



# Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Advocate

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## In this edition of the WOSTA Advocate

- **Advocacy Alert:** The Afterschool Alliance has launched a new website to defend 21st Century Community Learning funding: [Afterschool Works for America](#).
- **Monthly Spotlight:** Milwaukee Recreation's Creative Allies Exhibition
- **OST Toolbox:** July 14-18 is National Summer Learning Week!
- **Taking Action for Afterschool:** Promote your program Postcards
- **WOSTA Updates:** Youth Mental Health First Aid offered in July
- **OST Policy and State News:** Tracy Vruwink on the importance of 21st Century grants
- **Federal News:** Get the latest updates!

## Monthly Program Spotlight

*Creativity was on full display at Milwaukee Recreation's second annual Creative Allies Exhibition!*

In 2025, Milwaukee Recreation partnered with the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design and UW-Milwaukee's Peck School of the Arts to provide young people with additional access to creative opportunities at 10 MPS after-school sites, nearly doubling last year's program reach. [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

- [Every Kid Deserves an Amazing Summer](#): July 14-18 is National Summer Learning Week. Promote the amazing things going on in your summer programs with this toolkit.
- New one-pager on [Physical Activity and Healthy Eating](#)
- Check out these other resources from the [WI Office of Children's Mental Health](#)
- Last chance to enter the 2025 Lights On Afterschool [poster contest](#)!
- Looking for STEM Activities? [Check out this new resource](#).
- Need to know the latest? Join the Policy Pulse call each week- [Register here](#). 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.

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### Taking Action for Afterschool

- [Promote your program with policy makers!](#)

- New interactive resource from DPI: [The impact of 21st Century Community Learning Centers in Wisconsin](#).
  - [New social media lawsuits webpage](#) from the Children's Funding Project.
  - Children's Funding Project Survey: [What Federal Funding Programs for Kids Are You Most Concerned About in the Current Political Climate?](#)
  - Want to know the best times to reach your federal legislator? [Use this calendar](#) to coordinate both your call and a visit.
  - Want to know best practices for hosting a successful site visit? Inviting a lawmaker to tour your afterschool program is one of the best ways to show him or her firsthand the impact of afterschool programming on students and families in their district and/or state. [Use this resource to learn best practices for a legislator visit to your site](#).
  - Join the June 27th Monthly Field Convening Call: [Public Financing in Times of Uncertainty with Children's Funding Project](#).
  - The Afterschool Alliance has launched a new website to defend 21st Century Community Learning Center funding: [Afterschool Works for America](#).
  - Proven to resonate across party lines when advocating for state funding to expand learning opportunities for children and youth. [Six Key Reasons to Invest in Afterschool and Summer Programs](#).
  - Need resources to support your advocacy? Check out our [Afterschool Champions Guide](#).
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## WOSTA Updates

- The Partnership for Children and Youth met on June 5th: [watch the recording](#).
  - **The Benefits of WOSTA Membership:** Becoming a member of the Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance is FREE and members receive discount codes for reduced registration to the Alternative Pathway courses. [Link to Join](#).
  - WOSTA is offering a Youth Mental Health First Aid training in July. For more information and to register visit our course [landing page](#).
  - Check out all [WOSTA calendar events right here](#)
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## OST Policy and News

### Wisconsin News& Legislative Updates:

- [Tracy Vruwink On Impacts of Federal Funding Cuts in Nekoosa](#)
- DPI launches [new website](#) to track federal funding impact on Wisconsin schools, libraries.
- [Wisconsinites' Opinions About & Experiences With Child Care: Evidence From The WisconSays Survey](#).
- [Wisconsin charities celebrate order restoring AmeriCorps funding, but uncertainty remains](#).
- [JFC's Underwhelming Investment in Public Education](#)

- [Watch Senator Baldwin](#) advocate for afterschool programs as she questions Secretary McMahon on education funding.
- [Dept. of Public Instruction: Free summer meals available for Wisconsin kids through DPI nutrition program.](#)
- [Marshfield Clinic gives grants to 25 schools for 'Social Emotional Learning Life Tools' program.](#)
- [We are choosing a bleak future for Wisconsin children.](#)
- [Bill rewards employers for child care aid. Providers say it won't fix crisis.](#)
- [Wauwatosa parents want more state funding for special education and mental health services.](#)

### Federal Policy Updates & National News:

- Appropriations, rescissions, and reconciliation: [An Update.](#)
- Support for federal afterschool and summer funding through 21st CCLC remains strong with more than 50 House and Senate members sending letters to the Appropriations Committees last month in support of increased 21st CCLC funding.
- Since the President's 'skinny' budget proposal came out on May 2, more than 16,100 advocates sent more than 48,500 emails/calls to Congress in support of 21stCCLC through [afterschoolworksforamerica.](#)
- Stay in the Loop: [Afterschool Alliance Update Email](#)

### Congressional Activity

- Federal Funding Update (FY26): **Congress is working on next year's budget.** So far, the bill that funds education, health, and labor programs (including afterschool and summer learning) hasn't received its funding amount yet—but it's expected to face deep cuts compared to last year.
- It's important to help raise awareness about the value of afterschool and summer programs, especially among members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees:
  - [House members](#)
  - [Senate members](#)
- A temporary funding measure (CR) may keep things going into fall or winter, but final decisions are still ahead.

### Administrative Updates

- **Congress is still waiting on a Rescissions letter** from the administration regarding education funding that has already been appropriated for fiscal year 2025. The letter is expected in July.
- States are still awaiting state allocations for 21st CCLC from ED to states. State's have received Title 1 and Title IV Part A state allocation amounts. As of earlier this week, ED is saying allocations to SEAs will be coming this week or next week. SEAs are supposed to have access to FY25 21st CCLC funds in July.
- [The Trump Administration Proposes Zero Dollars for Afterschool and Summer Learning Next Year. Congress Must Prevent This](#)

## National News

- [Summer Programs for Kids at Risk Due to Trump Grant Funding Cuts.](#)
- [Tutoring, After-School, and Other Student Services at Risk as Trump Cuts AmeriCorps.](#)
- [New report highlights the need to expand access to afterschool opportunities.](#)
- [Out-of-School Programs' Role in Reversing Chronic Absenteeism.](#)
- [After-school programs, a boon for learning, could face Trump cuts.](#)
- [Education Department eyes program cuts, consolidations in FY26 budget plan.](#)
- [Proposal to cut Programs That Serve Meals When School is Out.](#)
- [Lights Out for Afterschool Programs.](#)
- [Senators object to Trump push to ax Education Department programs for low-income students.](#)



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