

Afterschool Advocacy 101

January 16, 2025



Speakers

Representative Angela Romero-House Minority Leader, Utah State House of Representatives

Senator Luz Escamilla-Senate Minority Leader, Utah State Senate

Ben Trentelman-Executive Director, Utah Afterschool Network

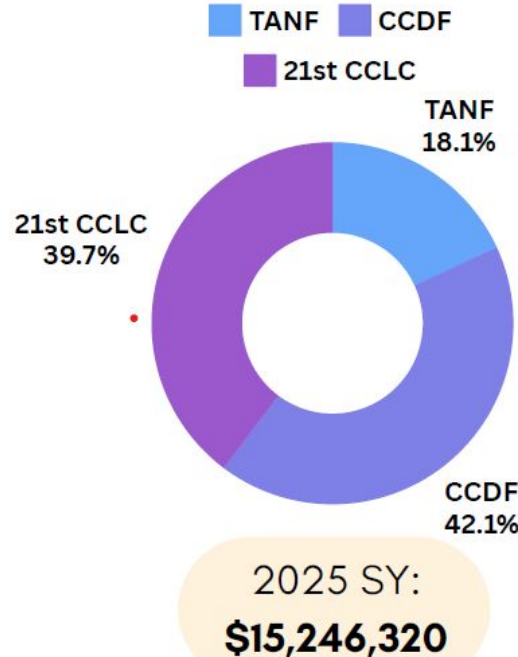
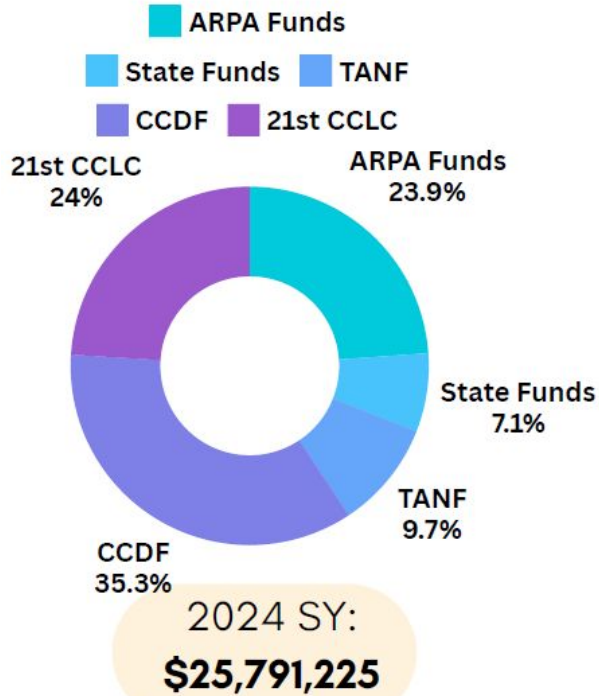
Angie Toone-School Age Child Care Specialist, Utah Afterschool Network

