

American Rescue Plan in Arkansas

Opportunity of a Generation for Afterschool & Summer

PRESENTED BY: THE AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE & ARKANSAS OUT OF SCHOOL NETWORK

Part I: State of Arkansas Afterschool

ABOUT AOSN

- AOSN is a sponsored initiative of Arkansas State University and is housed within the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences in the Dept. of Childhood Services and is one of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation Fifty State Afterschool Networks working within the U.S. to expand access to quality Out-of- School Time programs, including afterschool and summer learning programs.
- Mission: To create safe, healthy and enriching learning experiences for children and youth ages 5-19 during the out-of-school time hours.



Laveta Wills-Hale, MA
Network Director
Arkansas Out of School Network

Now More Than Ever

We AR Good Trouble

In the spirit of positive youth development and social equity, the Arkansas Out of School Network is engaging in the Youth Opportunity Campaign, a social movement focused on closing the opportunity gap for young people across Arkansas along with the importance of afterschool and summer learning.

State of Afterschool



Released December 2020



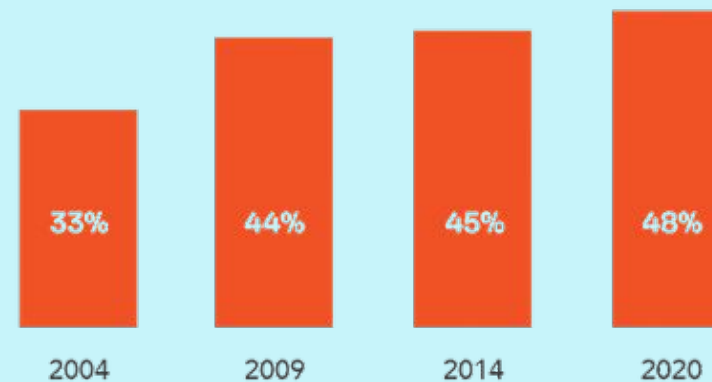
Demand For Afterschool

In **Arkansas**, for every child in afterschool, 3 are waiting to get in. That's 61,717 Arkansas children alone and unsupervised each day.

The number of students left without afterschool in Arkansas is on the rise

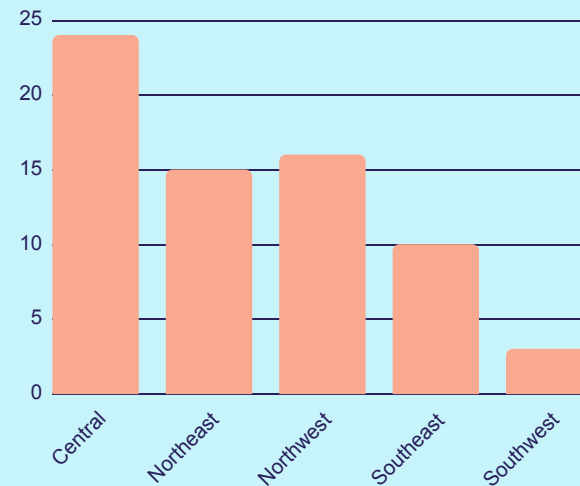
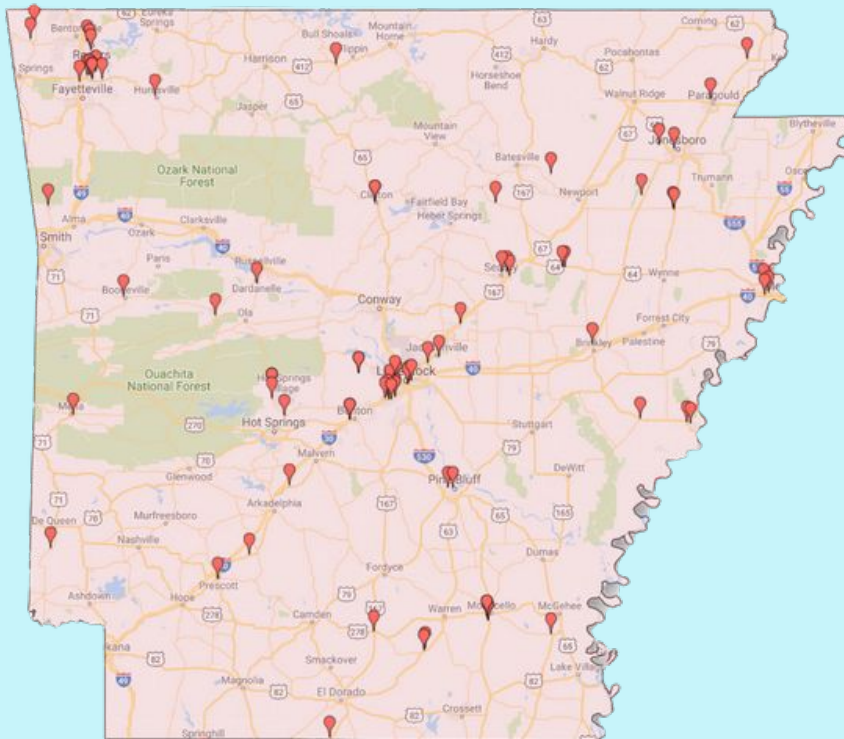
There are now 207,764 children (48%) in Arkansas who would be enrolled in an afterschool program if one were available to them. In the last decade, the number of children unable to access afterschool programs has grown in Arkansas by 20,042.

