

## FY 2024-25 AFTERSCHOOL BUDGET PRIORITIES

*The FY 2024-25 Executive Budget proposal is a positive affirmation to what afterschool, summer, and other expanded learning advocates have been fighting for for years to sustain high-quality programs – better per student rates; aligned grant requirements; timely execution of contracts; and simplified reimbursement processes to maximize grant funding. Our priorities below urge the State to sustain and increase afterschool access; expand dedicated technical support; and invest in the afterschool workforce. We are asking New York State to:*

Invest an additional \$119 million towards a new and improved afterschool program grant to ensure program viability and sustain current student capacity.

### Executive Budget proposal:

Total: \$100.7 million.

The Executive Proposal provides an additional \$12.7 million over last year's Enacted Budget towards a single program that combines the Advantage After School and Empire State After-School Programs and provides funding for technical assistance to afterschool grant recipients.

### What we are asking for:

Total: \$219 million.

This would maintain current capacity for afterschool at about 50,875 students, while adopting the base, true cost, per student rate of \$4,300. The Executive proposal would decrease student capacity for afterschool by more than half (about 23,255 students) if it adopted the base, true cost, per student rate of \$4,300.

**Why this ask?** To truly improve access to afterschool programs however, additional funding is needed to **1) ensure program viability**, i.e. ability for afterschool grantees to successfully complete the contract term while maximizing programming funding, an outcome boosted through significantly improved rates and grant conditions; and **2) maintain current student capacity**, i.e. New York can offer at least the same, not decreased, student capacity Advantage and Empire programs offered. An additional \$119 million will provide a historical investment of \$219 million to support afterschool programs statewide, while setting the state on a path to true transformation towards universal afterschool access.

Dedicate line-item funding of \$5 million towards school-age child care quality support through the NYS Network for Youth Success.

### Executive Budget proposal:

Total: Unknown. Includes TA support as part of \$100.7 million funding for afterschool

### What we are asking for:

Total: \$5 million directly to statewide afterschool network, NYS Network for Youth Success, aside from funding for afterschool.

**Why this ask?** We strongly believe that the State should prioritize quality supports for afterschool programs, as was previously available when the CCDBG Act made it mandatory, and dedicate line-item funding to technical assistance that is available to the wider afterschool field, not only recipients of some grants. Specialized and tailored support allows afterschool providers to create and

sustain conditions that help them maximize outcomes: The NYS Network for Youth Success is the only organization in New York that coordinates statewide expertise, resources, and technical assistance specifically focused on school-age child care and is already positioned (and doing the work) to meet the critical needs identified by the afterschool field to a) provide professional development opportunities, b) provide quality supports, and c) strengthen the capacity of afterschool programs.

We urge the State to dedicate this funding through available CCDBG funding, which has increased steadily in the last few years (Discretionary funding allocated to New York increased by \$82 million alone in 2023.).

Provide an additional \$3 million through CCDBG professional development allocation to expand the Educational Incentive Program (EIP).

**Executive Budget proposal:**

Total: Not included in the budget

**What we are asking for:**

Total: \$3 million to expand the program

**Why this ask?** 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.

Allow high-quality child care providers with statewide accreditation to qualify for increased differential payment rates.

**Executive Budget proposal:**

Proposes to create an increased differential payment rate for high-quality child care providers who are: accredited by nationally recognized organizations; participate in the New York’s Quality Rating and Improvement system; or have completed training and are an active participant in the OCFS Non-patient Epinephrine Auto-injector Initiative

**What we are asking for:**

In addition to the proposal, allow high-quality child care providers accredited by statewide recognized organizations to also receive an increased differential payment rate

**Why this ask?** New York’s afterschool program accreditation, which is informed by the New York State Afterschool Program Accreditation workgroup<sup>1</sup> and provided by the NYS Network for Youth Success, offers a robust accreditation model that is viable, affordable, and meaningful for afterschool providers and should be recognized by the State in efforts to promote high-quality afterschool programs throughout New York.

<sup>1</sup>The New York State Afterschool Program Accreditation workgroup consisted of direct service practitioners, program directors, trainers, evaluation specialists, policy experts, and agency leaders.

**Got Questions?**

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