



FY 2021-2022 BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR AFTERSCHOOL

COVID-19 has created extraordinary circumstances for many children and families in New York. Hard hit by the pandemic, the opportunity gaps that already disadvantage communities of color and children from low-income families are likely to grow. Afterschool, summer, and other expanded learning programs have been crucial to helping young people and their families through this crisis: These programs provide services and support that promote resilience, provide protective factors, and elevate assets that can help overcome the effects of trauma and adversity, such as traumas of 2020 including political divisions, racial unrest, and COVID-19. As children face learning loss and isolation from the pandemic, these programs are helping to expand learning opportunities to support students who are learning remotely and parents who need a safe place for their kids while they are working. New York must ensure that afterschool, summer, and other expanded learning programs are able to recover from the impact of COVID-19, adequately respond to the needs of children and families, and build resilience of their programs, youth, and families served.

To fully RECOVER, New York must safeguard investments, commitments, and protections provided to afterschool, summer, and other expanded learning programs by:

1. Baseline critical funds that support afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs at FY2020-2021 levels. This includes restoring the cuts in Advantage After School Program (\$5 million) and Youth Development Program (\$2.2million) in the FY2021-2022 Executive Budget.
2. Utilizing funds committed to expanded learning programs in the FY2021-2022 State Budget and any remaining funds from FY2020-2021. New York must streamline the current contract process for a timely execution of contracts and payments to awarded afterschool grantees.

To adequately RESPOND to the needs of children and families, expanded learning programs must be nimble to provide a continuum of care and seamlessly adapt, especially during crisis.

3. New York must include language in the State budget that:
 - a. Directs \$250,000 to the NYS Network for Youth Success to sustain the mobilization and coordination of high-quality expanded learning programs, especially to respond to crises such as COVID-19. None of the required 9% set-aside in CCDBG quality funds currently supports technical assistance for the 2,837 school-age child care programs in New York.
 - b. Allows modifications to afterschool contracts and performance outcomes during a State disaster emergency, and directs state agencies to provide timely guidance in the case where budget modifications to afterschool contracts may be required.
 - c. Allows summer programming as a vital component of all afterschool funding streams, especially for the Advantage After School Program.

To build RESILIENCE of expanded learning programs and the youth and families they serve, New York State must make new investments to help programs operate safely, securely, and effectively by:

4. Dedicating a percentage of new revenue streams to increase access to affordable high-quality expanded learning programs.
5. Increasing the per student allotment of Advantage and Empire afterschool programs to at least \$2,320.
6. Fully utilizing the \$450 million in federal funds for childcare and other untapped funds to stabilize and achieve a fully-invested, high-quality, responsive continuum of care and development for children and youth in New York State.