Anna Thomas-Policy Director, Voices for Utah Children

Chris Neitzey-Director of State Policy, Afterschool Alliance



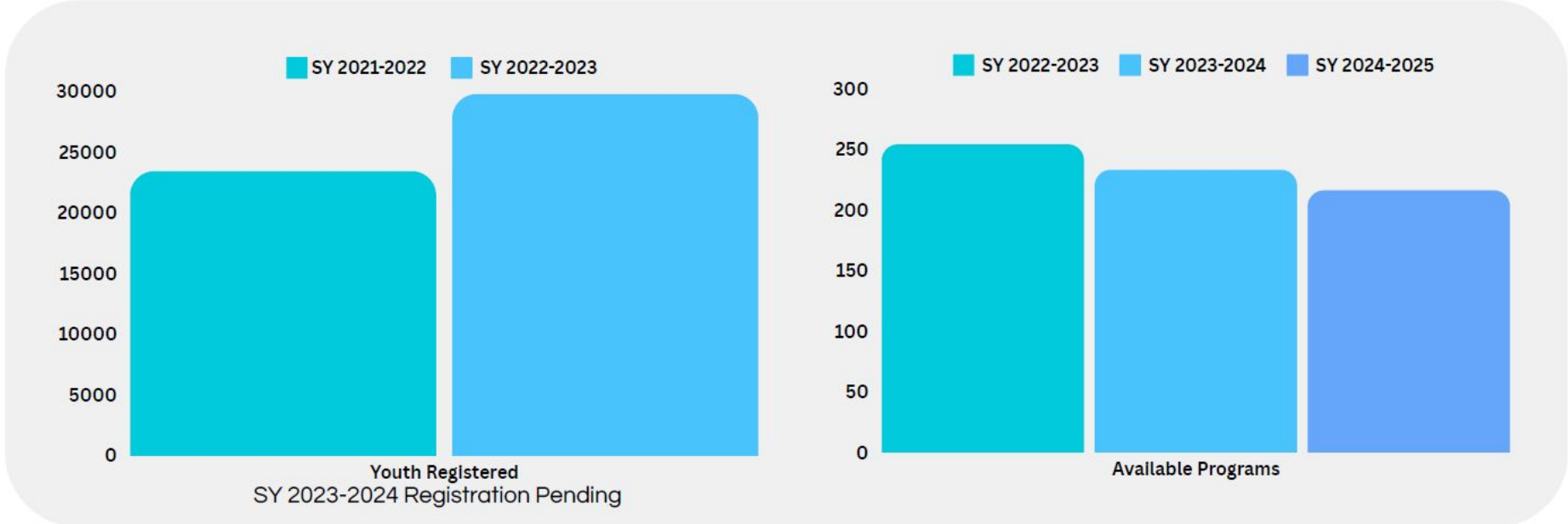
Afterschool State Funding Overview:



Decreasing Investments In Afterschool & Summer

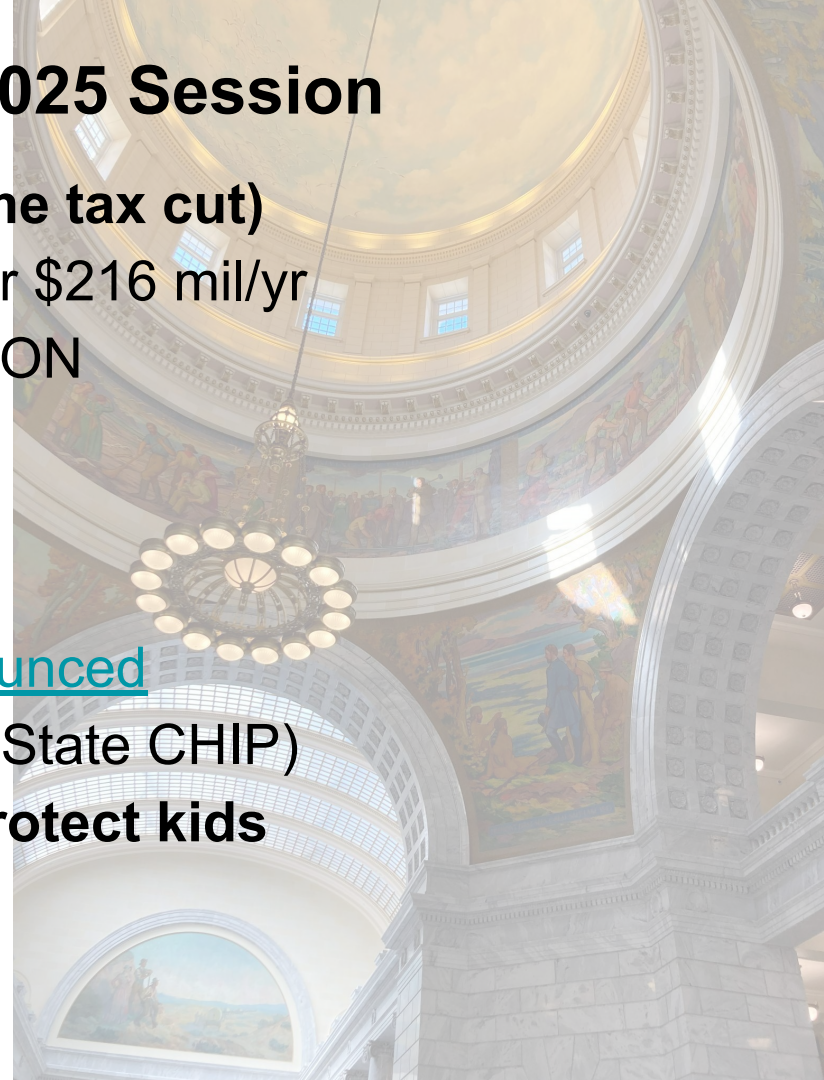
- Decrease in CCDF (29%) and 21st CCLC (2%) Funds
- Reallocation of State Funds
- Sunsetting ARPA Funds
- 41% Decrease in Funding

