

The national youth-serving non-profit organizations listed below request the following supports in any additional COVID-19 relief legislation to protect the health and well-being of our nation's youth while we navigate this public health crisis.

Thank you for your work on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. We ask that you consider including additional supports in COVID-19 relief legislation that will better enable youth serving organizations in and out-of-school, including non-profits, school and faith-based, local government, and private providers, to assist in our nation's response to this public health crisis and to sustain the long-term viability of critical services for youth. Additionally, as schools continue to close, first responders, medical professionals, and working families need their children, including school-aged children, to be well cared for during this time.

Due to this public health crisis, increased burdens on youth serving organizations are severe and the supports that are needed to mitigate the long-term impacts on our organizations and the millions of youth we serve include: financial recovery to minimize the economic loss to the employer and employees, emergency program disruption reimbursements, emergency childcare services, funding to offset costs of sanitizing/deep cleaning of facilities, and educational and nutrition services to youth who would normally be in school.

Financial Recovery

- Allow national youth serving organizations, including non-profits, those representing school and faith-based, local government, and private providers, to mitigate the longer-term harm this public health crisis will have on our youth by allowing them to disseminate funds directly to local community-based organizations. The burden and efficiency of disseminating such funds across the country would no longer be the responsibility of the local organizations and would diminish the stress of navigating systems for communities already in crisis.
- Include non-profit youth serving out-of-school organizations in economic recovery funding, to offset increased costs and demand for services arising, and to mitigate costs incurred, due to shutdowns including, lost program revenue and lost fundraising revenue. Program disruptions including Federal program reimbursements of 21st Century Community Learning Centers and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families among others 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.

Childcare and Education Program Impact

- Allow direct assistance programs to be based on enrollment, and not attendance, and allowing reimbursement for a wide range of activities including professional development, virtual learning, and more, focusing on critical programs such as the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.
 - Afterschool programs this fall and summer learning programs this summer will need to be able to accommodate more children, and additional programs will need to be supported, in order to ensure quality learning opportunities are available for those who

are most at risk during spring school closures, including those who may be particularly vulnerable to the inefficiencies of virtual learning, such as English learners. A short-term increase of \$500 million for the 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) in a stimulus package to accommodate that greater need through the summer and next school year would allow an additional 500,000 students in grades pre-K through 12th to gain access to programs.

- We request funding that does not require a state match to provide families with safe childcare alternatives, such as non-profit out-of-school time providers during school closures in response to the public health crisis. Organizations are providing emergency childcare services in areas where schools are closed, including for first responders and healthcare professionals to meet the community needs.
- Provide funding support for the purchase of additional supplies or services necessary to keep facilities clean, safe and sanitary and provide essential training and support for staff.
- Provide funding supports for virtual and online learning opportunities to continue education and youth mentoring opportunities to minimize the gap in services, including allowing virtual learning as an allowable reimbursement for grants like 21st CCLC.
 - Support resilient infrastructure like Broadband internet connectivity so our youth can continue learning and stay connected to their peer and adult support systems while at home.

Filling Gaps in Meal Services for Youth

- Waive the area eligibility requirement for the summer and afterschool nutrition programs. Should an organization need to relocate its services, the new site would not have to meet the current 50% threshold of area children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.
- Provide children with multiple meals and meal supplements at a time, so that physical visits are limited, and social distancing is supported.
- Allow administrative flexibility in meal procurement if there is a disruption with existing contractors or vendors.

Sincerely,

Afterschool Alliance
After-School All-Stars
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Campfire USA
Coalition for Community Schools
Communities In Schools
Every Hour Counts
Forum for Youth Investment
Girls Inc.

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
National Afterschool Association
National League of Cities
National Recreation and Park Association
National Summer Learning Association
Search Institute
United Way Worldwide
YMCA of the USA

