



Dear

I am a proud supporter of After School Matters, and I am writing to highlight the importance of continued investment in its programs. I truly believe that our teens are our future, and by investing in them we are investing in that future. Offering life-changing programs at no cost has allowed After School Matters to reach more than 200,000 teens over the course of its history, making an impact across socioeconomic, geographic, and cultural lines. These programs help to shape the future of our communities and the lives within them.

While After School Matters currently provides more than 1,200 programs and over 23,000 teen opportunities every year, the organization receives more than 40,000 applications for those opportunities. After School Matters programs have an undeniable impact on the teens that they serve, but this means that the organization must turn away thousands of teens that are equally deserving of a chance at a bright future.

I want you to know that:

- 83% of After School Matters teens live in high-poverty communities.
- Nearly 800 program providers serve our teens.
- After School Matters offers more than 1,200 programs across the city each year.
- There are close to 400 program sites – including 76 high schools – which provide flexibility to our teens and increased opportunities for Chicago communities in need of resources and support.
- After School Matters teens regularly have higher Freshmen On-Track, high school graduation, and college enrollment rates than their peers.

As a leader in our community, I strongly urge you to advocate on behalf of After School Matters to help ensure that the organization can continue the critical work of creating life-changing experiences for teens, and expand its impact to thousands more young people who are equally deserving. With your support, After School Matters can build on its success in helping to develop critical skills that our teens can carry into college, careers, and beyond; and help ensure a bright future for each of them and for our community as a whole.

Sincerely,

#TeensMATTER