

Dear **(Senator/Representative Last Name)**,

My name is **(Your Full Name)** and I am a **(your grade level)** student in **(your City/Town)**. I am a part of **(the Name of Your Afterschool Program)** in your district.

I am writing to you in regards to the immediate funding cliff for 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) grantees across the state. My afterschool program is one of the programs which will be affected by this issue. Myself and thousands of other students in Illinois will lose access to afterschool programs if we don't take action immediately. 21st CCLC is federal funding used to support afterschool programs and administered by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Due to an administrative error by ISBE, 27,000 youth will lose access to afterschool programs.

My program, **(the Name of Your Afterschool Program)**, is located in **(Name of City or Town)**. I have been a part of this program for **(months/years you have participated in this program)**. This program **(highlight what your program means to you, how this program has benefited you, and/or something special that your program has allowed you to do)**.

This is an immediate crisis. We NEED \$27 million in stopgap funding in the FY24 state budget to keep all of the current programs up and going next year. This would be \$12 million to support the FY19 programs (the programs in immediate risk) and \$15 million to cover the rest of the shortfall across other cohorts. Without this funding, myself and thousands of other students in Illinois will lose our afterschool and out-of-school time programs.

You can find more information about this issue at <https://actnowillinois.org/take-action-3/>.

We need this funding immediately in order to protect **(the Name of Your Afterschool Program)** and all other 21st CCLC programs in the state. Thank you for taking action to support afterschool and protect our programs!

Sincerely,
(Your Full Name)