Despite increasing demand, availability is slipping.



Kid-Related Legislation during 2025 Session

- **Slashing future funding (aka income tax cut)**
 - HB106 = Kids lose out on another \$216 mil/yr
 - Since 2018 = more than \$1 BILLION
- **School vouchers**
 - May just be a funding request
- **Attacks on immigrant kids**
 - [Multiple anti-immigrant bills announced](#)
 - Rolling back health care access (State CHIP)
- **Removing safety guardrails that protect kids**
 - Childcare (and homeschool)



Kid-Related Legislation during 2025 Session

- **Improving, investing in childcare**
 - Childcare subsidies for childcare workers
 - Return to responsible oversight
 - “Public-private partnership” using state buildings
 - Business tax credit
- **Expanding state preschool grant program**
- **Child Tax Credit expansion**
- **Preserving Native families, cultural ties**
- **More funding for proactive Youth Services programs**



Legislative System and Budget Overview



Senator Luz Escamilla
Senate Minority Leader



Representative Angela Romero
House Minority Leader

National Landscape of Afterschool

Chris Neitzey



Afterschool Alliance



Afterschool Alliance

The Afterschool Alliance works to ensure that all children and youth have access to affordable, quality afterschool programs that help them, their families, and communities thrive. We focus on expanding afterschool and summer opportunities wherever children live and learn, with respect for every child's needs and identity.

About us and what we do

Wide & deep reach at the grassroots & grasstops

- Research on Need & Issues – New AA3 in 2025, Voter poll coming in February, Chronic Absenteeism brief
- Messaging & Advocacy Tools
- Finding & Sustaining Funding
- State and Local Partners
- National Allies and Coalitions
- Lights On Afterschool
- Information! - Afterschool Snack Blog

Parents agree that programs allow kids to:



