



Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Advocate

The WAN Advocate is now The WOSTA Advocate

Please follow us on [*social media*](#) for ongoing content and updates.

In this edition of the new WOSTA Advocate:

- May Spotlight: Craig Knitt, Creative Arts Specialist
- OST Toolbox: Madison OST Training; NEW Grant Opportunity; new approaches, equity resources
- Taking Action for Afterschool: Wisconsin legislative elections matter
- WOSTA Updates: Feeding the Whole Child grant; Reedsburg Community Conversation; OST Conference date set
- OST Policy and News

May Spotlight

Meet Craig Knitt, Creative Arts Specialist for the [*Boys and Girls Club of the Bay Lakes Region*](#) in Northeastern Wisconsin. Craig specializes in filmmaking and has had youth create, act in, and produce their own films. According to Craig, art and creation are a “...*healthy and positive experience because that process is so in tune with what it is to be human...*” Listen to a deep dive into art, creating, and the impact the artistic experience can have on youth in [*this episode*](#) of the Beyond the Bell with WOSTA podcast.



The OST Toolbox

- In partnership with MSCR, Wisconsin Youth Company, Goodman Community Center, and the City of Madison, the Madison Out-of-School Time (MOST) conference is coming back- save the date, August 28th, 2024. You can **[REGISTER NOW](#)**
- **[New Department of Education Grant](#)** The Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Program, managed by the U.S. Department of Education, offers Early-phase Grants to support innovative, evidence-based projects that aim to improve student achievement and attainment, particularly for high-need students
- **[3 resources to consider when testing new approaches to out of school time](#)**
- **[Resources to Promote Belonging](#)**
- **[Training Shorts: Partnering for Equitable Community Impact](#)**
- **[5 Ways to Create a Literacy-Rich Preschool Classroom](#)**

Taking Action for Afterschool

- **[Afterschool Alliance Election Toolkit](#)** Did you know that state elections are vital to out of school time programs? State legislators in Madison make many legislative and policy decisions that have an immediate and long-term impact on afterschool and summer youth programs. Learn about simple actions that you can take to make a difference.

WOSTA Updates

- Marshfield Clinic Center for Community Health Advancement (CCHA) received funding from the Wisconsin Partnership Program at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health for a project entitled Feeding the Whole Child, Whole Family, and Whole Community through Civic Engagement. This

- initiative will address food insecurity within local youth serving organizations.
 - WOSTA consultants traveled to Reedsburg to facilitate a Community Conversation about the long-term sustainability of the Pineview Elementary 21st Century Community Learning Center.
 - Out of School Time Conference set for November 12-13 in person, virtual November 15: [Call for Proposals](#)
 - [Read more on these updates](#)
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OST Policy and News

Wisconsin:

- [Out of school programs and their mental health benefits in demand](#)
- [Child care providers hang on, renew call for strong public support](#)
- [Wisconsin is first state to receive federal approval for summer EBT program](#)
- [Parents struggle to afford soaring summer camp costs](#)
- [OCD camp aims to 'make exposures fun'](#)
- [Analysis | Childcare Access and Affordability in the Seventh District](#)
- [Time to Get Honest About the Child Care Crisis](#)
- Governor Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation have requested \$15 million to support the Child Care Counts Program, aiming to help over 4,700 child care providers and 52,000 professionals. This funding seeks to stabilize child care services, which are crucial for the state's economy and workforce. Gov. Evers emphasizes the importance of this investment in preventing the collapse of the child care industry and urges the Joint Committee on Finance to approve the request. For more details, visit the [press release](#).

National:

- [Cities and schools see new opportunities to partner on child care with state grants](#)
 - [Afterschool programs face closure after funding loss](#)
 - [Iowa handing out \\$6 million to support before-and-after school programs](#)
 - [Afterschool programs augment schools' work with neediest children; let's make them more affordable, The Journal Gazette \(Indiana\)](#)
 - [Securing The Future: How Out-Of-School-Time STEM Supports National Defense And The Science And Technology](#)
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<https://www.wosta.org/>

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