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Resolution 1 (SY24-25)

Resolution Calling for Restoration of After-School Funding For District 20 Schools

Approved by a vote of 9 yes and 0 no votes on August 14, 2024

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Stephen Stowe - Yes | 7. Yanqing (Angi) Chen - Yes |
| 2. John Ricottone - Yes | 8. Sabrina McNamara - Yes |
| 3. Elizabeth Chan - Yes | 9. Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio - Yes |
| 4. Xiaoqiong (Joyce) Xie - Yes | 10. Maya Rozenblat - Absent |
| 5. Meifang (Junmi) Chen - Yes | 11. Tamara Stern - No vote |
| 6. Wenming (Angie) Chen - No vote | 12. Kevin Zhao - Yes |

Sponsors: John Ricottone, Stephen Stowe, Xiaoqiong (Joyce) Xie

Co-sponsor(s): Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio

WHEREAS, Whereas, it has come to our attention that at least 6 schools within District 20 did not receive necessary funding to maintain existing levels of after-school programming for the upcoming academic year 2024-2025.

WHEREAS, this funding is provided through Community Based Organizations (CBO’s) which were asked to complete Requests for Proposals (RFP) under the new New York State-administered Learning and Enrichment After-School Program Supports (LEAPS) program. The RFP criteria are available [here](#) ¹.

WHEREAS, we know of at least 2 CBO’s in District 20 which did not receive funding under the LEAPS program, despite receiving sufficient scores in the RFP process. These 2 CBO’s are the NIA Community Services Network (NIA) and Federation of Italian American Organizations (FIAO).

WHEREAS, the loss of funding at these 2 CBO’s has resulted in an inability to continue providing free after-school programming at the following District 20 schools - PS / IS 104, PS 112, PS / IS 30, PS 185, PS 247 and PS 939. There may be additional schools which we are not aware of at this time.

¹ [RFP1131-NYS-LEAPS.pdf](#)

WHEREAS, the lack of funding will result in a significant financial burden on parents. In one case (Appendix 1), parents who wish to receive after-school programming will have to pay \$3,200 per student to participate in these essential programs. Other schools are considering similar options.

WHEREAS, such an expense is prohibitive for many families and undermines equitable access to after-school educational opportunities.

WHEREAS, The Community Education Council reached out to numerous elected officials, the Governor's office, the Lieutenant Governor's office and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). We were told that NIA achieved the minimum score to be considered for funding but that there were other organizations with stronger applications who scored higher than NIA. And that available funding was exhausted before NIA came up on the list.

WHEREAS, this answer is completely insufficient. It is irrelevant to say NIA (and FIAO) were approved if they did not receive funding. The only thing that matters in this situation is whether funding was granted or not. And if so, why / why not. The answer given does not explain why NIA (and FIAO) were scored lower than other organizations. OCFS has stated that the New York State Education Department was responsible for establishing the criteria in the new LEAPS program.

WHEREAS, the State of New York increased funding for after-school programming this year. Specifically, there was a \$17.7 million increase for after-school programming in the Fiscal 2024-2025 budget². This makes OCFS's excuse that there was "limited funding" particularly dubious and the cuts to District 20 after-school funding particularly inexcusable.

WHEREAS, OCFS has further stated that they can not divulge any information regarding how certain CBO's were scored or what score was required to receive funding until after the end of the procurement period. The procurement period is estimated to end around November 1, 2024, but can not be stated with certainty.

WHEREAS, parents and schools are now forced to find alternative after-school options on extremely short notice for the 2024-2025 school year.

WHEREAS, CEC's are volunteer parent organizations without the time or policy expertise to navigate complicated and bureaucratic State funding programs. We and the parents of District 20 rely on our elected officials who are full-time professionals with staff and resources to understand the technical and political environment around such programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council District 20 urgently seeks immediate intervention to address and rectify the funding shortfall for these afterschool programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we are asking the OCFS and the State of New York Education Department to explain how NIA and FIAO did not qualify for funding under the LEAPS program. Specifically, under the LEAPS rubric and methodology, in what areas did the NIA and FIAO have lower scores compared to peer CBO's.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we call upon our State Assembly members and State Senators to identify and allocate the required funds to ensure District 20 after-school programming continues in 2024-2025 at the same level as 2023-2024 without incurring additional costs to District 20 families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we call upon our State Assembly Members and State Senators to assist us in obtaining a clear answer from OCFS and the State Education Department as to why NIA and FIAO scored too

² [Governor Hochul Announces \\$100 Million in Grants for New After-School Program | Governor Kathy Hochul \(ny.gov\)](#)

low to receive funding, review the funding process for LEAPS, and seek solutions to prevent future shortfalls in program financing and enable District 20 families to receive free after-school programming in line with last year.



REGISTER NOW!

PS 185 FEE-BASED AFTER-SCHOOL



Register at
bit.ly/niafbas

PS 185
Walter Kassenbrock School
8601 Ridge Blvd, Brooklyn, NY 11209

This program will run
Monday-Friday • 2:20 pm-6:00 pm
September 16, 2024 - June 20, 2025



2 Payment Options Offered:

Option 1: Full Payment of \$3,200 due at registration (\$100 Discount if paid upfront).

Option 2: Pay 5 Equal Payments of \$660 (totaling \$3,300) once upon enrollment, and in November, January, March, and May. You will be sent an invoice after the form submission.

Payments can be made by check, money order, or credit card. Cash will not be accepted.
For more info, contact NIA Assistant Executive Director, Phyllis Smeragliuolo -
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