Unmet demand for afterschool programs by year



Demand For Afterschool

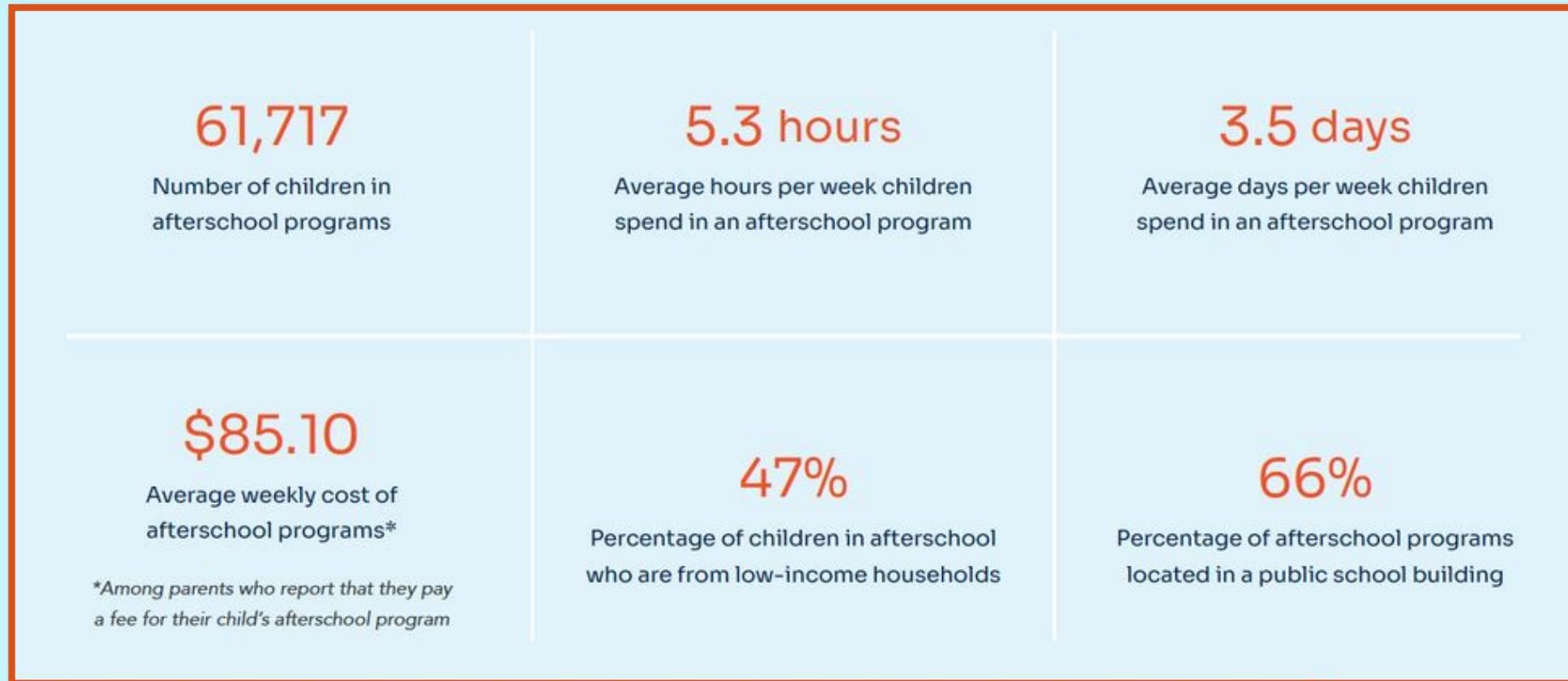
Where are Arkansas's afterschool programs located?