85%
Engage with
their peers



82%
Learn life skills



81%
Build confidence



77%
Build positive relationships
with caring adults and mentors



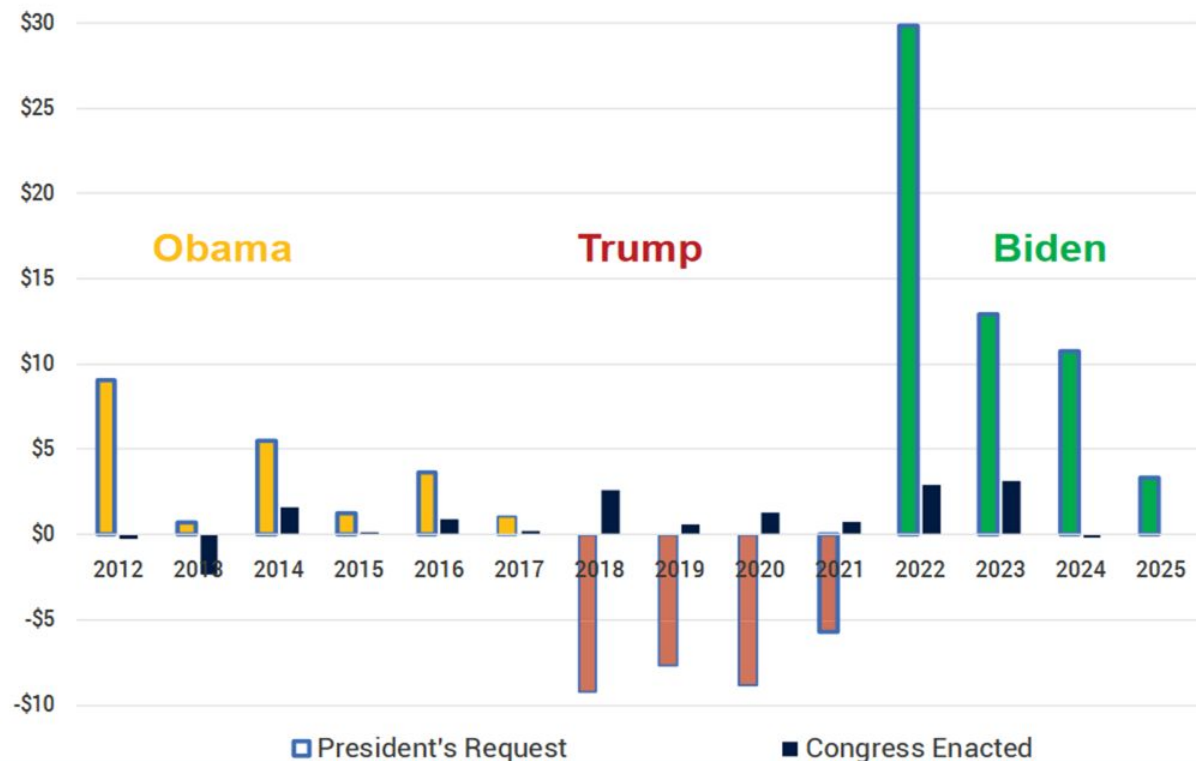
79%
Learn responsible
decision-making

Federal Policy Outlook: The New Administration

- Shift schools to prioritize job readiness, workforce pathways, Project Based Learning, and apprenticeships/internships
- Local and state control: block grants to states to determine use of funds; school choice and vouchers
- Eliminate or de-emphasize the Department of Education
- Cut federal spending, increase efficiency (DOGE)
- Child care – neutral
- STEM: supportive for jobs
- Extend Tax cuts
- **However** – important to note many of these were priorities for previous Trump Administration

Department of Education Funding: President's Requested Change and Enacted Change

Billions of Discretionary Dollars, Change vs Prior Year



<https://cef.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-1001-FY-2025-education-charts-for-web.pdf>

Federal Policy Outlook: The 119th Congress

Congressional Advocacy Triathlon in 2025



Site Visits/News Articles



Site Visits/News Articles

*Look Out! Possible
Second Reconciliation!*



Site Visits/News Articles

Reconciliation

What: Mandatory spending (No changes to 21st CCLC) – Tax Credits– Could determine how much money is available in govt budget overall for appropriations

When: Potentially very soon (Before FY 25 Budget is Finalized)

Who: Budget Committee, Authorization Committees, Everyone

FY 25 Appropriations

What: Discretionary funding levels for all programs (21st CCLC, Title I, CTE, AmeriCorps, CCDBG) – SAVE 21st CCLC

When: Current Continuing Resolution (extension) expires March 14

Who: Appropriations Committees and Approps LHHS Subcommittees (Everyone)

FY 26 Appropriations

What: Discretionary funding levels for all programs (21st CCLC, Title I, CTE, AmeriCorps, CCDBG) – SAVE 21st CCLC

When: After FY 25 Appropriations are finalized, suggested amounts by summer, final due by Sept 30, 2025

Who: Appropriations Committees and Approps LHHS Subcommittees (Everyone)

Federal Opportunities to Advance Afterschool



Bipartisan support for 21st Century Community Learning Centers - no proposed cuts to 21st CCLC in House nor Senate FY 2025 spending bills – advocacy needed to ensure that continues to be the case



Momentum for better access to federal Child Care funds for school-age and afterschool programs in both Republican and Democrat Child Care Development Fund legislation; possible opportunities as part of tax debate



Bipartisan, bicameral legislation around afterschool funding and national service that could get traction in 119th Congress

Afterschool Has Broad Appeal

Demand is higher than ever and **support is strong** across political affiliations

83% say afterschool and summer programs are an **absolute necessity** for their community



89%

Democrats



79%

Republicans



71%

Independents

8 in 10 want their elected federal, state and local leaders to **provide more funding** for afterschool programs



90%

Democrats



74%

Republicans



66%

Independents

Actions to take

Building relationships with representatives is key to protecting and growing funds for afterschool and summer programs

- Participate in the Afterschool Alliance's [Action Alert](#) to Congress
- Site visits – federal, state, and local representatives
- Letter writing to representatives

Be sure to coordinate with UAN!

