



Afterschool Uplifts New York

FY2020-21 BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR AFTERSCHOOL, SUMMER, AND EXPANDED LEARNING

To provide a system of high-quality afterschool, summer, and expanded learning opportunities across New York State, the State must:

Safeguard funding for existing state grantees.

- Restore **\$5 million** cut in the Executive Budget proposal to preserve funding for the Advantage After School Program at the FY19-20 level of \$33 million.
- Continue **\$24.3 million** for the Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention (ESD/SVP) program.
- Protect \$15.6 million for the Youth Development Program (YDP) by **restoring \$1.5 million** cut in the Executive Budget.
- Support the **\$10 million** proposed increase to the Empire State After-School Program.

Funding for the Advantage program has been cut annually for a decade and restored for the last 9 years. Lack of continued funding during the remaining grant period will be a setback and detrimental to the afterschool programs, staff, students, and families who participate in Advantage programs. **Advantage serves more than 16,000 students:** The \$5 million proposed cut in the Executive Budget will cut existing afterschool programming for 2,500 students.

ESD/SVP funds many Extended School Day programs that keep youth safe and provide enrichment outside of the traditional school day. YDP allows counties to determine what types of programming will best meet their local needs, and many fund afterschool and summer programs.

Increase the per student allotment of state funding streams to at least \$2,320.

- Invest an **additional \$25.2 million** in the Empire State After-School Program.
- Invest an **additional \$5.12 million** in the Advantage After School Program.

The current allocation at \$1,600 and \$2,000, respectively, is not enough to cover the true expenses of high-quality afterschool programs.

This would **increase the per student rate to \$2,320** while continuing to serve the same number of students. *Serving at least the same number of students is critical.*

Based on our research, program costs range from just under \$3,000 in Buffalo to \$6,000 in New York City. Most of that amount goes to paying salaries because of the minimum wage increase. Programs continue to have a difficult time both increasing salaries *and* paying for supplies/activities that not only support programs, but make those programs high quality.

Provide equitable technical and financial assistance to support professional development and the quality of all state-funded grantees.

- Invest an **additional \$1.8 million** towards the Educational Incentive Program (EIP) for a **total funding of \$7 million.**
- Allocate **additional funding to OCFS** to increase staff capacity to implement updated comprehensive background checks.

In September 2019, OCFS began implementing updated background clearances to comply with federal requirements.

EIP provides scholarships to assist child care providers participating in professional development activities with the intent to build provider knowledge, skills, and competencies to improve quality child care in the State. These scholarships provide assistance for credentialing activities, college credit-bearing coursework, and non-credit bearing trainings. EIP funds were depleted at the end of September, leading to a waitlist of applications totaling \$250,000 that would have been eligible to receive a scholarship if additional funding was available.

Long turnaround time for background clearances in parts of the State has adversely impacted many afterschool programs, thus affecting staff hiring, delaying programming for students, and hurting families who rely on afterschool programs.

- Direct **\$5 million in new funding** towards three new Technical Assistance Centers to provide resources, convenings, and support to all state-funded afterschool and summer grantees.

There are currently two state-funded Technical Assistance Resource Centers (TARCs) for the state's 21st Century Community Learning Center Grantees. These TARCs organize convenings for networking and professional development, provide resources, phone and on-site technical assistance, and help grantees with compliance. Grantees from other state-funded programs, such as the Empire State After-School Program, Advantage After School Program, and Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention, would benefit from similar supports.

Ensure a continuum of care is available to families by allowing summer as a vital component of all afterschool funding streams.

Make summer programs an allowable expense for the next round of Advantage After School Program RFPs, anticipated in 2024.

Out of the main funding streams for afterschool programs, only the Advantage program does not allow summer. Summer learning opportunities are a critical component of youth programs that operate outside of school hours, as they prevent summer learning loss. A statutory change this year would allow OCFS to have the needed planning time to prepare for this change in advance of the next RFP.

Expand access widely to Universal Afterschool across the state.

- Dedicate **at least 25% of revenue** gained from legalization of adult use cannabis to afterschool and summer programs, if legalization occurs.
- Include **full funding for afterschool, summer, community schools, and expanded learning opportunities** within the foundation aid formula.

Legalization of adult use cannabis must include strategies to prevent children and youth from partaking in marijuana use. Research shows that afterschool programs decrease drug abuse and misuse: They are the ideal venue to not only educate children and youth about the dangers of drug abuse, but (perhaps more importantly) to provide and strengthen the Protective Factors that have been shown to decrease drug use.

As the State considers the Foundation Aid formula, it must provide a well-rounded education for all students. Afterschool, summer, community schools, and expanded learning opportunities provide crucial supports for all students.

QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Keep CHILDREN SAFE



The hours from 2 pm to 6 pm are the **hours of highest risk** for youth to commit a crime or be a victim of a crime. Afterschool program participation leads to a **decrease in negative behaviors** including a decline in the use of drugs, alcohol, and participation in gang and other criminal activities, when compared to non-participating students.

Support WORKING FAMILIES



New York families pay **an average of \$11,128 per child** for child care after school. Parents **miss an average of eight days** of work per year due to a lack of afterschool care. Decreased worker productivity related to parental concerns about afterschool care costs businesses up to \$300 billion per year.

Increase ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



Regular participation in high-quality afterschool programs has been found to contribute to significant gains in standardized test scores, grades, and work habits. It increases engagement in school-day learning, resulting in higher school day attendance rates, an increased motivation to learn, and a decrease in problem behaviors, including fewer suspensions.



Provide **PROTECTIVE FACTORS** that decrease risky behaviors, such as substance abuse and misuse. Afterschool programs reduce substance abuse through the **development of protective or resiliency factors** such as school connectedness, self-control, self-confidence, and quality peer relationships.