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**Contact Congress: Support Afterschool Programs**

**21st CCLC Program Language**

**The Ask:** Reach out to Congress and ask them to support the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program.

**The Why:** The FY2021 proposed budget eliminates funding for the [21st Century Community Learning Centers Program](http://www.afterschoolga.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Snapshot-of-21st-CCLC.pdf). Without 21st CCLC, nearly two million children - and 26,000 in Georgia - would lose access to the high quality afterschool, before school, and summer learning programs they need. Congress will determine whether this proposal becomes law, and if local afterschool and summer learning programs remain open or close their doors. If the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative is eliminated, many programs will not survive.

**The Message:**Thank you for your support of local afterschool and summer learning programs that rely on federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) funding to provide quality programs to more than 1.7 million young people. I call on you to reject the Administration's proposed elimination of 21st CCLC and instead, as Congress begins work on the FY 2021 appropriations process, I urge you to fund 21st CCLC at the $1.35 billion level or more and reject any cuts to the program.

Regular participation in high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs is linked to significant gains in academics, school attendance, and work habits, as well as reductions in behavior problems. If eliminated, nearly two million children - and 26,000 in Georgia - would lose access to the high quality afterschool, before school, and summer learning programs that help put them on a path to success in college, career, and life. **Currently, the 21st CCLC program is the only federal program dedicated to providing young people with quality enrichment and supervision during the hours when school is out, including afterschool, weekends, holidays, and over the summer.**

A few sentences about your program. You may want to highlight:

* Key data points
	+ Number of students served
	+ Number on waitlist (if there is one)
	+ Demographics
* Impact data
	+ Academic achievement data
	+ Parent/student/school survey results
* Community impact
	+ Parent and community outreach/events
	+ Number of community partnerships
	+ Additional funds leveraged from 21st CCLC funding
* Personal stories – quotes/anecdotes from your students/staff/parents – what afterschool means to them, what they would (not) be doing with out it

The elimination of the 21st CCLC program, as proposed in President Trump’s budget, would devastate our program and likely force us to close our doors to many young people in need.

Next time you are back in Georgia, we invite you to come down to [your program] to see for yourself what a 21st CCLC program looks like – to have an opportunity to meet the young people who walk through our door each day and hear why afterschool matters to them. For many of our students, our program provides the personalized attention and enrichment opportunities they would not receive elsewhere that often means all the difference to them and their futures.

Please let me know if there is any way that I can be of assistance to you and if you would like to schedule a time to visit our program. You are always welcome!

Thank you again for all that you do for Georgia’s young people.

Sincerely,

[your name]

[your title], [program name]

**Congressmen Contact Information
*Not sure who your representative is? Find out***[***here***](http://georgiavoices.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c03d7039c9f51b08a13301ce5&id=e1d87cc196&e=a6e39ee049)***.***

**Senate**

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