

Thank you for your work on the previous congressional stimulus packages, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the CARES Act. The national youth-serving, education, and civil rights nonprofit organizations listed below request the following supports in additional COVID-19 relief legislation to: protect the health and well-being of our nation's youth while we navigate this public health crisis, and sustain the long-term viability of critical services for youth. As schools continue to close, essential personnel (i.e. first responders, medical professionals and working families) need their children, including school-aged children, to be safe and well cared for. We want to ensure all of America's youth are continuing to learn, have access to enriching experiences, and that they feel supported by their community, knowing that out-of-school time is now *all the time*.

Increased burdens on youth-serving organizations are severe. In order to mitigate the long-term impacts on our organizations and the millions of youth we serve additional supports are needed including: out of school education and learning over the summer and fall, a financial recovery program led by national nonprofits to help local providers minimize learning and economic loss; youth workforce recovery; meals and; and trauma-informed services for youth.

Nonprofit Financial Resilience and Recovery

- Provide \$10 billion for nonprofit youth serving out-of-school organizations in economic recovery funding, to offset increased costs and demand for services, and to mitigate costs incurred, due to shutdowns including, lost program revenue and lost fundraising revenue. Program disruptions increase the financial impact to local organizations and can be substantial if there is a prolonged shutdown. In order to regain financial stability, assistance will be needed.
 - Allow national youth-serving organizations, including nonprofits, those representing school and faith-based, local government, and private providers, to disseminate funds directly to local community-based organizations. The burden and efficiency of disseminating such funds across the country would allow local organizations to focus on direct service and would diminish the stress of navigating systems for communities in crisis.

Education Program Recovery

- Afterschool programs and summer learning programs will need to expand to accommodate more children who may be falling behind during school closures, and new programs will need to be created in order to ensure quality learning opportunities are available for those who are most at risk, including those who may be particularly vulnerable to the inefficiencies of virtual learning, such as english learners. An increase of \$500 million for the Nita Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center, to support current and new 21st CCLC grantees, in a stimulus package to accommodate that greater need through the summer and even into the next school year would allow an additional 500,000 students in grades pre-K through 12th to gain access to critical programs to ensure they remain on track for academic success.
- The Department of Education needs to provide clear direction to state education agencies on the flexibility SEAs have to allow Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers to serve children and families during the pandemic and in light of school closures. Additionally, the Department should allow direct assistance programs to be based on enrollment, and not attendance, and allow reimbursement for a wide range of activities such as professional

development, virtual learning, providing meals to families, and allow programs to roll over their funding to the next fiscal year if funds were not expended this year.

Youth Workforce Recovery

- With the closures of schools across the nation, filling the skills gap for youth is crucial as our nation recovers from this health and economic crisis. Youth will be catching up and preparing to enter what will be an increasingly competitive job market. A \$100 million appropriation to expand programs through the Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration. This would fund national out-of-school time organizations to provide essential-skills development, career exposure employability & certification, work-based learning. This will help equip young people with the knowledge, skills and experiences needed to be successful in school, career and life.

Food Insecurity

- We appreciate USDA's quick release of child nutrition program flexibilities during this unprecedented time. USDA should continue to issue all waivers nationwide, eliminating the need for individual states to submit their own waivers which creates unnecessary administrative work for both USDA and state child nutrition agencies, as well as creating uncertainty among SFSP and CACFP sponsors.
- The USDA's Food and Nutrition Service is only allowing schools participating in the Summer Food Service Program or the Seamless Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program to deliver meals to the homes of eligible children in an area eligible community impacted by COVID-19. We encourage the inclusion of eligible non-school program providers of SFSP and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to home deliver meals. This change in program structure will be limited to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- A maximum of two meals per day per child is eligible for reimbursement through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), but some sites are able to provide a supper through the CACFP At-Risk Option. To ensure youth and families who rely on free and reduced-price meals at school do not go hungry during this public health crisis and to ease unnecessary administrative burdens, please allow SFSP to reimburse up to three meals per day per child.
- As out-of-school time program providers respond to emerging community need – for example, opening up emergency child care services for first-responders or restructuring facilities and services to address homeless populations – USDA should encourage state agencies to efficiently approve new SFSP and CACFP sponsors, including by allowing all required trainings to be made available online.

Trauma Resources

- Trauma-Informed Care and Mental Health Supports: Provide a \$250 million set aside within existing federal afterschool and school-age childcare funding to allow for the training, development, and execution of trauma-informed care training and implementation of trauma-informed programs. This funding will, support virtual and online training modules developed with respect to the current public health emergency, to address the social and emotional needs of students and the rise of adverse childhood experiences among school-aged youth and teens attributable to the impact of COVID-19. Supports will include mental health consultation services to provide expert care and counseling to families and the out-of-school time and

school-age afterschool/summer learning program workforce; and additional staffing to out-of-school time programs in high-risk communities to maintain high-quality learning environments while providing individualized care to children and teens expressing disruptive and challenging behaviors.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests and we look forward to continuing to work with you as we all navigate this difficult time for our nation.

Sincerely,

Afterschool Alliance

After-School All-Stars

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities

BellXcel

Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Campfire USA

Coalition for Community Schools

Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning

Committee for Children

Communities In Schools

Every Hour Counts

Food Research & Action Center

Forum for Youth Investment

Girls Inc.

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership

National Afterschool Association

National Recreation and Park Association

National Summer Learning Association

National Urban League

Prevent Child Abuse America

Sperling Center for Research and Innovation

Starr Commonwealth

United Way Worldwide

YMCA of the USA