



For Immediate Release
July 18, 2025

Washington, DC—Reporting indicates that the Department of Education is planning to release the previously withheld funds from the 21st Century Community Learnings Centers program. This program provides \$1.33 billion for summer and afterschool programs.

The following is a statement from Aaron Dworkin, CEO of the National Summer Learning Association:

“We are excited to close National Summer Learning week with the good news that the 21st Century Community Learning Center funds are expected to be released next week. We are incredibly grateful to the many Members of Congress—from across the aisle—who spoke out about the importance of 21st Century funds and out of school time. These dollars are absolutely critical, not just for academic success, but for keeping kids safe and helping families make it through the summer.

But let’s be clear: this delay should never have happened. Summer programs already stretch every dollar. Many are working with minimal staff, limited resources, and growing needs. The delay in releasing these funds without warning or explanation caused instability, forced real cuts to programming, and left kids and families hanging.

Releasing the funds now is an important start, but the Department of Education must act urgently to release all remaining withheld funds, across every stream that supports out-of-school time and education. These investments aren’t optional, they are lifelines. Lifelines for summer, learning, for working families, and for communities doing everything they can to build a better future for kids.”

About the National Summer Learning Association

The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) is the only national nonprofit exclusively focused on closing the opportunity gaps by increasing access to high-quality summer learning opportunities for all of America’s students.

NSLA supports, trains and collaborates with a network of 35,000+ leaders representing school districts, youth serving government agencies, non-profit organizations and corporate partners all focused on improving the lives of young people and their families.

For more information, visit www.summerlearning.org.

Media Contact for NSLA:

Lauren Krattiger, lkrattiger@summerlearning.org

###