



Requesting the Governor and General Assembly Support Afterschool and Summer Programs for Rhode Island's Youth

Introduced by Councilperson Tatiana Baena
Co-sponsored by Councilperson Glendaliz Colon
February 8, 2021

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, the State of Rhode Island has enacted a number of executive orders and health directives that has negatively impacted Rhode Island Afterschool and Summer Programs; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island Afterschool and Summer Programs are comprised of educational professionals, out-of-school time providers, youth, and their families that work together to provide opportunities, social emotional learning, and safe spaces, for thousands of Rhode Islanders including thousands of youth here in Central Falls, Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, while well-intentioned, some directives, mandates, and executive orders have left youth and their families without access to Afterschool and Summer Programs here in Rhode Island during the pandemic, including 58,000 youth trying to get into programs throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, dollars directed to the Rhode Island Department of Education and the Department of Human Services from the CARES Act have not been flexible for Afterschool and Summer Programs to remain open and accessible to youth and their families, with such programs having to adjust space, lay-off staff, and not serve to full capacity to keep their doors open, or qualify for any dollars from the CARES Act stimulus money due to state agency regulations; and


WHEREAS, for every 1 youth in Rhode Island in an Afterschool and Summer Program there are 3 youth waiting to get in despite the CARES Act dollars being allocated to said state agencies that serve school aged youth; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Central Falls City Council strongly urges both the Governor and the General Assembly to act without delay to allocate \$8 Million from one or more of the following stimulus funding sources: Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund, Elementary and secondary school Emergency Relief fund (ESSER II) K-12 funds, the \$23.5 Million

Child Care funds, and Coronavirus Relief Fund for states and counties, to Afterschool and Summer Programs serving Rhode Island youth; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that if the State of Rhode is unable to provide said request, we urge immediate and decisive action to be taken by state leaders to provide significant additional financial assistance to Afterschool and Summer Programs that are struggling and negatively impacted by the pandemic and economic crisis, for the sake of youth, working families, organizations, professionals, providers, and the community; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the City Clerk to the Honorable Governor, to all of the Honorable Representatives and Senators representing the City of Central Falls in the General Assembly, to the Honorable Rhode Island Speaker of the House and Rhode Island Senate President, and to all Rhode Island city and town councils, who are respectfully urged to also pass this resolution in support of Afterschool and Summer Programs in their communities.



Jessica Vega
City Council President



Jahaira Rodriguez
City Clerk