



Out-of-School Time Advocacy Fellowship

Meeting Schedule

All meetings will be held via Zoom unless otherwise indicated.

Meeting Date	Topic	Description
January 15, 2025	Cohort Welcome and Orientation	This session will welcome the 2025 Fellowship cohort and provide an overview of the program's goals, structure, and expectations. Fellows will engage in team-building activities and familiarize themselves with the resources, tools, and mentors that will guide them through their journey. The session will also introduce the importance of out-of-school-time (OST) programs and the fellowship's role in advocating for high-quality afterschool programs.
February 19, 2025	National Out-of-School Time Landscape and its History in Florida	This session will explore the evolution of out-of-school time programs at the national level and provide a deep dive into the history and milestones of afterschool programming in Florida. Participants will examine key legislation, significant funding sources, and major players in the out-of-school time landscape. Understanding this history will lay the foundation for the advocacy work ahead and help fellows appreciate the existing infrastructure they aim to expand.
March 12, 2025	Advocacy vs. Lobbying	In this session, fellows will learn the critical differences between advocacy and lobbying, including legal distinctions and permissible activities for non-profit organizations and those receiving state or federal funds. The session will cover the strategies and tools advocates use to influence policy, while staying within the boundaries of the law. Fellows will practice crafting advocacy messages and strategies that comply with regulations and focus on building long-term relationships with policymakers.



Out-of-School Time Advocacy Fellowship

Meeting Date	Topic	Description
April 14, 2025 In-person; Tallahassee, Florida	Florida's Legislative Process: How an Idea Becomes a Law	<p>This session will provide an in-depth look at Florida's legislative process, from drafting a bill to it becoming a law. Fellows will learn about the role of legislators, committees, and public input in shaping legislation. They will learn how to track bills, witness the process in person during Children's Week, and provide hands-on insight into how to influence policy.</p> <p><i>Fellows are invited to stay in Tallahassee for additional Children's Week activities including Children's Day and Teen Day at the Capitol on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively.</i></p>
June 11, 2025	Introduction to the State Agencies / Working with Local Agencies	Fellows will be introduced to key state and local agencies that play a significant role in funding and regulating afterschool programs. The session will focus on how to build effective relationships with these agencies, navigate regulations, and leverage agency partnerships to enhance advocacy efforts and expand program funding.
July 9, 2025	Afterschool Leadership Development	This session focuses on developing the leadership skills necessary to champion afterschool programs at the local level. Fellows will engage in workshops on effective communication, conflict resolution, and team-building. They will also learn how to position themselves as leaders in the field and explore strategies for mobilizing others to support afterschool initiatives and policy changes.
August 13, 2025	Legislative Advocacy	Fellows will deepen their understanding of legislative advocacy, focusing on how to engage directly with lawmakers. The session will cover the essentials of crafting compelling advocacy messages, organizing meetings with legislators, and preparing impactful testimony, especially during the committee process. Through role-playing exercises, fellows will practice delivering their advocacy pitches and responding to common challenges faced during legislative meetings.



Out-of-School Time Advocacy Fellowship

Meeting Date	Topic	Description
September 17, 2025	Community Advocacy	This session will teach fellows how to mobilize community support for afterschool programs. Participants will learn strategies for building coalitions, organizing grassroots campaigns, and working with parents, educators, and local businesses to advocate for afterschool funding and expansion. Fellows will also explore how to use social media and local events to amplify their advocacy efforts at the community level.
October 8, 2025	Activating Youth Voice	Fellows will learn the importance of empowering youth to advocate for themselves and their communities. This session will focus on developing platforms for youth leadership in advocacy efforts, with an emphasis on how young people can be powerful allies in promoting afterschool programs. Fellows will engage in activities designed to support youth in speaking out on the importance of OST programs and shaping the future of afterschool policies.
October 21-25, 2025 In-person; Orlando, Florida	Florida After School Conference Fellowship Graduation	Fellows will attend the Florida After School Conference in Orlando, where they will present their fellowship experiences and share the impact of their advocacy efforts. This graduation event will celebrate the fellows' growth as advocates and leaders, recognizing their contributions to expanding and securing funding for OST programs.