Nearly 25 million children are missing out. The line of kids waiting for afterschool is almost long enough to stretch around the earth.

Afterschool programs offer expanded learning opportunities to millions of kids and are a lifeline for working parents, but more families than ever are being left out. Unmet demand for programs has grown 60% since 2004. For every child in afterschool, 3 are waiting for an available program.

Participation drops, inequities prominent

A critical time to invest in kids

Families in the highest income bracket spend 5x more on out-of-school time activities each year than families in the lowest income bracket.

Kids from families with low-income are more likely to miss out.

Barriers to participation reported by parents:

- Help kids overcome learning loss and restore well-being
- Help parents return to work
- Interacting with peers and building social skills
- Building life skills
- Getting help with homework
- Engaging in STEM learning
- Taking part in physical activities
- Receiving healthy snacks or meals

Parents with kids in afterschool benefit, too:

- Helps working parents keep their job
- Gives working parents peace of mind
- Provides support to parents who are trying to find jobs during the pandemic*
- Keeps their kids safe
- Has knowledgeable and caring staff
- Helps kids develop social skills and make responsible decisions

Afterschool programs can:

- Help kids overcome learning loss and restore well-being
- Help parents return to work
- Interacting with peers and building social skills
- Building life skills
- Getting help with homework
- Engaging in STEM learning
- Taking part in physical activities
- Receiving healthy snacks or meals

Parents want afterschool programs funded.

- 87% of parents favor public funding of afterschool programs to expand opportunities for kids in underserved communities.

Support is strong and bipartisan:

- Every $1 invested in afterschool programs saves taxpayers at least $3 by:
  - Improving kids' school performance
  - Increasing their earning potential
  - Reducing crime and welfare costs

Afterschool is a smart investment in our children's future. Too many kids are missing out. Help us change that.