There are currently 68 federally-funded 21CCLC programs in the state of Arkansas, which serve 11,894 youth. A majority of programs are currently located in the Central (24) and Northwest (16) regions. Pulaski and Benton Counties are currently home to 13 programs each, the largest number per county in the state. Under the current funding model, many rural communities and those with the highest poverty levels are left underserved.



Demand For Afterschool

Arkansas Afterschool By the Numbers



Demand For Afterschool




Arkansas parents report high levels of satisfaction with afterschool

	A safe environment	86%
	Knowledgeable and caring staff	86%



Demand For Afterschool

Arkansas parents report high levels of satisfaction with afterschool

	Building life skills	71%
	Getting help with homework	54%
	Engaging in STEM or computer science learning opportunities	61%

83%

Of parents say afterschool and summer learning programs help them keep their job.

Now, More Than Ever

Pandemic Response

ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Providing safe, enriching environment for children whose parents are first responders or essential workers

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Offering virtual programming to stay connected with youth and keep kids engaged and learning while they're home

FOOD INSECURITY

Providing free grab-and-go meals for families who need them, or delivering meals to families

RESOURCES

Organizing & sharing resources with families to help them access food assistance, unemployment, healthcare, etc.

Now, More Than Ever

479,432

K-12 STUDENTS DISPLACED FROM
SCHOOL AND ROUTINE DUE TO COVID-19
IN ARKANSAS

60%

ARKANSAS STUDENTS CURRENTLY
QUALIFY FOR FREE AND REDUCED
LUNCHES



Pandemic Response

Barriers to Participation

Closing the opportunity gap for Arkansas Families

% of parents reporting they did not enroll their child in an afterschool program because of the following:

Lack of available programs



Programs are too expensive



No safe way for their child to get to and from programs

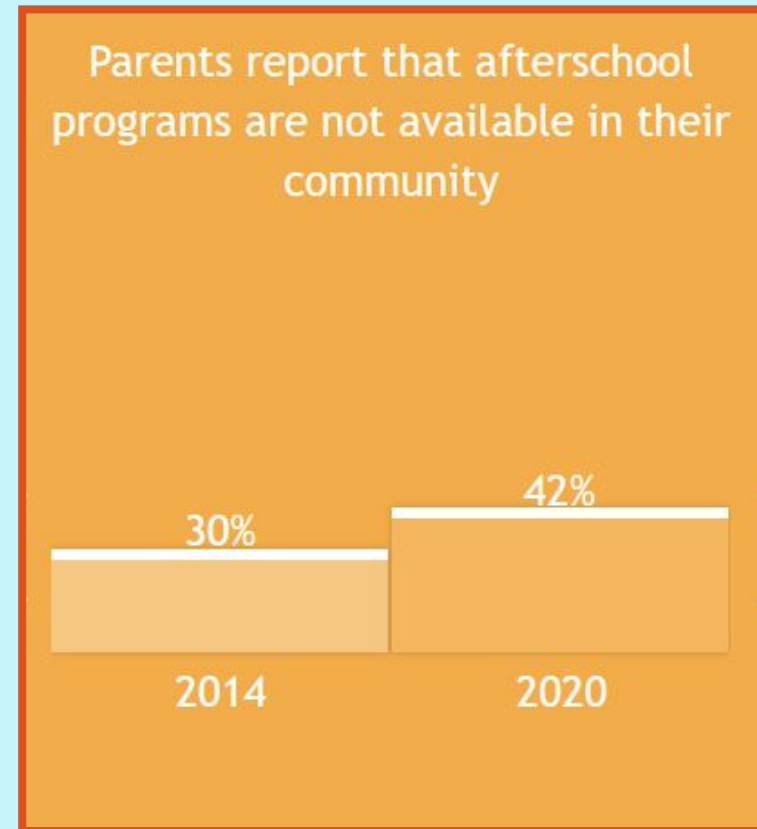
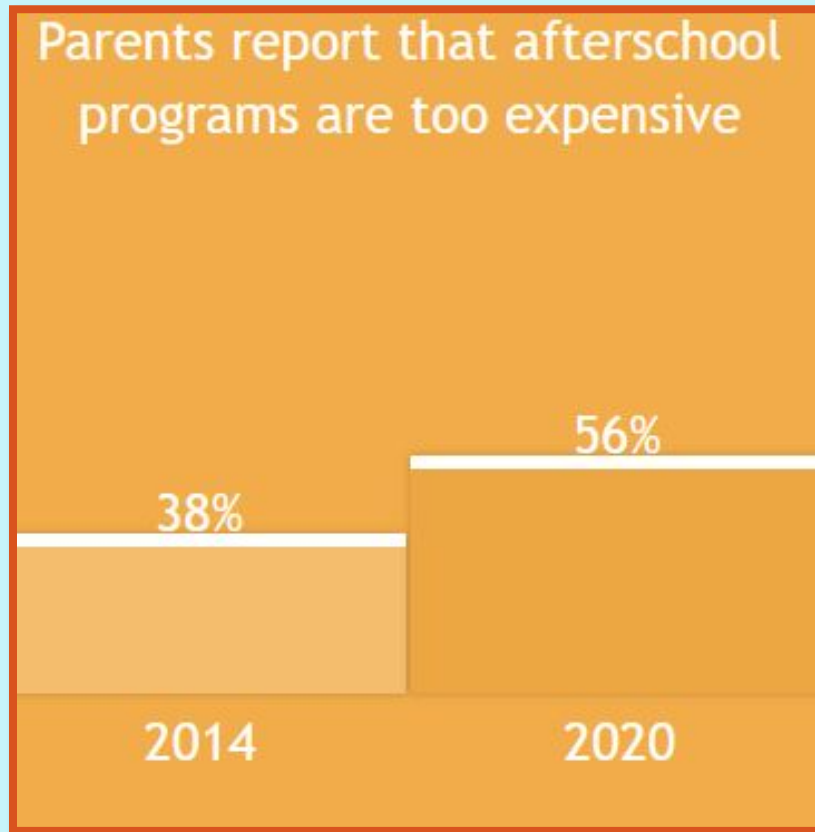


DID YOU

KNOW? Invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by increasing learning potential, improving school performance, and reducing crime and juvenile delinquency.



Barriers to Participation



Benefits of Participation

For Kids

Out-of-school time programs...

- Help kids develop important workforce skills
- Provide social-emotional learning opportunities and support
- Ensure that kids receive healthy snacks and meals while also staying physically active
- Reduce the likelihood that kids will engage in risky behaviors

For Parents

Out-of-school time programs...

