

A banner with a dark teal background and a magenta-to-teal gradient. A large, stylized white 'W' is on the left. A magenta arc curves across the top right. The text 'Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Advocate' is in white, bold, sans-serif font.

# Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Advocate

## Time Sensitive Information:

- You're invited to join the next Wisconsin Partnership for Children and Youth call on **December 11 at 11:00am**. We'll share state and national updates as well as opportunities for afterschool and summer program advocacy. [Register Here](#).
- **Addressing Food Insecurity Grant:** Marshfield Clinic and Security Health Plan are launching a \$150,000 funding initiative to support innovative, community-led projects that address food insecurity and promote healthier lives across Wisconsin. [Applicant Information](#). Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. CST on Monday, November 24, 2025.

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## In this edition of the WOSTA Advocate

- **Monthly Spotlight:** Green Bay OST Programs
- **OST Toolbox:** New grant opportunity
- **Taking Action for Afterschool:** Policy-makers that impact OST
- **WOSTA Updates:** Marshfield Clinic Food Security Grant
- **OST Policy and State News:** Decreased state funding for public schools
- **Federal News:** 21st CCLC moving to Department of Labor

## Monthly Program Spotlight



### Green Bay Area School District OST Programs

With 11 sites serving nearly 800 students, Green Bay Area Public School District is delivering vital afterschool programming to its community! The incredible team behind these efforts—Amy Fish and Sara Rathack—hosted a visit at Nicolet Elementary for a firsthand look at one of these amazing programs. [Read more on our blog.](#)

### Featured Program Sign-Up

#### The OST Toolbox

- **Grant opportunity:** *Advancing Equity in Adolescent Health: Evidence-Based Sexuality Ed in Youth-Serving Organizations.* The Wisconsin DHS, Division of Public Health (DPH), announces the availability of funds to support local education agencies (LEA), after-school programming, child welfare/juvenile justice settings in implementing sexual and reproductive health programming for youth. [Learn more.](#)
- Struggling with some challenging behaviors? [Dive into this 5-minute video](#) from WOSTA's very own Jennifer Smith about guiding behaviors. It provides practical tips for educators and program coordinators to support children's growth and manage behaviors appropriately.
- [Helping Kids Craft a Healthy Relationship with Tech](#)
- Did you miss the new After 3pm Report? [Check out this great fact sheet](#) about afterschool data in Wisconsin. This one-pager is excellent for helping parents, board members and your community understand how important OST programs are to your community.

- [See the full After 3 PM Report](#)
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## **Taking Action for Afterschool**

- [Who are the OST decision-makers who influence funding for your programs?](#) Sustaining your afterschool program relies on outreach and relationship-building with leaders who can help expand your community connections and support. Collaboration takes time and a team—there's no need to do it alone.
  - **Need a quick primer** on best practices for inviting legislators and others to your program? [Check out these slides](#).
  - [Advocating vs. Lobbying](#): Know the difference to make sure you are following the law.
  - **Want to know the best times to reach your federal legislator?** [Use this calendar](#) to coordinate both your call and a visit.
  - **Need resources to support your advocacy?** Check out our [Afterschool Champions Guide](#).
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## **WOSTA Updates**

- **Addressing Food Insecurity Grant:** Marshfield Clinic and Security Health Plan are launching a \$150,000 funding initiative to support innovative, community-led projects that address food insecurity and promote healthier lives across Wisconsin. [Applicant Information](#).
    - **Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. CST on Monday, November 24, 2025.** Awardees will be notified on Wednesday, December 10, 2025.
  - Join us in December for two impactful learning opportunities designed for OST program staff:
    - ✓ **December 2:** *Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Training*. Learn how to recognize warning signs and connect individuals to the help they need.
    - ✓ **December 10:** *No One Goes Hungry: Community Programs Making a Difference*. Discover how OST programs are tackling hunger and making a positive impact in their communities.
  - Check out the WOSTA [Events Calendar](#) to register for these upcoming trainings and other events.
  - Two courses have been fully converted to an on-demand format: ***Trauma Informed Care in OST Programs*** and ***Positive Youth Development for the Youth Work Professional***. Visit the [WOSTA course page](#) for more information on these courses - and to register.
  - [Sign up for the WOSTA email list](#) to receive regular updates on what's happening in afterschool.
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## **WI Partnership for Children & Youth Updates**