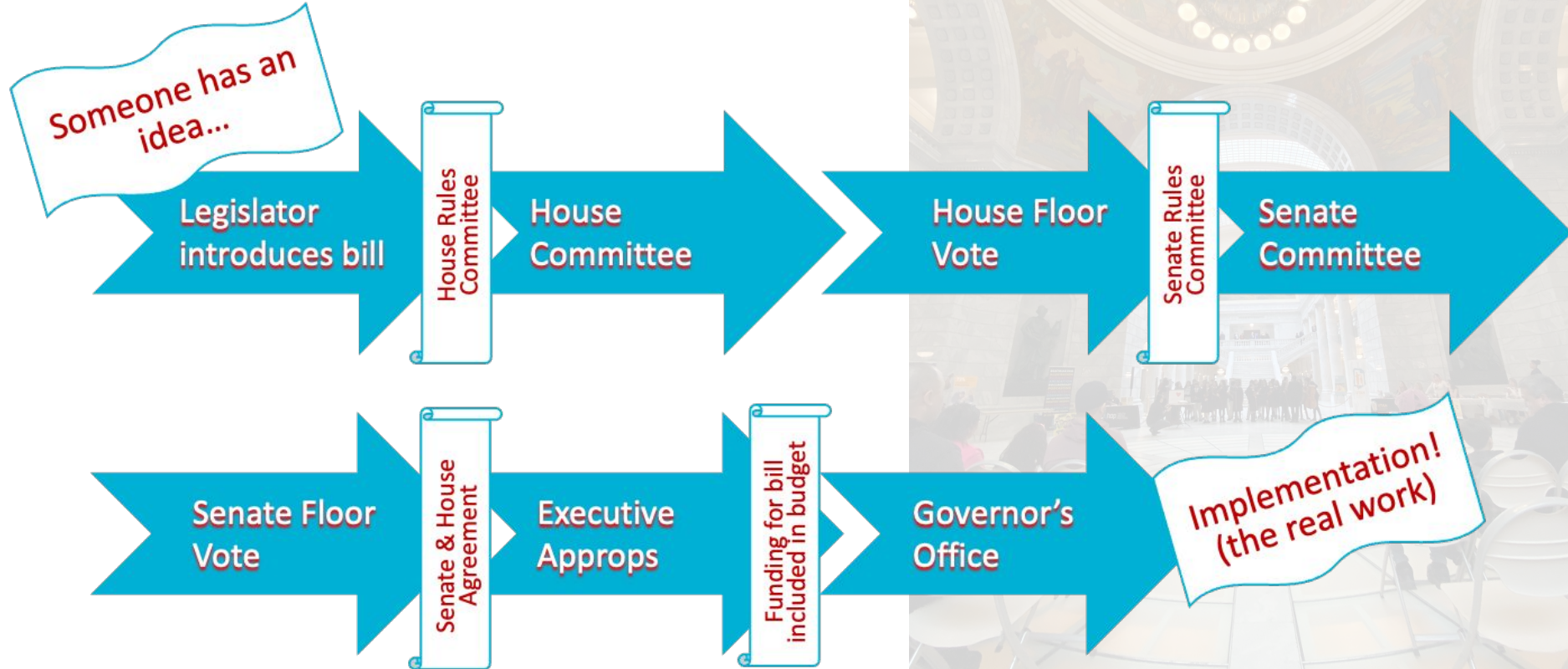
Navigating the Legislative Website

<https://le.utah.gov/>

- Track Bills
- Find legislators and committees



Following the Process: Bills, Hearings and Action



Engaging with Lawmakers

To lawmakers, we are the experts

- They count on us to share our experiences and knowledge.

