Federal funding for New York’s 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st Century) provides afterschool and summer programming to over 60,000 students and their families in New York State. The funding level for 21st Century currently stands at $1.25 billion in the FY20 federal budget, providing $93 million to New York State. President Trump’s FY21 budget proposes the complete elimination of the program.

New York’s most recent 21st Century competition, in 2016, received 514 applicants for more than $277 million—only 138 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 and summer 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 have an opportunity to serve as Counselors in Trainings (CIT’s) and work for the program, learning valuable career-readiness skills.

- North Rose-Wolcott Elementary in Wolcott, NY has utilized 21st Century funding to create several programs to improve their students’ academic and emotional well-being. They have developed early morning tutoring for third and fourth-graders in English Language Arts (ELA) and math, implemented a mindfulness awareness program utilizing yoga to improve self-awareness and self-management, and provided a martial arts program to teach self-control. The school district was also able to invite the Wegmans ZooMobile to instill an appreciation of the earth’s biodiversity and to provide community members with the skills, education, and motivation to act on behalf of the environment.

- 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 generalized programming and support, 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.

• Wediko Children’s Services in the Bronx provides activities such as robotics, video game coding, drama therapy, a food explorers group, and martial arts through partnerships with community organizations. Students have had the opportunity to partner with a middle school in Morocco to exchange stories on everyday life, as well as cultures. A majority of the program attendees are primarily Spanish speaking, and many of them have also developed more confidence in speaking English through the course of their enrollment. Parents also participate in workshops every month on a variety of topics, including building positive relationships with your child, trauma informed approaches to care, understanding your rights, and providing summer opportunities for their students.

• 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 2015 by WBFO: http://news.wbfo.org/post/summer-school-program-promotes-enrichment-learning-city-kids

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