

FY26 Afterschool and Community Schools Funding in Illinois

Afterschool programs and community schools support academic success and address pressing social and economic challenges, providing safe, structured environments where young people can grow and thrive. Expanding funding for these programs is a vital step toward building a stronger and more equitable Illinois. We ask that you:

ISBE and the General Assembly

- Work with ISBE and the General Assembly to **release the \$50 million from the FY25 budget** for afterschool programs.

Education - ISBE Budget

- **Maintain the \$50 million annual appropriation** to fund community learning centers supporting afterschool programs and community schools. It is imperative that this funding becomes a sustained investment to ensure the sustainability of afterschool programs in Illinois.
- Maintain funding of **\$6 million for After School Matters**.
- Increase ISBE's After School Programs line to **\$25 million as proposed by ISBE**.

Human Services - IDHS Budget

- **Increase Teen REACH funding to \$27.3 million**. Teen REACH programs have not received rate increases to address the increased costs associated with inflation, materials, and the number of youth they serve and funding was reduced in FY25.
- **Fund the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) at \$3.2 billion, with at least \$55 million** designated to cover an expected increase in CCAP participation.
- **Appropriate \$202 million for ICJIA's Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) program**.

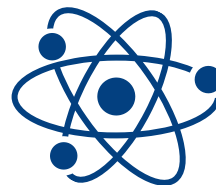
Demand for Afterschool



In Illinois, for every one student in an afterschool program, four are waiting to get in

89%

89% of parents support public funding for afterschool



72% of students in Illinois afterschool programs are engaging in STEM learning opportunities



Participants in afterschool programs are 30% less likely to participate in dangerous and criminal activities