Unfortunately, lawmakers stay busy

- If they are unable to meet with you, their staff are eager to listen.

Lawmakers love hearing from their constituents

- Start with the folks representing your district. If you know lawmakers in other districts, ask them to connect you to your representatives.

Reach out in a variety of ways

- Write, call, text, email, send a carrier pigeon. Visit the capitol or your lawmakers or visit their local offices.



Year-Round Advocacy

- Even if bills aren't up for your cause, make introductions and educate
- Follow up after the legislative session
- Program and site visits
- Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor
- Social Media Campaigns
- Encourage members of congress to join the Afterschool Caucus
- Reach out to municipal leaders
- Participate in national advocacy events
- Join a Regional Network
- Ask the UAN team to join you!

A Year of Afterschool Advocacy 2024-2025

When and how you can advocate for afterschool year round.

July - September

Summer Learning Week | 7/15-19
Interim Committee Meetings | 8/20-21
Central Utah ECE Conference | 9/20-21
Childcare Policy Roundtable | 9/23
Interim Committee Meetings | 9/17-18

Summer Advocacy Tips:

- Visit the state capitol and have kids in your program write letters to municipal, state, and federal leaders about why they love your summer program.
- The Interim takes place between legislative sessions, making it the perfect time to invite policymakers to tour your program. Don't be shy about asking them to join you for an activity!

October - December

Interim Committee Meetings | 10/15-16
Lights On Afterschool | 10/24
UAN Jump Start Conference | 10/25-26
Election Day | 11/5
Interim Committee Meetings | 11/19-20
Childcare Policy Roundtable | 11/18

Fall Advocacy Tips:

- Policy makers are preparing to write bills for the upcoming legislative session, so it's the perfect time of year to encourage parents to let them know how important your program is to families.
- Invite your local, state, and federal leaders to your Lights On Afterschool Event in October!
- Interim Committees meet outside of the legislative session to focus on specific issues. Attend a meeting to learn about upcoming priorities. You can testify to share your thoughts on upcoming legislation.

January - March

Childcare Policy Roundtable | 1/13
General Legislative Session Begins | 1/21
Child Care Day on the Hill | 1/24

Advocacy 101 | TBA

Children's Advocacy Day | TBD
Southern Recharge Conference | 2/8
UAN Afterschool Day on the Hill | 2/12
Northern Recharge Conference | 2/22
General Legislative Session Ends | 3/7
Childcare Policy Roundtable | 3/31

Winter Advocacy Tips:

- **It's time for the Legislative Session!** Make sure to attend **UAN's Advocacy 101** in January. A state legislator will share tips on how to engage with policy makers during the session.
- Register for **Afterschool Day on the Hill**
- Staff, kids, and parents can send legislators a valentine or letter using UAN's templates and guides.

April - June

May and June Interim Committee Meetings | TBA
Afterschool For All Challenge in DC. | June

Spring Advocacy Tips:

- Send the UAN team messages and notes to share with federal policy makers in DC.
- Encourage school partners to share the benefits of school-day and afterschool alignment.



[Utahafterschool.org/advocacy](https://utahafterschool.org/advocacy)

- Join the UAN Policy Committee
- Find talking points and resources
- Connect with national advocacy partners

Contact Us:

Ben Trentelman | Executive Director
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Angie Toone | UAN Policy Chair
angiet@utahafterschool.org

[Utahafterschool.org](https://utahafterschool.org)



UTAH
Afterschool
Network

Empowering and Motivating Afterschool Champions

- **Parents and kids are our greatest champions!**
 - **How does afterschool impact their ability to work and spend time with their kids?**
 - **What are impacts for families when kids are on waiting lists or programs aren't available in their area?**
 - **What are stories about how afterschool has directly impacted them?**
- **How do programs impact schools and the community?**
 - **Engage with schools to talk about increased academic support, behavioral changes, etc.**
 - **Encourage other community members to speak up for afterschool such as businesses, city council members, etc.**
- **Give them specific resources and give them a specific task.**
 - **"I'm glad you love our program, please call your legislator and tell them."**
 - **Please tag your legislator in your social media post about our program.**

