

How After-school Funding Affects the Youth of Illinois

The proposed FY 2010 budget includes enormous reductions in funding for after-school programs in Illinois. Elimination of this funding will result in thousands of children in Illinois with no place to go after school. Additionally, these cuts may cause a loss of jobs to after-school providers if programs need to shut down, a reduction in services provided to children or increased parent fees for programming.

What is the issue?

The Governor's proposed FY2010 budget negatively impacts the children and working families of Illinois by eliminating significant amounts of funding for after-school programs.

- ✓ \$9.7 million eliminated from the ***After-school, Student Support and Mentoring*** line item in the State Board of Education budget
- ✓ \$2.5 million reduction in ***Teen REACH*** funding, bringing the funding level to \$16.2 million. The **lowest ever funding level for Teen REACH.**
- ✓ \$500,000 eliminated from the State Board of Education proposed budget for ***After School Matters***
- ✓ A total of \$12.7 million in after-school funding cut from the Governor's proposed FY2010 budget.

Who is impacted?

The children and working families of Illinois. The proposed budget will leave thousands of children in Illinois with no place to go after school. Legislators need to know what the benefits of quality after-school programs are:

- ✓ Reducing crime and risks of unhealthy and unsafe behavior by young people. Students who spend no time in extracurricular activities are 49% more likely to have used drugs and 37% more likely to become teen parents than those who spend 1 to 4 hours per week in activities.
- ✓ Increased student achievement in math, reading and other subjects
- ✓ Cost effectiveness: after-school programs save tax payer dollars. One study indicated that for every \$1 spent on after-school produced benefits to the public worth \$3.
- ✓ Improved family support and involvement in education. Parents with children in after-school programs have more participation in school activities and are more active in their children's education.

What Can be Done?

We have asked after-school providers to reach out to their legislators to let them know what the impact of these cuts would be on their programs and their communities. We have also begun a postcard campaign so that parents and children in after-school programs can let their state representatives understand the importance of these programs to their families.

Please contact Wendy Chill at the Illinois After-school Alliance with any questions, wchill@icvp.org or (312) 986-9200 x229