

Brought to you by NJSACC: New Jersey's Afterschool & Out-of-School Time (OST) Professional Network

Afterschool Advocacy In Action

October 2025



Federal Government Shutdown: Implications for Education, Afterschool, and Summer Programs

By Tyneisha Gibbs, Director of Policy & Youth Advocacy



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As many of you may have heard, the federal government is currently shut down. Every year, Congress must pass a new set of appropriations bills to fund the government for the upcoming fiscal year before it begins at 12:01 a.m. on October 1. This year, Congress failed to pass those bills by the deadline. No progress has been made in negotiations since the shutdown began, and there is currently no clear path forward for reopening.

NJSACC has compiled key information about what this shutdown means for education, afterschool, and summer enrichment programs. The Department of Education (ED) has issued this [memo](#) that specifically outlines how the agency should operate during the shutdown. Below is a summary of the immediate impacts and what could happen if the shutdown continues.

What This Means for Education, Afterschool, and Summer Programs

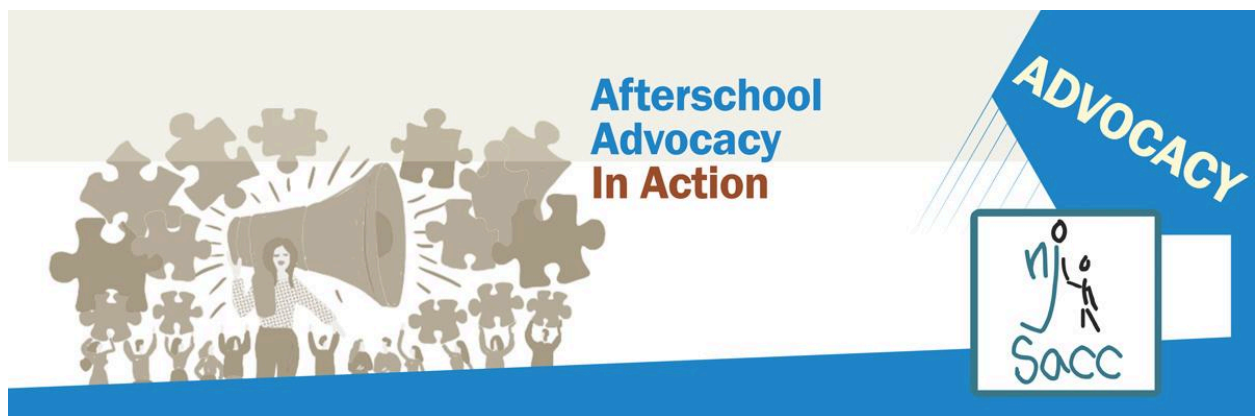
Forward-Funded Programs

Some federal education programs — including Title I, IDEA, and 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC) — are “forward-funded,” meaning funding for the 2025–26 school year was appropriated last year during the FY24 budget process.

- **Short term:** Afterschool and summer programs funded through 21CCLC should not immediately lose funding or be forced to close.
- **If the shutdown continues:** Administrative delays are likely. This could affect the processing of new grants, reimbursements, monitoring activities, and technical assistance from federal agencies.

What Programs Continue?

While 21CCLC funding is temporarily shielded, prolonged federal inaction could destabilize nutrition supports, youth employment programs, and core educational services that afterschool and summer programs rely on.



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- **Child Care Development Fund (CCDF):** Multi-year and supplemental grants will continue under the Administration for Children and Families.
- **AmeriCorps VISTA:** Members continue to serve and receive living allowances, though some program-grant VISTAs may face disruptions.

What's at Risk?

Shutdowns freeze all discretionary spending, which means:

- **Head Start Programs:** Unable to operate without funding, many centers may close their doors.
- **WIC (Women, Infants, Children):** Families may lose access to food benefits and referrals.
- **Education for Homeless Children & Youth:** Services such as supplemental instruction and transportation may halt.
- **Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies:** The largest federal source of funding for low-income schools freezes, leaving schools with few options to cover gaps.
- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Youth Activities Program):** Training and supports for youth ages 14–24 could stop midstream.



