

# Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Advocate

## The Wisconsin Partnership for Children and Youth



The Partnership for Children & Youth will be hosting a quarterly virtual call on Tuesday, September 23rd at 11 am. [Register for the Zoom](#) call to learn the latest from leaders in the field. Check here for [more information about The Partnership](#).

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### In this edition of the WOSTA Advocate

- Monthly Spotlight: Girl Scouts of Badgerland
- OST Toolbox: Mental Health resources
- Taking Action for Afterschool: New 21CCLC Toolkit
- WOSTA Updates: WI Out of School Time Conference
- OST Policy and State News: Childcare Bridge Payments begin
- Federal News: Grant Award Notifications

### Monthly Program Spotlight



Girl Scouts of Wisconsin – Badgerland offers two unique summer camps that introduce girls to exciting career paths in the building trades and public service industries like EMS, firefighting, and law enforcement. CampBuild and CampHERO are led by trailblazing women who not only founded these programs but also serve as mentors, inspiring the next generation to explore these fields with confidence. [Read more.](#)

Interested in being featured by WOSTA in a program spotlight?  
Please sign-up using the form below. We'd love to come meet you!

**Featured Program Sign-Up**

### The OST Toolbox

- [What the afterschool field at large can learn about well-being from arts-focused programming](#)
- [Back to school with mental health in mind](#)
- [An Introduction to Youth Voice](#)
- [Key principles at the heart of quality expanded learning programs](#)
- [5 reasons from The Power of Us Survey to celebrate the afterschool field](#)
- Looking for STEM Activities? [Check out this new resource](#)
- Need to know the latest? Join the Policy Pulse call each week- Every second Friday at 1 pm, Erik Peterson from the Afterschool Alliance, will recap the latest policy developments, what we know (or don't know!) about how they may impact afterschool and summer programs. Submit your questions in advance so we know what's top of mind for you. [Registration link.](#)

## Taking Action for Afterschool

- The 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) [Advocacy Toolkit](#) is now available! Funding for 21st CCLC programs is at risk for the 2026–27 school year. This toolkit equips programs with resources and strategies to advocate for continued support.
  - It is not too early to start thinking about Lights on Afterschool: LOA returns for its 26th year! On the third Thursday in October, 8,000+ programs nationwide open their doors to show how they keep kids safe and engaged. Sign-up for the [Lights on Afterschool 101 webinar](#).
  - The Afterschool Alliance has launched a new website to defend 21st Century Community Learning Center funding: [Afterschool Works for America](#)
  - New interactive resource from DPI: [The impact of 21st Century Community Learning Centers in Wisconsin](#)
  - Want to know the best times to reach your federal legislator? [Use this calendar](#) to coordinate both your call and a visit.
  - [Use this resource to learn best practices for a legislator visit to your site.](#)
  - Need resources to support your advocacy? Check out our [Afterschool Champions Guide](#)
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## WOSTA Updates

- Out of School Time Conference 2025: October 29-30, 2025 | Hilton Appleton Paper Valley in Appleton, WI and Virtual November 7, 2025. [Learn more.](#)
  - The Partnership for Children and Youth will meet on September 23rd at 11 AM. Join the only advocacy group that brings ALL afterschool and summer supporters together.
  - WOSTA will be offering free, virtual suicide prevention trainings in September in recognition of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. [Visit the WOSTA website](#) for more info and to register.
  - WOSTA's [2025-26 Course Calendar](#) is now available!
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## OST Policy and News

### Wisconsin News& Legislative Updates:

- [DCF Deliver \\$8.7 Million in First Round of Direct Payments to Over 3,000 Child Care Providers Statewide](#)
- Learn more about [Child Care Bridge Payments](#)
- ['A bridge to nowhere': Despite money for child care in the state budget, providers say more is needed](#)
- [What are libraries' future after funding cuts?](#)
- [Mayoral Support of Summer Learning Programs: An Interview with Madison, WI Mayor Rhodes-Conway](#)
- [Loyal School Board approves school child care for 3-year-olds](#)
- [After-school victory shows what's possible](#)
- [Child care needs support to survive](#)

- [Wisconsin's surplus is waning. Next budget will mean 'coming back to Earth.'](#)
- [Shared advocacy and sustainable financing: Making a "big picture" case for community supports](#)
- [HealthWatch: TechGYRLS STEAM Event](#)

## Federal Policy Updates & National News:

- Stay in the Loop: [Afterschool Alliance Update Email](#)
  - **Congressional Activity:**
    - **FY25 funding:** We are still waiting to see if Congress will consider another round of cuts that could affect education. Some key leaders have already said such cuts would be illegal.
    - **FY26 funding:** Congress returns September 2, with the House expected to begin work right away on next year's education funding bill.
  - **Administrative updates:**
    - **Grant Award Notifications:** The U.S. Department of Education has reissued FY25 grant notices without the language that would have excluded undocumented students. Some states are already moving forward with awards, while others are still reviewing.
    - **New Executive Order:** Federal agencies must now have a senior official review new grant opportunities to ensure they align with national priorities.
    - **AmeriCorps funding:** FY25 AmeriCorps funds remain on hold.
    - **Court decisions:** Two federal courts ruled against Department of Education actions that ended certain research and diversity programs, requiring some funding to be restored.
    - **STEM & AI:** The Afterschool STEM Hub submitted comments on the Department of Education's proposal to prioritize artificial intelligence in education.
  - **National News**
    - [Trump's DEI ban in K-12 schools, higher ed ruled 'unlawful' by federal judge](#)
    - [Exclusive Poll: As Support for Schools Plummets, Americans Resist Closing Education Department](#)
    - [AmeriCorps is under siege. What happens in the communities it serves?](#)
    - [Austin teen takes the fight for after-school programs to Washington, D.C.](#)
    - [Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois scrambling to save after-school programs](#)
    - [After\\$chool Funding: Funding Spotlight: Texas Invests in Afterschool](#)
    - [Grant delays putting child care at risk](#)
    - [School may change with new Trump policies](#)
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## Contact Us.

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