



UPDATED FY2023-24 AFTERSCHOOL BUDGET PRIORITIES

The Executive Budget proposes a step to help the reorganization of afterschool programs but persists in cutting base funding for these programs. Our updated budget priorities reinforce the imperative to sustain and increase afterschool access; expand dedicated technical support; and invest in the afterschool workforce. We are asking New York State to:

Take additional steps to reorganize current afterschool programs at a higher per-student rate of \$4,300.

New York must do more and do things differently to ensure that programs have increased support by adopting crucial fundamental principles.¹ It is imperative that the FY23-24 budget:

- Establishes a higher per student rate of \$4,300 and ensures continued assessment and modification of per student rates in future rounds consistent with minimum wage increases and cost-of-living adjustments in statute (proposed budget language below). **This will require a total investment of \$219 million (i.e. \$131 million above current base funding for AASP and ESAP), to ensure that program capacity is sustained.**
- Creates an afterschool taskforce to facilitate efforts toward a strong, aligned, and coordinated afterschool system (Proposed budget language below).

Persistent structural and administrative challenges on afterschool programs revealed that the current afterschool infrastructure cannot meet demand and must be strengthened. Afterschool programs, including those run by community-based organizations (CBOs), continue to provide imperative support to students amid staffing shortages, grave under-compensation, low reimbursement rates, and contract delays. Yet, these programs saw no increased funding to support their work and were largely left out of direct pandemic response funding.

The Executive Budget takes a promising step to “consolidate” by moving ESAP funding to the Office of Children and Families (OCFS), the agency that has administered the program since its inception in 2017, but falls short of increasing afterschool investments needed to keep programs afloat.

Dedicate \$500,000 to the NYS Network for Youth Success, to provide technical assistance and quality supports for afterschool programs statewide.

Currently, no funds are dedicated to support technical assistance under the minimum Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) quality set-aside required for child care programs, or for afterschool providers receiving ESAP and AASP grants. The Network is the only organization in New York that

¹ Any new initiative to set the course for a new, improved, high-quality afterschool program initiative must prioritize these principles:

- Ensures equitable access to high-quality programs by adopting the base, true cost, per student rate of \$4,300 and/or an established level funding of \$219 million at the onset of the program.
- Guarantees afterschool access to at least 50,000 students, the current capacity served by ESAP and AASP programs
- Prioritizes competitive workforce compensation and professional development
- Maximizes outcomes for students, families, and providers impacted by the afterschool programs
- Prioritizes eligibility for BOTH school districts and CBOs as lead applicants, and their collaboration
- Prioritizes technical assistance, research, and evaluation to sustain quality supports
- Actively engages the statewide afterschool network, New York State Network for Youth Success, in the development, implementation, and provision of quality supports and capacity building
- Streamlines regulations, compliances, and RFP and contracting processes

coordinates statewide expertise, resources, and technical assistance specifically focused on afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs. A \$500,000 investment is only about 1.2% of the required minimum CCDF quality set-aside (~\$41 million in 2021). In addition to continuing the technical assistance provided, these funds would help the Network facilitate a landscape analysis of afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs in New York, which is currently lacking, and also support efforts to expand QUALITYstarsNY to school-age child care programs statewide.

The Executive Budget excludes support for afterschool technical assistance.

Restore the \$5 million cut to the Advantage After School Program and baseline funding throughout the award term (2019-2025).

The cut threatens afterschool access to 2,500 students and families who depend on the program to find healthy and safe spaces to foster positive development.

The Executive Budget cuts Advantage After-School Program funding by \$5 million.

Invest an additional \$3 million to expand the Educational Incentive Program (EIP).

The Educational Incentive Program (EIP) provides scholarships for credentialing activities, college credit-bearing coursework, and non-credit bearing training to help child care workers, including afterschool staff, develop professionally. Currently, the State provides up to \$17.4 million for “services and expenses of child care scholarships, education and ongoing professional development.” This allocation has not increased to accommodate the current demand and need to professionalize the child care workforce: EIP funds have been depleted by September of the calendar year in the last few years— a testament of the 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 funds were available.

The Executive Budget provides no additional support for the scholarship program.

ADDENDUM

Per student rate increase budget language²

Empire State After-School Program and Advantage After School Program grants awarded on or after August first, two thousand twenty-three shall be provided at a rate of no less than four thousand and three hundred dollars per approved student. The commissioner, in conjunction with the director of the budget, shall, upon the completion of the full term of the Empire State After-School Program and Advantage After School Program, modify the amount of money per approved student to be awarded to grant applicants. Such modification shall account for any minimum wage adjustments. The commissioner shall promulgate any rules or regulations necessary to ensure grantees shall serve at least the same number of students in any year that the rate per approved student increases.