Advocacy Resources

UAN Advocacy Resources | Utahafterschool.org/advocacy

The Afterschool Alliance | Afterschoolalliance.org

National League of Cities | NLC.org

National Institute on Out-of-School Time | NOIST.org

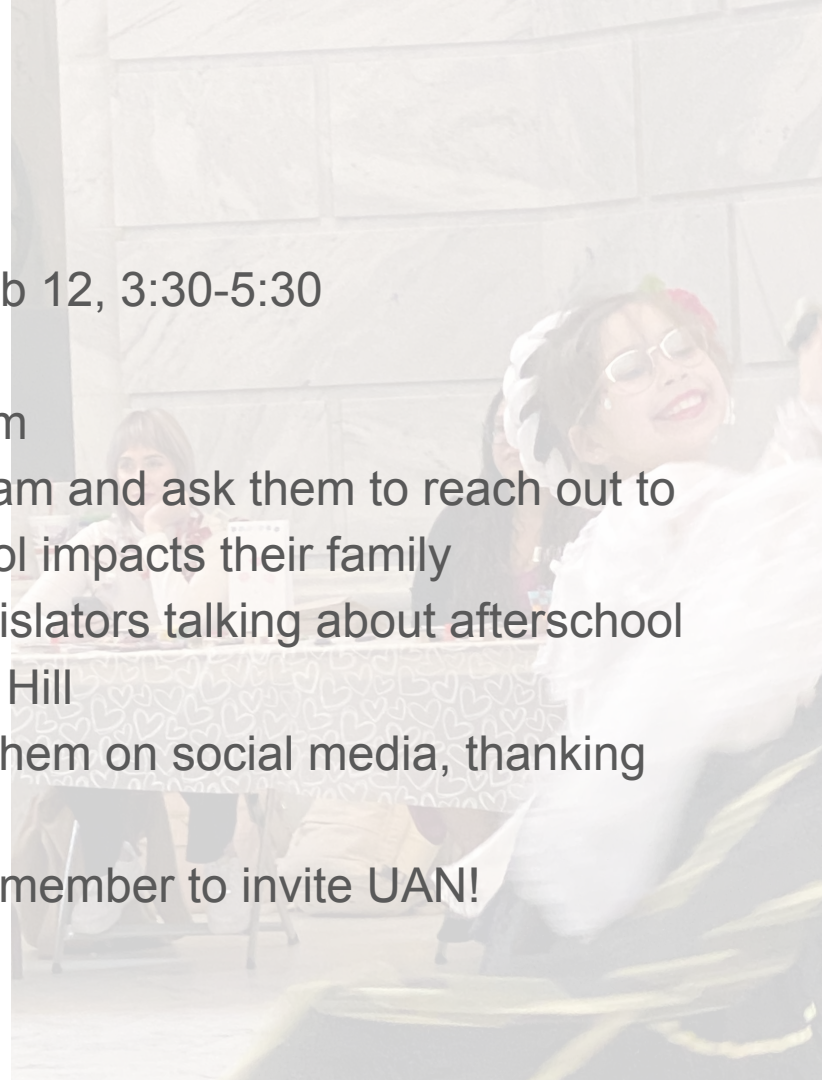
Voices for Utah Children | Utahchildren.org

Care for Kids | Utahcareforkids.org



Next Steps:

1. Register for Afterschool Day on the Hill | Feb 12, 3:30-5:30
2. Join the UAN Advocacy Committee
3. Reach out to your legislators and invite them
4. Identify at least one parent from your program and ask them to reach out to their legislators to talk about how afterschool impacts their family
5. Have your kids send a valentine to your legislators talking about afterschool and inviting them to Afterschool Day on the Hill
6. Take pictures with your legislators and tag them on social media, thanking them for support
7. Follow up with an invite to your program, remember to invite UAN!



Contact Us:

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Register for our newsletter and follow us on social media

