

FY 2022- 2023 AFTERSCHOOL BUDGET PRIORITIES EMPOWER YOUTH SUCCESS

Afterschool programs in New York have risen to the moment. In spite of program disruptions caused by COVID-19, the vulnerability of the afterschool infrastructure, and the limited resources to work with afterschool, many afterschool providers – driven by passion and commitment to meet critical needs – continue to adapt high-quality programs to support youth and their families. For many New York families, afterschool goes beyond after school. More than ever, the afterschool system must be strongly positioned to streamline opportunities and processes to strengthen, enhance, transform, and leverage these programs to empower youth success. We ask the State to prioritize the recommendations below in the FY 2022-2023 budget.

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| S T R E N G T H E N | Restore \$5 million cut to the Advantage After School Program and baseline funding throughout the award term (2019-2025). | Amend the statutory per-student rate of the Empire State After-School Program to align with the base true cost rate and include and include flexibility for future minimum wage adjustments. | Provide a bridge investment of <u>\$169 million</u> to align current per student rate of state afterschool programs with a base true cost rate of \$4,300 for one year. |
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A bridge investment would provide an ADDITIONAL:

\$87.5 million

Towards one-year true cost investment of **\$142.5 million** for the **Empire State After-School Program** (Current funding: \$55 million)

New RFP anticipated as early as fall 2022

\$40.4 million

Towards one-year true cost investment of **\$73.4 million** for the **Advantage After School Program** (Current funding: \$33 million)

New RFP anticipated as early as fall 2024

\$41.1 million

Towards one-year true cost investment of **\$65.4 million** for the **Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention Program** (Current funding: \$24.3 million)

New RFP anticipated as early as fall 2025

We know that afterschool works: **Every dollar invested in high-quality afterschool saves approximately three dollars** through increasing youth’s earning potential, improving their performance at school, and providing protective factors against social risk factors.¹ Thus, persistent reductions in the Executive Budget undercut the Advantage program and puts more than 2,500 children at risk of losing access to their current afterschool program. Also, the highest per-student rate yet for a state afterschool funding stream in New York at \$2,000 falls short of what the rate should be (\$2,320) if it accounted for minimum wage adjustments while holding everything else constant. It is also woefully inadequate when considering the true costs of delivering high-quality programming, which can be as high as \$7,000 per student.

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| E N H A N C E | Direct a new line-item funding of \$250,000 to the NYS Network for Youth Success to strengthen statewide capacity building for high-quality school-age child care (SACC) programs. | Invest an additional \$3 million to expand the Educational Incentive Program. |
| | <p>The Network is the only organization in New York that coordinates statewide expertise, resources, and technical assistance specifically focused on school-age child care. With no base funding however, the Network is not adequately positioned to provide this wide scope of quality support. <u>A \$250,000 investment is only about 0.6% of the required minimum CCDF quality set-aside (~\$41 million)</u>, none of which is dedicated to school-age child care. In addition to the supports provided, these funds would allow the Network to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore and develop blueprints for data collection on school-age child care • Support efforts to expand QUALITYstarsNY to school-age child care programs | <p>The Educational Incentive Program (EIP) provides scholarships for credentialing activities, college credit-bearing coursework, and non-credit bearing trainings to help child workers develop professionally. However, EIP funds have been depleted by September— a testament of the incredible need to professionalize and build capacity for the afterschool field— leading to a waitlist of applications that would have been eligible to receive a scholarship if additional funding was available for the year.</p> |

¹ Afterschool Alliance. <https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/printPage.cfm?idPage=BC05E8A3-1E0B-E803-CADCD9D1B482AD0B>

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Commit to and fund a smart investment of \$6.9 billion over the next five years to provide access to afterschool for every New York child that needs it.

For every child in an afterschool program in New York, four are waiting for an available program. Also, more than a third of New York counties have five or less state and/or federally funded afterschool programs in their region.² States like Vermont and California have made strides in their efforts to prioritize such investments, and New York is presented with the opportunity to champion universal afterschool as a national leader.

Direct \$500 million through a Child Care Investment Fund to provide funding to support competitive wages, and workforce and professional development for child care professionals.

Many afterschool professionals, who are part of the resilient school age child care workforce, are often underpaid. As a result, many afterschool programs face staff shortages. In addition to wages, this fund would provide access to comprehensive health care, including mental health coverage; staff training; credentials, as well as other professional development opportunities.

Streamline contract process for a timely execution of contracts and payments to awarded afterschool grantees.

Especially amid the pandemic, many state funded afterschool grantees who report facing long, redundant, and difficult contract processes have had to delay, suspend, and/or avoid future operations related to the grants. Others had to tap into lines of credit and assume dire expenses due to unexecuted contracts, thus threatening the efficacy of these funds to support programming.

Prioritize school-age children in the vision of universal child care in New York.

For every 100 New York families, 46 are receiving child care subsidies for their school-age child[ren] between 5-12 years old.³ A universal child care system that also meets the needs of school-age children is necessary to preserve participation of families in the workforce and foster learning and development of all children. Transformative childcare must be built on an aligned, coordinated, and accessible continuum of care system that includes school-age children.

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Provide appropriate measures in statute to ensure accountability and transparency in the utilization of ESSER III funds available to leverage afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs.

To ensure that schools are maximizing supports and leveraging community partnerships, the state should facilitate and make accessible school district data on:

- Type of supports and services provided and under what evidence-based intervention these supports occurred
- Community partners school district engaged in providing these supports
- Outputs and/or outcomes of supports and services provided

Require school districts receiving new RECOVS Learning and Mental Health grants to demonstrate mutual collaboration with at least one community-based afterschool, youth and/or family serving organization, and/or mental health partner to help students recover academically.

School districts cannot meet the needs of students by themselves – they will need seamless supports to maximize school and community resources. School-community partnerships are a valuable strategy that promotes enrichment, strengthens engagement, and leverages experience to help foster student growth, development, and care.

In collaboration with the Association of New York State Youth Bureaus, New York State Community Schools Network, Campaign for Summer Jobs, and Winning Beginning NY, the Network supports the following budget asks:

Community Schools: Invest \$100M toward a new Community Schools Categorical Aid; maintain proposed \$250M in Community Schools Set-Aside and minimum allocation of \$100K; and increase funding for the Community Schools Technical Assistance Centers by \$800K.

Youth Development Program (YDP): Invest \$6M to bring funding back to FY2011 level at \$20.6M.

Summer Youth Employment Program: Maintain proposed \$46.1M.

Childcare: We support the requests of the Empire State Campaign for Child Care to take large steps toward achieving universal child care by expanding access to child care subsidies (\$2.8B); raising child care workforce compensation, and increasing provider reimbursement rates (\$500M); and transitioning to a payment rate model that accounts for geography, quality, and assumes all child care staff are paid at parity with elementary school teachers (\$600M).

² KWIC Maps, <https://www.nyskwic.org/map/kwicmap.cfm>. Counties with no state and/or federally funded afterschool programs: Washington; Herkimer; Saratoga; Hamilton; Warren; Orleans; Chenango; Madison; Cortland; Putnam. Essex, Clinton, Franklin, St. Lawrence, Seneca, Wyoming, Cattaraugus, Livingston, Yates, Schuyler, Tioga, Columbia, Greene, Ulster, Montgomery, Fulton counties have ≤5 state and/or federally funded afterschool programs. Source: KWIC Maps

³ National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment. Federal Supports for Afterschool and Summer Child Care. 2021. Retrieved from <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/ncase-ny-saccdataprofile-2021.pdf>