

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS AND 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS: Supporting At-Risk Youth with Quality Enrichment

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Young people need and deserve access to quality enrichment, afterschool and summer learning opportunities like those created by 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC). These resources are a critical component of the Every Student Succeeds Act and designed to help resource-strapped schools develop local programs that serve at-risk youth.

Resources provided by 21st CCLC enable Communities In Schools (CIS) affiliates nationwide to connect at-risk students with locally developed afterschool and summer enrichment programs.

21st CCLC empowers CIS affiliates with:



Resources: With these funds, CIS site coordinators, executive directors and volunteers worked together to create programs that combine education with fun, hands-on enrichment activities, field trips, community services programs, youth conferences, physical activity, art, music and more.



Partnership: CIS Site Coordinators work strategically with existing providers to best meet the needs of the students, avoiding duplication and overlap of supports. Students are often enrolled in 21st CCLCs operated by our partner organizations, like Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the YMCA.

Eliminating 21st CCLC would hurt the students and families who rely on these programs the most.

The President's budget for fiscal year 2018 proposed the elimination of 21st CCLC.

However, these programs are particularly valuable to students whose families don't have access to resources and cannot afford to pay a fee for afterschool programs. After school time and summer breaks are often when students are most in need of constructive activities to keep them safe and out of trouble.

Eliminating this grant would:

- impact **nearly 2 million** vulnerable students who rely on 21st CCLC programs;
- reduce the budget of CIS affiliates nationwide by an estimated \$14.84 million.

Without 21st CCLC, many schools would be forced to:

- Close the only free programs offered outside of school time, a reliable source of childcare for parents and enrichment for kids; or
- Offset funding reductions by either eliminating vital services on which parents rely, like transportation, or by restricting enrollment and limiting access.

In communities nationwide, 21st CCLC resources enable CIS affiliates to adhere to a model of ISS that has a proven track record of success. It is critical to the success of this model that Congress maintain support for the 21st CCLC initiative at last year's level of \$1.19 billion.

About Communities In Schools

Communities In Schools works inside public and charter schools full-time, building relationships with students to empower them to stay in school and succeed in life. Working directly in more than 2,300 schools in 25 states and the District of Columbia, Communities In Schools serves nearly 1.5 million students every year.