

ADVOCACY ACTION ALERT:

21st Century Community Learning Center Programs at Risk

The Current Situation

The New York State Education Department, which administers the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative recently decided that it would not issue a much anticipated request for proposals (RFP) to continue funding its first cohort of programs. The first cohort of 21st CCLC programs is set to terminate on June 30, 2007.

The New York State Education Department's decision to not release an RFP for the first cohort jeopardizes the continued operations of 207 after-school programs throughout the state serving 34,063 young people. Approximately 3,400 jobs at these sites are in jeopardy.

Background:

21st CCLC is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to after-school programs. The federal No Child Left Behind Act reauthorized 21st CCLC in 2002, transferring the administration of the grants from the U.S. Department of Education to State Education agencies. Each state receives funds based on its share of Title I funding for low-income students.

21st CCLC Cohort One:

- Number of 21st CCLC awards: **60 Total**
27 awards to school districts and 33 awards to Community-based organizations
- Number of programs covered by the 60 awards: **207**
NYC - 54 Manhattan; 18 Bronx; 15 Brooklyn; 19 Queens; 12 Staten Island
- Amount awarded: **\$31,774,207** (CBOs: **\$13,269,108** and school districts: **\$18,505,098**)

Talking Points:

- The state needs to invest \$30 million to prevent the closing of these programs.
- This allocation will help keep programs open for one year and will allow providers to identify other sources of funding to keep programs open in the future.
- The decision to not release an RFP for the first cohort jeopardizes the continued operations of 207 after-school programs throughout the state serving 34,063 young people. Approximately 3,400 jobs at these sites may also be in jeopardy.

Action Needed:

- **Contact Governor Spitzer**
By phone: 518-474-8390
By fax: 518-474-1513
By email: <http://161.11.121.121/govemail>
By mail: State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224

- **Contact Assembly and Senate**
Assembly - <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem>
Senate - <http://www.senate.state.ny.us/>

■■■ The After-School Corporation (TASC) was established in 1998 to enhance the quality and availability of in-school after-school programs in New York City and State and, eventually, across the nation. Working in cooperation with foundations, corporations and government partners TASC awards grants to community-based organizations, provides technical assistance to programs and advocates at all levels of government for quality after-school programming in public schools.