

Protect 21st Century Community Learning Center Funding: Act Now

The future of 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) funding is more uncertain than ever. **While the loss of these critical programs is not inevitable, immediate action is needed to safeguard them.**

At the Wisconsin Partnership for Children and Youth, we're committed to standing with you. We're providing resources you can use right now to advocate for your program and ensure its survival.

Here's how you can help:

- Urge [Attorney General Kaul](#) to pursue all legal avenues to secure the federal funds promised to Wisconsin for this school year ([contact link](#)).
- Call on the [Wisconsin Legislature](#) to use rainy-day funds to make sure afterschool programs throughout the state have funding ([contact link](#)).
- Mobilize your community—reach out to your school board, families, partners, and the public to build strong, visible support for your program.

Raise Awareness and Build Support

21st CCLC programs thrive because of strong community backing. The most powerful action you can take right now is to inform your community and mobilize their support.

Community Partnerships

Reach out to your community partners and ask them to [sign a letter of support](#) for your afterschool program. The link to the letter can be sent via email or text, and signers are encouraged to include a personal note about why they value the program. We invite each CLC to have 5 or more community partners sign the letter (local businesses, emergency services like law enforcement and fire, colleges, nonprofits, special guests, etc.). These letters will be passed onto elected officials to show the strong support CLCs have across communities in Wisconsin.

Family Engagement

Families who rely on afterschool programs are often their strongest advocates. Let them know what's at stake and encourage them to contact their elected officials. We've provided a [sample letter](#) you can share with families to help them take action.

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Engage School Boards and Administrators

Make sure your school board members and administrators are aware of the funding crisis and the steps they can take to help sustain programming. [A sample letter is available for outreach here.](#)

Spread the Word

Use social media to amplify your message. Raising public awareness about these devastating cuts can inspire more people to get involved. We've included [sample posts you can use and share.](#)

Next Steps

- Stay updated through the [Afterschool Alliance](#) for the latest developments.
- Reach out to Jackie with any questions, ideas, or support needs. Advocacy is most effective when we work together.

Please send out these community support letters as soon as you are able. Taking action right now is critical to saving these programs that are essential for building and sustaining strong communities.

Background

Despite being approved by Congress and signed into law by President Trump in March, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is currently withholding funds designated for 21st CCLC programs. As of July 1st, Wisconsin has received zero dollars for 2025-26 grants—funds that have been approved and promised to afterschool programs. This decision shifts the entire financial burden to states and local communities, resulting in a projected \$17 million loss for Wisconsin's afterschool programs alone. There is no state funding for afterschool in WI. The loss of federal dollars means that programs will close, limit enrollment, or charge fees to working parents.