



## Ensuring all kids have access to fun, fulfilling summer enrichment programs

For millions of kids, summer is marked by camps and other enrichment activities that help them reset mentally, socially, and emotionally and prepare for success at school in the fall. But too many kids and their families get left behind as many high-quality summer programs either do not have enough slots or are cost prohibitive. These kids not only miss out on the experiences their peers have, but after spending months with little support or resources, they are often worse off by the time it's back-to-school. Summers are a formative time in a child's development, and federal support is urgently needed to help ensure every kid has a fun and fulfilling summer – not just the ones who can afford it.

In 2021, Congress passed the *American Rescue Plan*, which required states to set aside one percent of all education-related funding to promote summer enrichment programming. From that relatively small amount, states across the country expanded camps for hundreds of thousands of kids and provided exciting programs for families, like making museums free throughout the summer. The *American Rescue Plan* serves as a proof point for the success of providing federal support for summer programming, but the funding has run out in most states.

The **Summer for All Act** would authorize \$4 billion over four years and \$1 billion each fiscal year after to fund two new competitive grant programs managed by the Department of Health and Human Services to expand access to high-quality summer enrichment opportunities. The bill also authorizes the Secretary to reserve up to 5% of funds to conduct data collection and analysis to understand gaps in summer enrichment opportunities for youth and how to improve access to and the quality of summer programs overall.

- **Summer Enrichment Expansion Grant:** Helps community-based organizations expand the programs they offer in the summer, with a priority for programs that:
  - Provide programming and transportation free of charge to low-income participants
  - Expand access to underserved and rural communities
  - Partner with local schools to identify and enroll at-risk students, including those who were chronically absent the previous school year
  - Integrate healthy nutrition as part of their programming, as well as incorporate activities that support the physical and mental health of participants
  - Provide safe, healthy, and supportive environments, and help participants develop relationship-building skills as well as their social and emotional skills
- **Summer Programming State Grant:** Supports states in addressing gaps in summer programming in sustainable ways, along with providing innovative summer programming opportunities for kids and their families, with priority for states that:
  - Organize state-level teams, comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders, to determine the biggest gaps in summer enrichment programming within their state and develop a sustainable plan to leverage grant funding to address those gaps
  - Utilize funding for innovative programming that goes beyond providing expanded slots at established summer programs (i.e. making museums free for families throughout the summer)
  - Build partnerships between local schools, municipalities, and community-based organizations to maximize the impact of existing summer programs among at-risk students