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Why It Matters for Child Care Providers

Child care and afterschool providers often rely on a combination of mandatory and discretionary funds. While some streams (like SNAP and Medicaid) are considered mandatory and will continue, many of the administrative supports, reimbursements, and agency staffing functions come from discretionary funds. That means:

- Payments and reimbursements may be delayed.
- New applications and renewals cannot be processed.
- Technical assistance and oversight may pause.

For child care providers operating close to the margin, even short-term funding interruptions can mean reduced hours, staff layoffs, or closures—leaving working parents without reliable care. NJSACC will continue to monitor developments closely, share timely updates, and advocate for the uninterrupted federal investment needed to keep kids learning, supported, and thriving year-round.

Call to Action

Kids and families deserve certainty that federally funded programs will be there to support their health, education, and overall well-being—not a system that leaves them hanging in the balance year after year. We need our elected leaders on all levels, but especially in Congress, to work together to fund the programs and services children need and to prioritize consistent, sustainable funding for children and youth. [Contact Your Federal and State Legislators.](#)



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Announcing Marguise Guzman NEW WRP Policy Fellow!

NJSACC is excited to announce that Marquise Guzmán has been selected as a national White-Riley-Peterson (WRP) Policy Fellow! The WRP Policy Fellowship is run by the Riley Institute at Furman University, in partnership with the Mott Foundation, and equips participants with a real-world understanding of the art, science, possibilities, and realities of policy-making around afterschool and expanded learning. For the next 10 months, Marquise will be learning how to advocate for the improvement of afterschool programs and OST opportunities in the state of New Jersey. We can't wait to work with Marquise to advance OST policy for all NJ's youth. [Learn more about the fellowship](#)



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Call to Action: Lights On Afterschool

Governor Murphy has proclaimed October 23, 2025, as Lights On Afterschool Day in New Jersey. (insert picture of Proclamation)

On **October 23, 2025**, thousands of events across the country will celebrate afterschool's impact. We urge New Jersey programs to join in. Whether through an open house, student showcase, resource fair, or creative celebration, every event makes a statement:

→ **Register your event today:** afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm

Together, we can show policymakers and the public that afterschool is a **lifeline** for working families, not an optional add-on. Missed the Afterschool Alliance LOA webinar? Catch the replay:

<https://afterschoolalliance.org/webinars.cfm?ID=32558385-5056-A82E-7A1BBAF719B6C030>

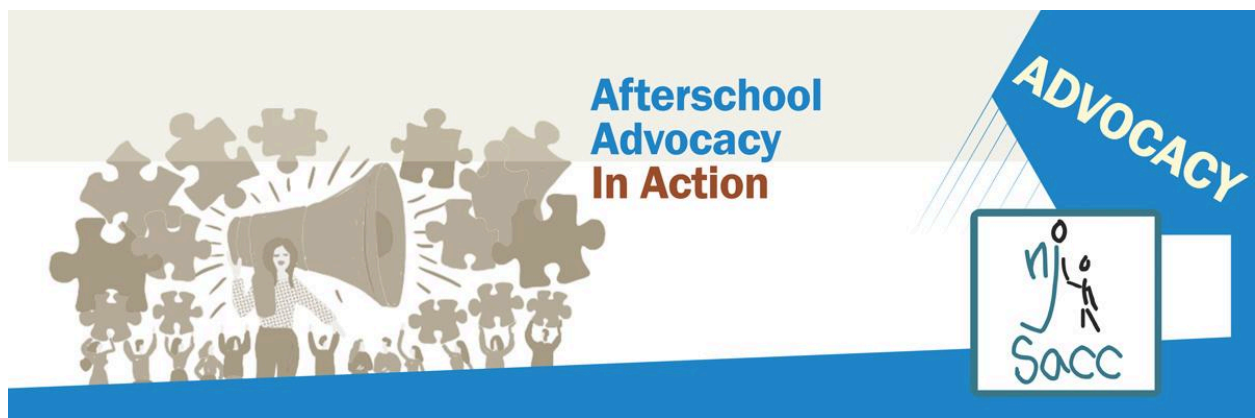
Please see below for NJSACC co-hosted city-wide celebrations:

