



## Afterschool & Higher Education Act Reauthorization Recommendations

***Maintain or increase the mandatory 7 percent set aside in the Federal Work Study program (Title IV of the Higher Education Act) which supports students working in community service organizations, including afterschool programs.***

Background:

Current law requires that higher education institutions must spend at least 7 percent of their federal work study funding to compensate students employed in community service positions, and incentivizes campuses to have students participate in community service jobs by allowing the federal government to pay a higher share of the student’s wages. Recent legislative and administrative proposals (such as the PROSPER Act of 2017 and the Department of Education Experimental Sites Initiative for Federal Work Study, May 2019) would eliminate or waive the set aside for community service activities and instead focus federal work study on work based learning experiences.

**In fact, placing federal work study students in not for profit and community service settings accomplishes the goal of providing more work based learning experience for students.**

Why:

Students in community programs get experiences that often develop their interests in service careers, such as education or youth development. Additionally these programs serve many of the goals and purposes in the Higher Education Act in a comprehensive way, unlikely to be replicated if the set aside is removed.

Goal in HEA	Positive impacts of <b>Mandatory</b> Non-profit Community Service Set Aside
Service to the broader community	The mandatory set aside incentivizes universities to find opportunities in their community for service and connect interested undergraduates to paid experience in service
Developing a strong teacher workforce, especially in under resourced communities	Experience in afterschool and summer programs can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build interest in education in students from across disciplines</li> <li>• Provide teaching experiences to those with an interest in education, which research shows improves teacher retention rates</li> <li>• Increase the diversity of educators who are interested in a career in education by broadening exposure and showing the impacts to one’s community</li> <li>• Develop skills employers demand such as leadership, responsibility, creativity, communication, cross-cultural understanding and team work</li> </ul>
Supporting the next generation of college going students	Students participating in afterschool and summer programs that have access to college students as educators benefit from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wider variety of programming and better staff to student ratios</li> <li>• Opportunities to see their future selves in their college mentors, which can inspire and help them learn to navigate their own path to higher education</li> </ul>

**Keeping the 7 percent mandatory set aside for community service allows institutions of higher learning to provide a valuable service to their surrounding communities while providing students meaningful paid work experience.**