21st Century Community Learning Centers
Providing Afterschool and Summer Learning Supports to Communities Nationwide

21st CCLC Overview

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs. Each state education agency receives funds based on its share of Title I funding for low-income students. Funds are also allocated to territories and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. 21st CCLC programs provide the following services to students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools:

- Academic enrichment activities that help students meet state and local achievement standards;
- A broad array of additional services designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program; and
- Literacy and related educational development services to the families of children who are served in the program. (U.S. Department of Education)

Student & Program Profile

Average regular attendees per center

88

1 in 3 Attendees are Hispanic/Latino

1,660,945

Number of children and youth served

253,283

Number of adult family members served

44,690

Number of organizations partnering with afterschool programs

11,068

Number of school-based and community centers

9 in 10 Number of centers located in schools

Percentage of regular attendees who participate in the Free/Reduced Price Lunch Program

73%

Percentage of regular attendees who have Limited English Proficiency

16%

Grade-Level by Student

(Based on 1,585,978 reported students)

High School
468,727
30%

Middle School
408,835
26%

Elementary School
700,225
44%

Pre-K
8,191
<1%

Staff Profile

(Based on 166,480 total staff)

39,470
Total Volunteers

60,470
Schoolday Teachers

127,010
Total Paid Staff

19,206
College Students

25,222
Community Partners

Sources:


Outcomes & Benefits

Given the large demand for quality afterschool, before-school and summer learning programs, and the potentially high cost of adding time to the school day, 21st CCLC programs are a wise investment. Unfortunately, current legislation could result in fewer communities having access to these quality programs. Of particular interest to afterschool providers has been the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) waivers that offer states flexibility around the mandates of the 10-year-old law. The optional 11th waiver would allow 21st CCLC funds to be used to lengthen the school day, week or year. This is especially concerning because 21st CCLC funding has been a major factor in helping to close the socioeconomic gap in afterschool participation. While participation rates have increased at every level of family income nationwide, lowest income youth have shown the greatest increase in participation. (Harvard Family Research Project, 2006)

State Assessments

Reading Scores (among students scoring below proficiency in the previous year)

Math Scores (among students scoring below proficiency in the previous year)

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Teacher Reported Outcomes

All Grades

- Improved Homework and Class Participation: 72%
- Improved Behavior: 68%
- Improved English Grades: 38%
- Improved Math Grades: 37%

Regular Attendance is Key

- Students who participate more in 21st CCLC programs show greater improvement in:
  - grades;
  - math and reading proficiency;
  - homework completion;
  - class participation; and
  - student behavior.  
  (Learning Point Associates, 2010)

- A study of about 3,000 low-income, ethnically-diverse elementary and middle school students found that those who regularly attended high-quality programs (including programs funded by 21st CCLC) over two years demonstrated gains of up to 20 percentiles and 12 percentiles in standardized math test scores respectively, compared to peers who were routinely unsupervised during the afterschool hours.  

How long do 21st CCLC programs stay open?

14.3 hours
Average number of hours per week

4+ days
94% of centers are open at least 4 days a week

33 weeks
Average number of weeks per year

36% Percentage of regular attendees whose test scores improved

46% Percentage of students attending 90 days or more whose test scores improved

35% Percentage of regular attendees whose test scores improved

45% Percentage of students attending 90 days or more whose test scores improved

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Current funding levels do not come close to meeting the nationwide demand:

- **22 million** kids are eligible to attend 21st CCLC programs nationally, but funding allows for only **1.6 million** to participate. *(National Center for Education Statistics)*

- There are **18.5 million** children in the United States whose parents would enroll them in an afterschool program if one were available. *(America After 3PM, 2009)*

- Only **1 out of 3** local requests for funding is awarded. Over the last 10 years, **$4 billion** in local grant requests were denied because of the lack of adequate federal funding and intense competition. *(Learning Point Associates, 2012)*

- The federal government contributes only **11 percent** of the cost of afterschool, while **29 percent** of children in afterschool meet the federal government’s definition of low-income and in need of federal assistance. *(Roadmap to Afterschool for All: Examining Current Investments and Mapping Future Needs, 2009)*

### Annual Cost

- **$317,000** Average cost per grant
- **$127,000** Average cost per center
- **$595** Average cost per attendee
- **$1,222** Average cost per regular attendee

Each grantee has an average of **2 additional funding sources** *(Learning Point Associates, 2005)*

### Number of grants funding afterschool and summer programs:

- **4,619**

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children have access to affordable, quality afterschool programs. The nation’s leading voice for afterschool, the Afterschool Alliance is the only organization dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of afterschool programs and advocating for more afterschool investments.

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The Afterschool Alliance

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