Newark-

Join La Casa de Don Pedro and friends for a Harvest Festival Lights On Celebration! There will be a Farmer's Market, STEM stations, resource sharing and giveaways! You don't want to miss this! Partners include: Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey, NJSACC, United Community Corporation, FOCUS, Rutgers Newark, Afterschool All Stars, YMCA of Greater Newark, Boys & Girls Club of Newark and More.

Time: 4:00 - 5:30 PM

Location: El Patio- 43-47 Broadway, Newark NJ 07104



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Trenton-

Join the Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County, Children's Home Society and the Capital Area YMCA for a safe, family fun night of Trick or Treating!

Time: 4:30 - 8PM

Location: Trenton Thunder Ballpark

1 Thunder Road Trenton, NJ

Register Here: <https://www.gofevo.com/group/Tricktreat6>

Camden-

Join the Boys & Girls Club of Camden, Rutgers University- Camden and Leap Academy Charter School for a Lights On Celebration! There will be music, fun activities, resource sharing and giveaways!

Time: 4:00 - 5:30 PM

Location: Boys & Girls Clubs of Camden County

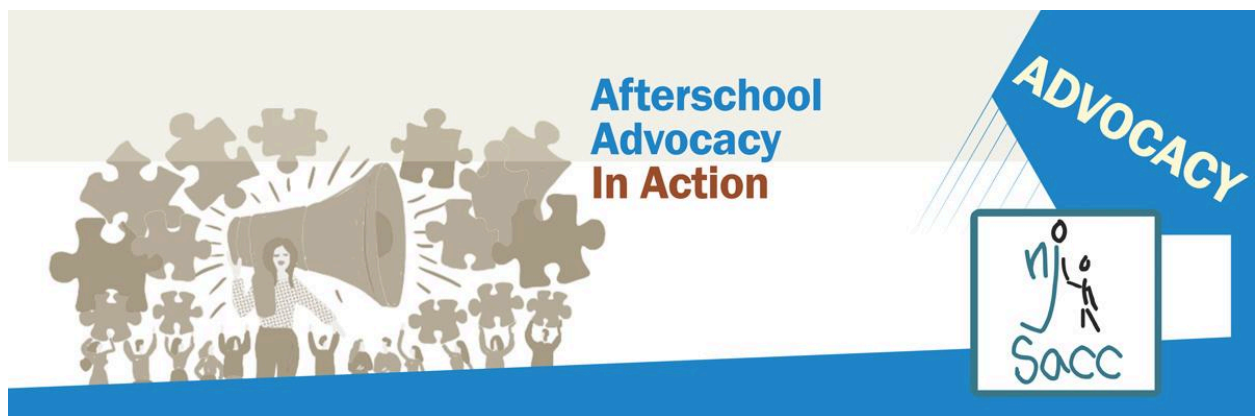
2 North Dudley Street

Camden, NJ 08105

NJSACC Heads to Washington, D.C.

On October 15, 2025, NJSACC will travel to Washington, D.C. for the release of the new America After 3PM report. This national study documents the demand, benefits, and equity gaps in afterschool programming. We will ensure that New Jersey's story—your work, your challenges, and your wins—are heard at the national level.

