

Notes from CASN Policy Committee Call – 5/15/12
(Previous call: 11/27/12)

Welcome to new Policy Committee Co-Chair Jessica Gunderson, Senior Policy Associate at the Partnership for Children and Youth.

- State Budget Updates
 - Since Prop 30 was passed this year this is more money on the table. After School state funding (protected by Prop 49) has been immune to the budget cuts. Governor Brown proposed permanent elimination of most categorical funds to allow more money for low income high need students, but that doesn't apply to AS given Prop 49 protections
 - Child Care- \$1 billion has been cut over the past five years; this year's budget doesn't propose more cuts but doesn't restore money lost at this point. The Governor does not plan on restoring this money, though he does propose some increase to education. The Legislature has until June 15th and Governor has until June 30th to officially pass the budget, we will see what will get signed.
- State Legislative Updates
 - This hasn't been the most active year for legislation in California, however, there are a few bills that touch on after school programs:
 - AB 626 (Nancy Skinner): comprehensive nutrition bill- addresses the issue found last year as the federal meals program was taken up in schools, all legislation related to food in afterschool focused on snacks only. Aimed at the fact that the statute needed catching up. Focuses on the nutritional standard front, originally drafted to have meals comply with state nutritional standards but rewritten to apply federal nutritional standards for meals. Some additional changes may be incorporated to provide that ASES and ASSETs applicants must certify that they will provide snacks or meals, rather than just snacks as current law provides. Has been moving easily through the Assembly.
 - AB 464 (Hannah Beth Jackson w/ the Y sponsoring): addresses anti-obesity campaign out of First Lady's office. The goal is to establish standards/goals related to healthy food, fitness, screen time—originally prescriptive saying what you have to do, however, it wasn't taken very well so they will be loosening the language a bit. This is a 2 year bill, so won't be pursued until next year.
 - AB 547: (Salas) Developed originally by California Department of Education's After School Division and co-sponsored by Partnership for Children and Youth, focuses on getting career exploration to satisfy an academic element of the ASSETs

program within the 21st Century statute. The bill already sailed through the assembly and there appears to be no opposition.

- Administrative Updates
 - 21st CCLC initial announcements of funding made; \$260 million sought [CORRECTION: Updated data says \$246 million instead] and \$45 million available, more than 5:1 ratio. For Supplemental funding, \$25 million sought, but only about \$4 million awarded.
 - Changing perspectives on the impact of the federal sequestration for 21st century funding availability, originally we thought it was an 8% cut of programs across the board and wouldn't impact this cohort yet the department thinks it may, however, this depends on the letter they receive from the federal Department of Education. The current consensus is that the sequestration will have an impact yet there was enough money saved from years past that would still allow the disbursement of \$45 million.
- Afterschool Alliance (AA)- Federal Updates
 - Appropriations for 21st CCLC FY 2014-President proposes \$100 million increase in federal budget proposal opening up allowing uses to be for a longer school day and school year as part of 21st CCLC. Given the overall budget environment it will be difficult to get.
 - Currently, there are big differences between the House and Senate budget resolutions and they need to be resolved. Due to challenges, it is likely there will be a Continuing Resolution instead of a compromise.
 - Sequestration FY 2013: 21st CCLC has been reduced by \$60 million overall, 5% cut, state table from Department of Education shows decrease in CA 21st of \$1.9 million.
 - It is important right now to inform policymakers that the sequester is not easy and has presented a great challenge to after school providers. So far, many Senators and Representatives have signed and sent a letter to appropriators on the importance of maintaining afterschool funding. To this end, AA is collecting stories from the field about the impact the sequester is having on after school programs.
 - Elementary and Secondary Education Act-talk about moving forward of reauthorization of ESEA in House and Senate. We expect to see a mark up and language circulated, on the Senate side June 11th when they'll get in details and when they want a new mark up (includes 21st CCLC). In Senate, expanding learning time conversation likely to come up again, though AA prefers not to see it in 21st (should be title 1, school improvement grants, etc.) but as it moved forward we'll weigh in on community partners, etc. On House side, we see the same thing

they did on the last time, block grants, not likely to be language specific to 21st but will consolidate with other like programs.

- Next steps: outreach to Appropriations, continued bolstering Senator Boxer-good to get more messages to say we appreciate the work she's doing, continued outreach (and to House Appropriations Committee).
- 21st CCLC Reauthorization
 - On February 14, S.326, federal legislation to reauthorize 21st CCLC was introduced into the Senate by a bipartisan group of legislators led by Senators Boxer (D-CA), Murkowski (R-AK) and Murray (D-WA). Named the Afterschool for America's Children Act, the bill number, 326, symbolizes the hours of 3 to 6 PM when young people should have quality learning and enrichment opportunities.
- Other:
 - Child care development funds: pulling of funds away from school age care to support early care. Happening on funds available to vouchers for families and funds used for quality of school age care programs. We see a need for quality in school aged care programs and a need for early care but not at the cost of school age care.
 - AmeriCorps/VISTA-battles on the house side, keep an eye on and be aware.
 - The President has also proposed consolidating funding for STEM programs (from NASA, Dept. of Labor, etc.) into a single STEM-focused funding stream. This could prove problematic for STEM programs through the informal education community that are receiving these funds through earmarks.
 - Federal Immigration Bill: Though complex and politically sensitive, there may be potential funding for STEM education through fees collected from H-1B visas.
- Advocacy Strategy and CA Targets

Afterschool advocates are preparing messaging to:

- Maintain 21st CCLC. We would love to increase funding, but must prevent cuts first.
- Tell stories about the damage from the sequester.
- Appropriations is not the right place to modify language around increasing the school day and/or school year.

CA Targets

- Sen. Feinstein: Need to do outreach on appropriations
- Sen. Boxer: Need to bolster issue leadership

- Rep. George Miller, Rep. Duncan Hunter, and Rep. Buck McKeon are all ESEA targets due to committee assignment and leadership
- Mary Jo- Regional Lead Update
 - Agenda from Regional Lead meeting did not have legislative or policy updates. Focus are more on staff development, Y4Y website and 5th module for regional leads in EL training.
 - After the meeting, a group of Regional Leads met with CDE ASD Director Michael Funk. The group of Leads offered a list of 11 various ideas and questions regarding after school, including direct vs. indirect services, incentives guidelines, double funded sites, charter schools getting full grants even though not yet full-sized, parallel programs and early release, and more. Michael said he would respond soon.