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UNH State Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget & Policy Priorities **After-School Programs and Youth Employment**

Advantage After-School Program – Advantage After-School funds youth development programs for elementary, middle school, and high school students in the three hours after the school day ends. Programs are operated in public school buildings by settlement houses and other community-based organizations, with typical activities including homework help, athletics, hands-on science activities, music and arts.

Funding History

- Executive FY 2019-2020 \$17.5 million + \$10 million for the minimum wage increase
- Enacted FY 2018-19: \$22.3 million
- Enacted FY 2017-18: \$19.8 million
- Enacted FY 2016-17: \$22.3 million

Challenge and Opportunity – There is an incredible need for after-school programs; an estimated 1.1 million children and youth who would qualify for participation are unable to access a program. Increasing funding by \$2.5 million for Advantage after-school programs will create services for an additional 1,800 students and their families across the State.

UNH Recommendation

- **Restore the \$5 million Investment from FY 2018-2019 to fund Advantage After-School Programs for 3,600 children.** The \$10 million investment included in the Executive Budget provides funding for the increase in the minimum wage but the Executive Budget does not restore the legislature’s \$5 million investment from FY 2018-2019 which support programs for 3,600 children.
- **Make the minimum wage investment multi-year.** The Executive Budget invests funding to cover the increased costs of the minimum wage for one year only. This funding should be permanent and extend into future years.
- **Invest \$15 million to increase Advantage After-School rates to improve program quality.** Advantage After-School Programs are funded at \$1,375/child, less than similarly State funded programs such as Empire State After-School Program and Extended Day/School Violence Prevention.

YouthBuild – YouthBuild provides training in construction along with education and skills development for out-of-school and out-of-work 17-24 year olds.

Funding History

- Executive FY 2019-2020 \$0
- Enacted FY 2018-19: \$300,000
- Enacted FY 2017-18: 300,000

(over)

Challenge and Opportunity – New York State is making spurring new construction central to its economic development plans. YouthBuild ensures that some of the State’s most vulnerable youth qualify for these jobs. The Executive Budget eliminates funding for YouthBuild.

UNH Recommendation: Restore Funding for YouthBuild at \$300,000

For more information, please contact Gregory Brender at (917) 484-9337 or gbrender@unbny.org