[Learn more here](#)



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Proposed Legislation & It's Impact

FY 2026 education spending bill maintains afterschool funding. No changes to the bill will impact 21st CCLC afterschool funding directly. The report language that accompanies the House LHHS bill is also now available ([report language](#)) and includes 21st CCLC language on page 231 around increasing accessibility to high-quality and inclusive after-school programs for students with disabilities, as well as language that directs the Department of Education to report on efforts to reduce barriers to accessing 21st CCLC funds for local community-based programs and for rural communities. While 21st CCLC funding is protected in the bill, overall, the bill proposes cuts and program eliminations that will be devastating to students and families. This includes slashing Title I funding by \$5.2 billion (27%), eliminating Full-Service Community Schools, Promise Neighborhoods, Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS), and Title II – Supporting effective instruction state grants – all of which can and do support local afterschool programs.

Current legislation that NJSACC is advocating for:

Federal Level

Child Care Modernization Act 2025

https://www.fischer.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/198b1dfe-2008-4566-81b7-f201c481510c/fischer-child-care-modernization-act-of-2025.pdf?utm_source=brevvo&utm_campaign=Notes%20from%20September%2018th%20Policy%20Call&utm_medium=email

S.4843 - Summer for All Act <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/4843/titles>



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State Level

OST Commission Bill A2414/S3457 <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2024/S3457>

Community Schools Bill A3124/S2528 <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2024/A3124>

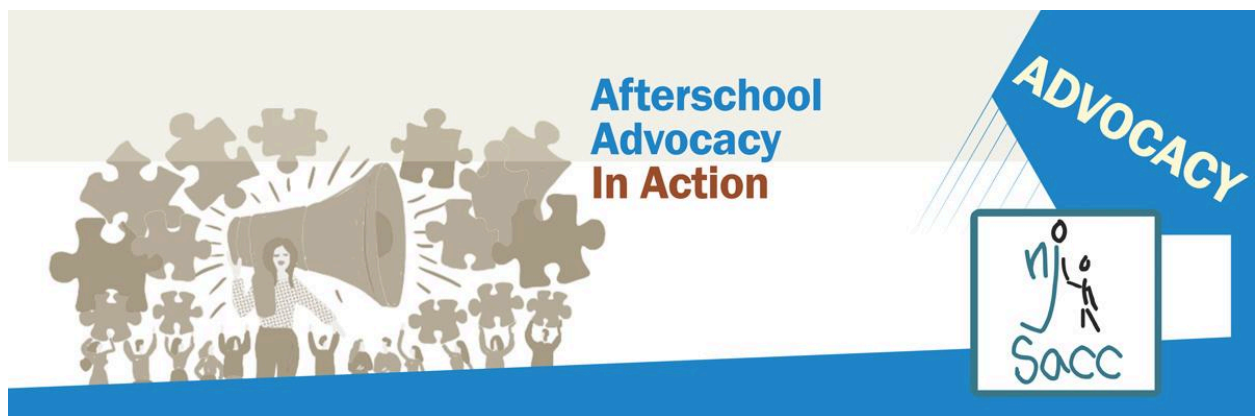
Community Schools Pilot Bill A4107/S2243 <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2024/A4107>

Looking Ahead

- **Policy Pulse – October 10 at 12 PM ET:** Join the Afterschool Alliance for a live [policy briefing](#).
- Sustaining Afterschool Through Advocacy Workshop
 - Friday, October 17 at 10:30 AM REGISTER HERE:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/jRs0Fo2oQZy1HVDWEpcfA>

National Afterschool Association [opened up registration earlier this month for the 2026 Convention](#), which will be held in March at the National Harbor Gaylord in the Washington, DC area. NAA and the Afterschool Alliance are partnering to hold a Convention/Afterschool for All Challenge collaboration!

The Challenge portion will begin mid-afternoon on Tuesday, March 10, with hill visits in the morning/early afternoon of March 11.



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Closing Notes

Government shutdowns remind us of a hard truth: when federal investment falters, children and families pay the price. NJSACC will continue to advocate—at both the state and national levels—for stable, sustained funding to ensure every child in New Jersey has access to high-quality afterschool and out-of-school time programs.

In partnership,
Tyneisha K. Gibbs
Director of Policy & Youth Advocacy