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### **New York State Provides Essential Funding to Maintain Afterschool Programs**

Advantage After School Sustains Programs for 16,000 Students in Underserved Communities in Need of Continued Support

Albany, NY – New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, the State Legislature and the Office of Children and Families Services (OCFS) have provided essential funding to increase the per student allotment for the Advantage After School Program. Advantage After School provides supervised academic and developmental support through afterschool programs in low-income communities throughout the state. The 2019-20 NYS Budget included funding that maintains the number of students served by Advantage After School, while enabling afterschool providers to cover increased minimum wage costs.

With the support of the State Legislature, Governor Cuomo’s final budget allocated \$33 million for Advantage After School, including \$10.7 million to help cover increased labor costs for one year. The program had been funded at \$22.3 million in the past three state budgets.

A new RFP released by OCFS further increases funds for the Advantage After School Program to support a rate of \$2,000 per student, a significant increase from the \$1,375 per student rate in the last RFP. The per student rate had not been increased since 2009, despite several increases to the minimum wage.

Even with the increased rate, additional investment in the program is crucial to cover the costs of running a high-quality program – one that goes beyond keeping kids safe to develop strong relationships between youth and caring adults, engage families in their children’s learning, and provide hands-on enrichment experiences that spark interests in future careers. Many grantees will still have to apply for other funding and supplement costs with private support to be able to offer robust, high-quality programs. With the average child care costs for school-age children exceeding \$12,000 in New York State in 2017, state-funded afterschool programs are essential for families.

“Securing funding of \$33 million this year was essential to continue to serve 16,000 students across the state in need of safe, supervised afterschool programs. By increasing funding for the Advantage After School Program, Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature have displayed their commitment to working families and the workforce of the future,” said Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director of the NYS Network for Youth Success. “Future investments to cover the full cost of operating high-quality programs will further honor this commitment.”

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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.

September 9, 2019