

August 16, 2024

Critical State Funding Vetoed: You Can Help!

EVkids

As the [FY2025 budget was finalized](#) at the end of July, several vital line items that directly support mentoring and afterschool programs were partially vetoed by the Governor. The [Mentoring Matching Grants](#) line-item was reduced by **\$300,000**, and the [Afterschool and Out-of-School Time \(ASOST-S\)](#) grant lost **\$3 million**. Despite the efforts of many EVkids community members and advocates who reached out to state senators and representatives, these vetoes remain in place.



These funding reductions are a setback, but they also highlight the critical role of community support for programs like EVkids. **We depend on this state funding for nearly 4% of our annual budget, using these resources to build impactful relationships between students and mentors– a proven strategy to uplift youth and communities.** As documented by our friends at Mass Mentoring Partnership:



“Mentoring is one of the few prevention and intervention strategies that can effectively address multiple risk and protective factors simultaneously. It has also been shown to catalyze economic mobility while also increasing feelings of belonging. It often encourages mentees to, in turn, become mentors themselves and give back to their communities.”

Likewise, research by the Afterschool Alliance, establishes that afterschool programs like EVkids promote pro-social behavior, intrinsic motivation, better concentration efforts, a higher sense of self-worth, gains in academic performance, increased school participation, and heightened feelings of safety for youth who have a safe place to spend their afternoons.

While these funding cuts are disappointing, EVkids remains steadfast in our commitment to empowering Boston students. **EVkids has always thrived thanks to the unwavering generosity of our community, including foundations, local organizations and businesses, and individuals.** With your continued support, we can ensure that our critical work continues. Here’s how you can help:

- **Advocate for Afterschool Programs:** The [Afterschool Alliance](#) and [Mass Mentoring Partnership](#) provide comprehensive guides on how you can reach out to policymakers and let them know afterschool programs are important. Your voice matters and can make a difference for youth across Massachusetts!
- **Join Us at the [Expanding Horizons Gala](#):** Mark your calendar for November 9th, 2024, at The Charles Hotel in Cambridge. This annual event raises over \$200,000 to support our work, and with cuts to our state funding this year, we need your support more than ever.

We’re so grateful for your support, which plays a crucial role in our mission to empower Boston students through sustained academic mentorship and transformative camp experiences.

[Help young people access afterschool and mentoring programming today!](#)