



FY 2023 Appropriations Support for America's Youth

For over 160 years, Boys & Girls Clubs have navigated times of prosperity and tragedy to not only support kids and teens but also to meet the larger needs of their communities. Boys & Girls Clubs are committed now more than ever to ensure Club members, families, staff, and communities have the resources and support they need to navigate these challenging times. Clubs know firsthand the strength of public-private partnerships and the monumental difference they can make in the lives of the over 4.3 million youth nearly 4,700 Clubs across the country serve in a typical year.



Every dollar invested in Boys & Girls Clubs **returns \$9.60** in current and future earnings and cost-savings to their communities.

Through the ongoing support of elected officials, Clubs have positively impacted youth throughout the nation. Every day, Clubs provide youth with access to vital programming and services around jobs, academics and mentoring that give them the tools they need to define their own success.



And we have the results to prove it:

- **65%** of Club teens 9-12 grade said they feel like they have the skills needed to be **successful in a job** while **55%** said they have had **work experience** in the last 12 months.¹
- **Nearly half** of regular participating students at 21st Century Community Learning Centers **improved their math (48%)** and **English (48%) grades**.²
- Young people who meet regularly with a mentor are **40% more likely** to graduate on time and **55% more likely** to enroll in college.³
- **76%** of Club members (ages 12 to 17) report earning As and Bs, compared to **67%** of their peers nationally.



Policy Ask

These results are made possible by the support of elected officials. We ask that you continue to champion youth with Boys & Girls Clubs by **supporting full FY2023 Appropriations requests** for the Career Pathways for Youth Grant, 21st Century Community Learning Centers and the National Youth Mentoring Initiative so that Clubs continue to help America's youth achieve their true potential.

¹ BGCA National Youth Outcomes Initiative. 2021.

² Afterschool Alliance 2018-19 Performance Report, http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolsnack/Research-brief-Academic-social-emotional-benefits-of-21st_03-29-2021.cfm

³ 2021 National Youth Outcomes Initiative, Boys & Girls Clubs of America. <https://bgca.org/about-us/club-impact>

Jobs

Boys & Girls Clubs provide youth with access to programs and experiences that help youth explore their interests, develop their skills and apply their knowledge to real-world work experience.



Need

The Brookings Institute reports **4.5 million** young people aren't in school and don't have a job. While Statista also reports unemployment among teenagers (16 to 19 years) stood at **12.7%** in June 2019.⁴

Club Spotlight

Boys & Girls Clubs of King County, Washington operates a career development program called YouthForce, which connects local companies with talented youth through on-the-job experiences that are supported by individualized training and coaching through the Club. In 2017, YouthForce served over 1,000 youth through events and workshops focused on career and post-high school planning, while also providing over 150 youth with internship opportunities. Local companies providing these internship opportunities included: Seattle Seahawks, Sounders FC, Walmart, Alaska Airlines, Acumatica, and Amazon. In 2016, of the 112 who had internships, 66 obtained post-internship employment or pursued additional education.



Policy Ask

Fund the Department of Labor Career Pathways for Youth Grant Program at \$20M to support the work of out-of-school-time organizations in preparing youth and teens for career success after high school graduation. Activities could include social, essential, and employability skill development, early career exposure and exploration, job readiness and certifications, summer jobs, year-round job opportunities, and apprenticeships.

Academics

21st Century Community Learning Centers are currently the only Federal funding dedicated to programming in the afterschool hours and provide essential support for kids and families who need it most.



Need

By the end of the 2020-21 school year, students were an average **five months behind in math** and **four months behind in reading**.⁵

Club Spotlight

The Boys & Girls Club of Collier County receives 21st Century Community Learning Center funding to offer programming to youth from two Collier County Public Schools. The program operates 2.5 hours per day Monday through Friday throughout the school year. The Club also offers programming through Miracle 1 and Miracle 2 After-School Programs which offer programming to 751 children (grades 3-12) at school sites. The Club provides expanded academic and personal enrichment activities to support and enhance students' academic achievement and personal growth. The program offers youth project and problem-based programming in Reading and Language Arts, Math, Science, Arts and Music, Physical Education, Character Education, Drug prevention, and Tutoring.



Policy Ask

Increase funding for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program by \$500 million to support and fully integrate social, emotional learning, and skill development into out-of-school-time programming and begin to tackle the unfinished learning caused by COVID-19.

Mentoring

From connecting youth to a program that deepens their interests to sparking their curiosity in a future career field, inspiring mentors at Boys & Girls Clubs help kids and teens explore their full potential.



Need

1 in 3 young people in the U.S. will reach the age of 19 **without having a mentor of any kind**.¹

Club Spotlight

Over its 17-year history implementing the OJJDP mentoring program, Wakeman Boys & Girls Club in Connecticut has consistently adapted to maintain quality mentoring services for its members. Through their use of teen and adult mentors, the Club has implemented its program in a way that benefits not only participating youth but also the surrounding community. One of the defining aspects of the program is its use of teen mentors from local high schools who work with mentees in a one-to-one mentoring program model. The Club also recruits adult members to guide less experienced teen members and to provide a strong support system.



Policy Ask

Fund the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)'s National Youth Mentoring Program at \$130M to continue supporting efforts by Boys & Girls Clubs to provide positive adult mentors to more than 34,000 kids and teens in all 50 states each year.

⁴ Brookings Institute.2020. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2020/12/18/making-a-promise-to-americas-young-people/>

⁵ McKinsey and Company. 2021. <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/education/our-insights/covid-19-and-education-the-lingering-effects-of-unfinished-learning>