

## Advocacy Alert: NJ's Afterschool & Summer Programs at Risk Due to Federal Delay

Dear NJSACC Community,

We want to share an urgent update that directly impacts thousands of NJ students, families, and the dedicated staff who run our afterschool and summer learning programs.

The federal government is currently withholding funding for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) — a critical program that keeps students safe, engaged, and supported outside regular school hours. These funds were fully approved by Congress and signed into law by the President in March. They were supposed to be released to states on July 1 to support summer programs happening now and to help programs prepare for the 2025/2026 school year.

Instead, the U.S. Department of Education has announced that it will not issue grant award notifications until it completes a review — with no clear timeline for when the funds will actually be released.

The impact in New Jersey:

- New Jersey stands to lose over \$30 million in 21st CCLC funds — part of a total \$142.8 million in K–12 education funding currently frozen for our state.
- Right now, there are 67 21st CCLC grantees in NJ:
  - 34 School Districts
  - 4 Institutions of Higher Education
  - 29 Community-Based Organizations, including:
    - 8 Boys & Girls Clubs
    - 3 YMCAs
- These grantees serve thousands of children in our state's most under-resourced communities, providing free or low-cost afterschool and summer programs that help kids learn, thrive, and stay safe while parents work.

If this funding delay continues, programs may be forced to cut services or shut down completely — harming students, families, and the OST workforce that depends on these grants to do their jobs.

📌 Important to know: *Funding for FY26 is also at risk, but that is a separate issue. FY26 funds would support the 2026/2027 school year and are not related to this immediate FY25 delay. This situation is also separate from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act and the federal reconciliation process — neither directly affects federal 21st CCLC afterschool and summer funding.*

What's next?

NJSACC is closely monitoring this situation, working alongside national partners and state leaders to urge the Administration to release the funds immediately. Delaying these vital dollars could have devastating, long-term impacts on the NJ students and families who need them most.

How you can help:

📢 Stay informed. NJSACC will be releasing additional guidance so please sign up for our newsletter here: <https://www.njsacc.org/flash/>

Keep abreast of all national OST news via the Afterschool Alliance Policy Page:  
<https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policy-current.cfm>

📢 Speak up! Reach out to your elected officials and remind them how crucial Afterschool & Summer programs are for NJ's youth, working parents, and our OST workforce.

Federal Call To Action: <https://win.newmode.net/afterschoolalliance/releasethefunds>

State Call To Action: <https://bit.ly/njsaccrelease21stcclc>

NJSACC Advocacy Toolkit: [NJSACC ADVOCACY TOOLKIT](#)

We promise to keep you updated as we learn more. Thank you for your continued support and for all you do to ensure every child in NJ has access to safe, high-quality afterschool and summer opportunities.

In Partnership,

Tyneisha Gibbs

Director of Policy & Youth Advocacy

NJSACC: New Jersey's Afterschool & Out of School Time Professional Network

| <u>State or<br/>Other Area</u> | Migrant<br>Education | Supporting<br>Effective<br>Instruction | English<br>Language<br>Acquisition | Student<br>Support and<br>Academic<br>Enrichment | 21st Century<br>Community<br>Learning<br>Centers | Total Withheld |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| New Jersey                     | \$1,107,986          | \$46,935,004                           | \$28,353,932                       | \$33,901,402                                     | \$32,575,215                                     | \$142,873,539  |

Source:

US DOE: Fiscal Year 2024-FY 2026 President's Budget State Tables for the U.S. Department of Education

<https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-overview/annual-performance-reports/budget/budget-tables/fiscal-year-2024-fy-2026-presidents-budget-state-tables-us-department-of-education>