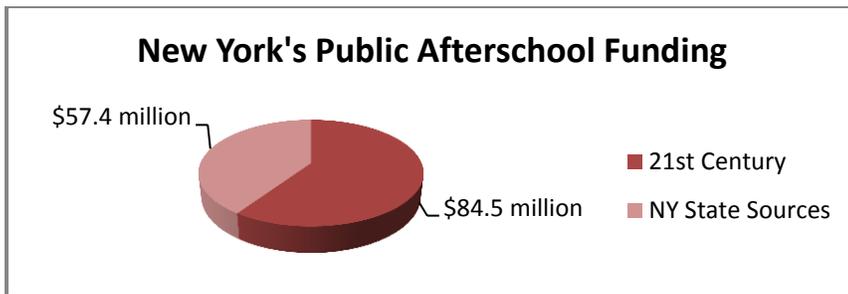


21st Century Community Learning Center Funding is Crucial for New York



Hudson 21st Century Program Art Club

Federal funding for New York's 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st Century) programs is currently allowing approximately 60,000 students and their families to experience the benefits of afterschool programs. 21st Century is funding \$84.5 million in programs in the 2014-2015 school year.

The most recent 21st Century competition, in 2013, received 458 applicants for more than \$250 million—only 128 grants could be awarded. A 2014 survey found that 1.1 million students in New York want an afterschool program but do not have one available. Losing 21st Century funding will only increase the number of children missing out on opportunities for afterschool learning—as well as the number whose safety is at risk because they have to go home alone.

21st Century programs across New York are able to offer incredible afterschool and summer programs with the funding they receive.

- The Hudson City School District program engages students from elementary all the way through high school in activities that support academic and social-emotional growth. Older students get the opportunity to intern and work for the program, learning valuable career-readiness skills. An article highlighting the program was recently published in the Register-Star: http://www.registerstar.com/news/article_4650772e-5b37-11e4-8b82-6b0e171ce70f.html
- The Tupper Lake 21st Century uses a needs assessment survey to ensure that programming addresses community needs for the youth and families they serve. Based on the results, students in grades 1 through 8 participate in programming focused on academic achievement, nutrition education, healthy living, drug/alcohol abuse prevention, and social-emotional growth.
- Parent liaisons at the Business Training Institute in Utica have a 70% success rate of getting youth who have dropped out back in school and the afterschool program through home visits – 90% of these youth go on to graduate. Seniors participating in the 21st Century program visit at least three colleges, learn how to fill out their college applications, and are prepared for the workforce through career exploration workshops they have participated in since the ninth grade.
- Geneva City School District houses a 21st Century program that partners with Sylvan Learning to offer individualized tutoring on iPads for youth in grades 3 through 8. Instead of offering 'more of the same,' the program promotes learning through games that are tailored to each student's needs. The Boys & Girls Club of Geneva offers physical activities, project-based learning, arts, and health and nutrition so that the program addresses the needs of the whole child.
- Interests of students and teachers drive the programming at Amityville Union Free School District. A History of Video Games Club, one of the program's most popular, introduces students to the technology behind video games from the earliest systems to current games and teaches about technology, graphics, interfaces, and more. When another group expressed interest in law enforcement careers, a club was formed to bring in a variety of professionals in the field to talk about their job and the schooling and qualifications they needed.
- Native American Community Services of Erie and Niagara Counties offers students at the Native American Magnet School (NAMS) afterschool and summer programming designed to increase academic achievement, promote healthy choices and lifestyles, and encourage familial involvement. Their summer program was highlighted in August by WBFO: <http://news.wbfo.org/post/summer-school-program-promotes-enrichment-learning-city-kids>