



QUESTION 1:

The 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) initiative is a federally-funded program that provides free high-quality afterschool, before school, and summer programming to children in high-poverty areas. Students who participate in 21st CCLC programs often show improvements in their math and English grades, as well as in classroom behavior and participation. Additionally, 21st CCLC and other affordable out-of-school time (OST) programs alleviate the burden of afterschool care for tens of thousands of Arizona families. Only 5% of Arizona children who are eligible to participate in a 21st CCLC program are currently enrolled, due largely to limited federal funding, which is currently at less than 50% of its authorized level. Do you support continued funding of the 21st CCLC program, and if so, at what level?

Background Information:

1. Poverty can have a significant adverse affect on a child's academic achievement.¹
2. A report released by the Census Bureau in 2013 put Arizona's poverty rate at 18.7% and our child poverty rate at 27%.²
3. Students who participate in 21st CCLC programs show improvements in their math and English grades, as well as in classroom behavior and participation.³
4. Currently, **483,595** Arizona kids are eligible to participate in a 21st CCLC program, but just **25,045** students currently attend, due in large part to limited federal funding.³
5. The 21st CCLC initiative is currently funded at less than half the authorized amount.⁴
6. If fully funded at the authorized amount, the number of Arizona children served by 21st CCLC would more than double.³

¹ Lacour, M. and Tissington, L.D. (May 2011). *The effects of poverty on academic achievement*.

http://www.academicjournals.org/article/article1379765941_Lacour%20and%20Tissington.pdf

² U.S. Census Bureau. (September 2013). *2012 America Community Survey*.

http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_12_1YR_DP03&prodType=table

³ Afterschool Alliance, The. (May 2014). *Afterschool by the Numbers in Arizona*.

http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/states_docs/pdfs/2014/Arizona_Fact_Sheet.pdf

⁴ Afterschool Alliance, The. (May 2014). *21st Century Community Learning Centers: Providing Afterschool and Summer Learning Support to Communities Nationwide*.

http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/challenge2014/21stCCLCOverview_FINAL.pdf



QUESTION 2:

Jobs in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) professions are becoming a larger share of the job market, and the demand for skilled workers in these fields is increasing. However, many students graduating from high school are not prepared for the college-level math and science required for the vast majority of these jobs. With young people spending less than 20% of their waking hours in school, out-of-school time programs are essential for increasing interest in and aptitude for STEM – and are proven to do just that. The recently introduced **Supporting Afterschool STEM Act** will create a grant process to support afterschool/out-of-school STEM programs. Will you pledge to support legislation that provides funding for out-of-school time STEM programs?

Background Information:

1. According to the US Department of Commerce, by 2018 the number of American jobs in STEM fields is projected to have grown 17% since 2008, far outpacing the average job growth in non-STEM fields.⁵
2. It is also projected that by 2018, 80% of STEM jobs will go to those with an Associate's, Bachelor's, or post-graduate degree.⁶
3. Meanwhile, the current number of high school students who will graduate prepared for college-level math and science is less than 50% nationally.⁷
4. On average, Arizona students spend just 20% of their waking hours in the classroom each year.⁸
5. A 2013 report by 4-H, a leader in quality OST STEM programming both nationally and in Arizona, showed that 71% of 4-H science participants reported that science is now one of their favorite subjects, with 59% reporting that they would like to have a job in the science field.⁹

⁵ U.S. Department of Commerce. (July 2011). *STEM: Good Jobs Now and For the Future*.

<http://www.esa.doc.gov/Reports/stem-good-jobs-now-and-future>

⁶ Carnevale, Anthony P. (October 2011). *STEM: Science Technology Engineering Mathematics*.

<https://georgetown.app.box.com/s/0th9mk8sjt7p9b32ea74>

⁷ National Math and Science Initiative (January 2014). *STEM Education & Workforce*.

<https://nms.org/Portals/0/Docs/STEM%20Crisis%20Page%20Stats%20and%20References.pdf>

⁸ Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence and Valley of the Sun United Way. (October 2013). *School's Out, Make It Count: Arizona Quality Standards for Out-of-School Time Programs*.

<http://azafterschool.org/download/schools-out-make-it-count-full-english/>

⁹ Mielke, M. and Butler, A. (March 2013). *4-H Science Initiative: Young Engagement, Attitudes, and Knowledge Study*. <http://www.4-h.org/About-4-H/Research/PSA-YEAK-Year-3-Report.dwn>



QUESTION 3:

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is an initiative that began in the 1990s to assist low-income families in obtaining child care, including through out-of-school time programs, so that parents can work or receive job training. In Arizona, these subsidies are administered through the Department of Economic Security. In FY 2013, over 25,000 Arizona children were served by these subsidies; however, over 6,000 children who are eligible for services remain on the waitlist. Without child care assistance, families are often forced to lose time at work, go on welfare, or leave their children in low-quality and less stable care. As a Member of Congress, will you support continued funding for the CCDF, and if so, at what level?

Background Information:

1. In FY 2013, over 25,696 Arizona children benefited from child care programs administered by the Department of Economic Security.¹⁰
2. In 2009, due to budget constraints, DES began placing eligible families and children on a waitlist for these services.¹¹
3. As of March 2014, there are 6,445 children on the waitlist.¹¹
4. Low-income families who lack child care assistance may go into debt, return to welfare, choose lower-quality and less stable child care, lose time from work, or be forced to choose between paying for child care and paying for other necessities, such as rent or clothing.¹²
5. In FY 2013, the total federal funds allocated for the CCDF were \$5.14 billion¹³; the amount requested by the Department of Health and Human Services was \$6 billion¹⁴.

¹⁰ Arizona Department of Economic Security (July 2013). *Annual JLBC Child Care Report For The Period July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013*.

<https://www.azdes.gov/InternetFiles/Reports/pdf/2013%20Child%20Care%20Report%20to%20JLBC.pdf>

¹¹ Arizona Department of Economic Security (March 2014). *Child Care Waiting List*.

<https://www.azdes.gov/main.aspx?menu=128&id=11770>

¹² Greenberg, M.H. (2007). *Next Steps for Federal Child Care Policy*.

<http://futureofchildren.org/publications/journals/article/index.xml?journalid=33&articleid=67§ionid=353>

¹³ US Department of Health and Human Services (July 2013) *FY13 CCDF Final Allocations (Including Reallotted Funds)* <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/fy13-ccdf-final-allocations-including-reallotted-funds>

¹⁴ US Department of Health and Human Services (2012) *Administration for Children and Families: Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees* <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/CCDF%20final.pdf>