



Invest in Education and National Service

As the 111th Congress considers its FY 2010 budget and appropriations measures, Citizen Schools, a leading national education initiative, calls on Congress to ensure the future health of our nation by investing in education and national service. A high-quality education increases future earnings, strengthens civic bonds, and is essential to prepare a well-trained workforce for a global economy.

Congress can support innovative and high-quality education in its FY 2010 budget and appropriations by expanding and strengthening 21st Century Learning Centers; creating an Innovation Fund that supports proven education reforms; and funding national service programs that can address many of the needs faced by our nation's schools.

Increase Funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers

21st CCLC funding should be increased at least to the currently authorized amount of \$2.5 billion, and the program strengthened by targeting a percentage of new funds toward high-performing, high-quality programs.

- The 21st CCLC initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to afterschool programs. While the No Child Left Behind Act authorizes the program to be funded at \$2.5 billion, FY 2009 spending is only \$1.1 billion—which is a \$50 million increase from FY 2008.
- Studies show that quality afterschool programs increase students' academic performance while providing much needed supervision in the out-of-school hours.
- The Afterschool Alliance found that, in a November 2008 poll, 76% of those surveyed want the Congress to increase funding for afterschool programs.

Establish an Innovation Fund

For FY 2010, the Administration proposes a \$650 million education Innovation Fund, seeking to extend the fund created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This fund would:

- Allow ED to invest in school systems and nonprofit organizations that have a track record of success, and have the capacity and desire to implement new approaches or take their operations to a national scale.
- Leverage private dollars from the philanthropic sector and address the lack of access to capital that limits the growth of many education entrepreneurs who bring proven results to communities.



Grow the Federal Investment in National Service

For FY 2010, the Administration recommends \$1.13 billion for the Corporation for National Service (CNCS)—\$241 million more than the FY 2009 allocation. This investment will allow more Americans to serve and build the capacity of the nonprofit sector to find innovative solutions to the most pressing problems in education and other areas.

- Between FY04-08, federal funding for CNCS was cut by \$78.6 million. Programs struggled to do more with less, and the slow disinvestment prevented them from growing to meet demand.
- In today's economy, investing in national service is wise. Funding will add much needed capacity to community and faith-based organizations that must address a spiking demand for services.
- Participants in many national service programs receive training that prepares them for future employment and Education Awards that can make higher education more attainable.

About Citizen Schools

Citizen Schools is a leading national education initiative that uniquely mobilizes thousands of adult volunteers to help improve student achievement by teaching skill-building apprenticeships afterschool. These programs blend these real-world learning projects with rigorous academic and leadership development activities, preparing students in the middle grades for success in high school, college, the workforce, and civic life. Citizen Schools operates in 44 schools in California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, and Texas, serving an estimated 3,800 students and engaging 3,200 community volunteers.

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