levels:

- **POTENTIAL LOSS OF PROGRAMS:** At least 1,800 students are at risk of losing access to afterschool programs beginning next school year if funding is not restored to \$22.3 million.
- **UNCERTAINTY FOR PARENTS AND PROVIDERS:** Without a restoration to \$22.3 million, a new RFP for afterschool services is not guaranteed, meaning providers whose grants expire in June 2018 may not have an opportunity to apply for a new five year grant until 2019. This would cause many programs to close, directly impacting the students and families who have come to rely on these vital programs for afterschool care and academic support.
- **LIMITED GEOGRAPHICAL OVERLAP WITH EMPIRE STATE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS:** Governor Cuomo's new Empire State After-School initiative will provide crucial funding for afterschool programs in 27 high-poverty school districts across the state, but many high-needs schools and communities do not fall within these districts. Of the 177 programs funded with assistance from Advantage After School, 103 of these programs are located in areas not targeted by the Empire State After-School Program.
- **CONTINUED DEMAND FOR AFTERSCHOOL FUNDING:** Every recent competition for afterschool funding has left three out of four applicants unfunded. Unfunded, but qualified, applications for the 2014 round of Advantage After School funding totaled over \$31 million; the 2012 round totaled almost \$48 million.

"More than 1.1 million students are still in need of access to quality, affordable afterschool programs in New York State," said Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director of the New York State Network for Youth Success. "Governor Cuomo has recognized the value of afterschool programs and we are counting on him to restore last year's \$2.5 million reduction to Advantage After School in his upcoming budget proposal."

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"Failure to fund the next round of five year contracts for Advantage After School would be devastating to the Elmont Community. The immediate effect would be closure of a program that serves 200 youngsters," said Pat Boyle, Executive Director of Gateway Youth Outreach on Long Island. "Some families will be forced to leave children as young as six years old home alone or abandon their jobs. Some parents will have to resort to public assistance to provide for their families. These scenarios will be far more costly than an investment in Advantage After School."

"Young people who have access to Advantage After School programming are - first and foremost -safe. But they are also engaged in meaningful adult and peer interaction in a wide array of activities that impact and reinforce school day learning," said Dwayne Mahoney, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester. "The alternative for thousands of youth who live in difficult circumstances is a world of being left to their own devices."

"Westchester Jewish Community Services commends Governor Cuomo for recognizing the value of providing opportunity for New York's most vulnerable children through after school programming," said Alan Trager, CEO of Westchester Jewish Community Services. "Hundreds of Mt. Vernon families facing poverty and other challenges benefit from the academic and social support offered through the successful Advantage After School program. We urge the Governor and the Legislature to restore \$22.3 million to Advantage in the FY18-19 budget so that children throughout the State do not lose their safe, nurturing and productive after school environments."

"Public education and out-of-school time programming are vital support systems for many students and families, especially in low-income and marginalized communities. Afterschool enrichment programs provide opportunities for expanded learning that can help students overcome barriers to achievement," said Ramon Peguero, President and CEO of the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families (CHCF). "Advantage After School funding cuts would force us to shut down two of our elementary afterschool programs in the Bronx, impacting 240 students. More than 1,800 students across the state are at risk of losing access to afterschool programs beginning next school year. We call for renewed investment in Advantage funding that supports programs that we know positively impact our children and youth."

The 84 education, child care, and afterschool organizations that signed the letter to Governor Cuomo include:

New York State Network for Youth Success
New York State Community Schools Network
New York State United Teachers
Alliance for Quality Education
NYC Coalition for Educational Justice
Adirondack Community Action Program
Achievement in Teaching & Learning
Alliance of New York State YMCAs
Amani Public Charter School
Apex for Youth
Association of NYS Youth Bureaus
Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle
Boys & Girls Clubs of Albany
Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester
Boys & Girls Clubs of Schenectady
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northtowns
Bridgehampton Child Care and Recreational Center
Bronx House
CAMBA

Capital District Child Care Council
Capital District YMCA
Casita Maria
Chemung County Youth Bureau
Child Care Council of Westchester
Children's Aid
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York
City of Mount Vernon Youth Bureau's S.T.R.O.N.G. Program
Classroom, Inc.
Community Action Organization of Erie County
Community Action Organization of WNY, Inc.
Computers For Children, Inc.
Directions For Our Youth
DREAM (formerly Harlem RBI)
Early Care & Learning Council
eDoctrina Corp.
ExpandED Schools
Family & Children's Society
Family Service Society, Inc.

Family YMCA at Tarrytown
Food Bank of the Southern Tier
Gateway Youth Outreach Inc.
Geneva City School District
Global Kids
Good Shepherd Services
Greater Rochester Summer Learning Association
Harlem Center for Education
Hawthorne Valley Farm Place-based Learning Center
Healthy Kids Extended Day Program
High Achievement New York
Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement
Kaleidoscope Competitions
Little Flower Children and Family Services of NY
Little Flower UFSD
Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of WNY
Maspeth Town Hall, Inc
Michele Israel Educational Writing and Consulting
Mount Vernon Youth Bureau STRONG Program
Mt. Olive Afterschool Program
Nepperhan Community Center Inc
New York State Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
One To World

Operation Unite New York
Oswego County Opportunities, Inc
Partnership for After School Education
Police Athletic League of Buffalo
Praxair, Inc.
Prevent Child Abuse NY
Project MOST
Safe Schools Mohawk Valley
Sports and Arts in Schools Foundations
St. Nicks Alliance
The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc.
The Family and Children's Society
The Friends of the Addison Youth Center
UJA Federation of NY
United Way of Northern Chautauqua County
University District Community Development Association
Wayne County Action Program, Inc.
Westchester Children's Association
Westchester Jewish Community Services
YMCA of Greater New York
Young Audiences of WNY
YOUTH POWER!
YWCA Brooklyn

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About The New York State Network for Youth Success

The New York State Network for Youth Success is dedicated to building a youth-serving system that increases the quality and availability of afterschool and expanded learning programs. The Network for Youth Success supports all programs that promote young people's intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development outside the traditional school day. These programs include those that serve youth in kindergarten through 12th grade, take place in schools and/or in community-based settings, and occur before and after school, during weekends, holidays, and summer breaks, or during the school day through partnerships with community organizations.

The Network for Youth Success convenes partners and coordinates them around a common agenda focused on partnership development, policy development, and capacity building. The network connects practice with policy across a broad range of state, regional, and local partners that represent the afterschool, expanded learning, community schools, and youth development fields broadly.

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