Afterschool Taskforce budget language

There shall be established within the office of children and family services a taskforce on after school, summer, and expanded learning (TASSEL) for the purpose of facilitating efforts toward a strong, aligned, and coordinated afterschool system.

The taskforce shall be chaired by a representative of the executive chamber and the commissioner of the office of children and family, or their designees.

Members of the Taskforce shall serve without compensation for two year terms, but may be reimbursed for actual costs incurred for participation on the Taskforce. The Taskforce shall be composed of at least 15 members, and shall include, but not be limited to, persons having expertise in afterschool, summer, or and/or other expanded learning programs, with consideration for urban and rural settings; afterschool, summer, and/or other expanded learning program providers; school district representatives; members of youth-serving, community agencies; private foundations; higher education/academic institutions; local youth-focused government representatives; and and other interested stakeholders. Family/caregiver and youth input shall inform the taskforce throughout the process through feedback mechanisms or direct participation. Ensuring adequate geographic, racial and ethnic representation, members of the taskforce shall be appointed by the governor and comprised as follows:

(a) two individuals shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the speaker of the assembly who have an interest in a strong afterschool system, including parents/caregivers;

(b) two individuals shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the temporary president of the senate who have an interest in a strong afterschool system, including parents/caregivers;

(c) one individual shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the minority leader of the assembly;

(d) one individual shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the minority leader of the

² Bill A4382 (Hevesi) and S4082 (Brisport) provides similar bill language to increase the per student rate.

senate;

(e) a minimum of two and a maximum of three urban-based afterschool providers, at least one whom shall be a current or former grantee of the state's afterschool program, i.e. Advantage After School, Empire State After-School, and/or Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention Program; or a current or former grantee of the federal afterschool program, 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) program; and at least one whom has registered as a school-age child care (SACC) program through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (NYS OCFS). These providers may be nonprofit, for-profit, or faith-based organizations;

(f) a minimum of two and a maximum of three rural-based afterschool providers, at least one whom shall be a current or former grantee of the state's afterschool program, i.e. Advantage After School, Empire State After-School, and/or Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention Program; or a current or former grantee of the federal afterschool program, 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) program; and at least one whom has registered as a school-age child care (SACC) program through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (NYS OCFS). These providers may be nonprofit, for-profit, or faith-based organizations;

(g) a minimum of two and a maximum of three representatives from statewide associations or alliances that represent afterschool providers throughout the state

(h) Two representatives from an academic, private, or business institution who have an interest in a strong afterschool system;

(i) Two representatives from a local youth-focused government agency, including municipal youth bureaus;

(j) At least one representative from each of the following entities:

- The Office of Children and Family Services
- The Council on Children and Families
- The State Education Department
- The Office of Mental Health
- The Office of Addiction Services and Supports
- New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)

The Taskforce shall maintain the ability to convene workgroups/focus groups to further engage the expertise, experience, and feedback of critical stakeholders such as parents/caregivers, students, community leaders, researchers, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) leaders, and other individuals or entities that can help the Taskforce meet its goals.

The Taskforce shall:

- (i) Examine the need for afterschool across the state by identifying the number of school-age children who could benefit from such services but are not currently receiving them
- (ii) Identify best practices, methods, and mechanisms to reorganize current afterschool programs in New York, including in the development of requests for proposals that support high- quality programming and regulatory or statutory changes needed to consolidate afterschool funding streams
- (iii) Identify challenges and barriers faced by afterschool providers and recommendations for solutions,
- (iv) Review current rules, regulations, and guidance regarding existing afterschool programs in New York State to identify inconsistencies among different programs
- (v) Develop a plan to increase funding to expand access, based on the known costs per child for high-quality afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs
- (vi) Identify how the “traditional” child care and afterschool systems can better align to reinforce high-quality, seamless continuum of care; especially as children age out of childcare but are still in need of high quality afterschool and summer programs during the teen years.
- (vii) Identify how diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging should be considered in all decisionmaking for a future afterschool system
- (viii) Examine anything else the taskforce deems necessary.

The Taskforce shall meet as needed, determined by the Co-Chairs but no less than monthly.

The Taskforce shall report its interim findings and recommendations to the governor, the speaker of the assembly and the temporary president of the senate no later than twelve months after its initial convening and its final findings and recommendations no later than eighteen months after its initial convening.