- The **Partnership call on December 11th** will include comments from the Assistant Superintendent, and will also feature guests discussing

how afterschool programs are stepping up to provide food security to their communities. [Registration link](#).

- The WI Partnership met with its first cohort **Community Connectors Fellows** at the OST Conference to begin their 7 month OST advocacy journey.
  - Check out the [Year One activities](#) of the WI Partnership
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## **OST Policy and News**

### **Wisconsin News & Legislative Updates:**

- **WOSTA and The Partnership for Children & Youth** [summary of some Lights on Afterschool Events](#).
- [Wisconsin Assembly passes Republican school consolidation bills](#)
- [DPI data shows general aid decreases for public school districts, increases in voucher enrollment](#)
- [Wisconsin teachers outraged after special education reimbursement rates lower than pledged in state budget](#)

### **Federal Policy Updates:**

- **Stay in the Loop:** [Afterschool Alliance Update Email](#)
- **The U.S. Department of Education announced a major restructuring on November 18, 2025, that shifts key responsibilities for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) to the Department of Labor (DOL).** While funding and core functions are expected to remain intact, the change raises important questions for afterschool and summer programs about how oversight and support may evolve.
  - **Key points include:**
    - 21st CCLC and several other K–12 programs will now be administered through a new ED–DOL partnership.
    - States will continue to receive 21st CCLC funds, but DOL—not ED—will manage grant competitions and provide technical assistance.
      - ED will retain statutory oversight, but federal law currently designates ED as the home for 21st CCLC, which may prompt legal challenges.
      - DOL’s workforce-focused mission differs from ED’s educational mission, raising concerns about alignment with afterschool and summer learning goals.
      - It remains unclear how national evaluation, guidance, and technical assistance for afterschool programs will be affected.
  - The Afterschool Alliance will monitor implementation to protect high-quality support for afterschool and summer programs.
- Congress ended the 43-day government shutdown with a funding deal that keeps key child nutrition and education programs stable for now. While most agencies are funded only through January 30, 2026, several full-year appropriations were included, and early signals for

FY26 appropriations are generally positive for afterschool programs.

**Below are the highlights most relevant to afterschool and summer learning:**

- The shutdown ended with a package that includes a continuing resolution through Jan. 30, 2026 for most federal agencies.
- The Agriculture appropriations bill, funded through Sept. 30, 2026, includes:
  - \$37.8 billion for Child Nutrition Programs, including Afterschool Meals (CACFP) and Summer Food Service.
  - \$10 million for school equipment grants and \$5 million for Farm to School.
- **Senate Democrats and Republicans** agreed to hold a vote in December on extending enhanced ACA subsidies, which affects family affordability and stability.
- For FY26, the Senate plans debate on a four-bill appropriations package covering LHHS-Education, which keeps 21st CCLC and most education programs at FY24 levels (per the bipartisan committee bill from July)- *Continued outreach to House members on appropriations is recommended.*
- A National STEM Day Resolution was introduced in the House with strong afterschool language.
- A new **Food Research & Action Center** report on afterschool and summer meals participation will be released soon.

**National News:**

- [Education Department work to be outsourced](#)
- [As Shutdown Ends, Education Dept. Resumes Efforts to Downsize](#)
- [For parents, cost biggest hurdle to child care](#)
- [The school calendar wasn't built for working parents and it shows](#)
- [New Survey Shows 440,000 More Tutors, Mentors Supporting Students – But It's Not Enough](#)
- [Why Safeguarding in Youth Organizations Matters More Now](#)



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