- Give working parents peace of mind
- Provide supervision and assistance with distance and summer learning
- Allow parents to keep their jobs, return to work, or seek employment
- Teach parents how to be good partners in their child(ren)'s education

Benefits of Participation

For Schools

Out-of-school time programs...

- Can help reverse COVID-19-related learning loss while getting kids excited about learning again
- Aid in closing opportunity and achievement gaps between lower and higher income students
- Improve school attendance and decrease dropout rates
- Ensure college and career readiness

For Communities

Out-of-school time programs...

- Keep communities safer by reducing crime and juvenile delinquency
- Help build a strong and skilled workforce
- Reduce poverty by increasing kids' long-term earning potential



Over the summer, investments in academic enrichment activities, including in-person accelerated learning, experiential learning, tutoring and wraparound social, emotional and mental health services – with additional resources for communities with the greatest needs – could start to level the playing field for the next school year.

Dr. Miguel Cardona, U.S. Secretary of Education
USA Today Op-Ed; March 2, 2021



**School Community
Partnerships**



**Active and Engaged
Learning**



Family Engagement



Intentional Programming



Diverse, Prepared Staff



Participation & Access



Safety



Health & Well-being



**Ongoing Assessment &
Improvement**

American Rescue Plan: Afterschool & Summer Program Support

Education funding

- \$8.45B available from state education agencies (SEAs)
- \$22B provided to local education agencies (LEAs) for learning recovery strategies, including afterschool and summer enrichment

Child Care funding

- \$39 billion for child care, which can include school-age care, which will flow to state child care agencies

AmeriCorps Staff funding

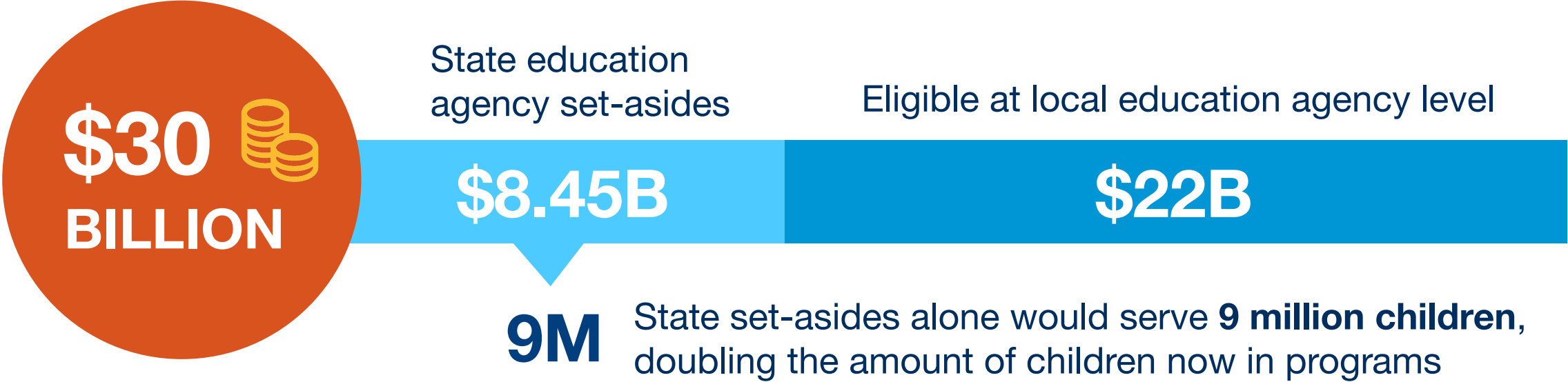
- \$1 billion for Corporation for National and Community Service through AmeriCorps for AmeriCorps positions to help address learning recovery and other purposes

Discretionary state & local government funding

- \$350 billion for state and local governments that can be used in part for child care and other purposes; under previous COVID relief funding, some counties funded afterschool or summer programs



American Rescue Plan: \$30B in Education Funding Potential for Afterschool & Summer Enrichment



American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III

\$30 Billion Eligible for Afterschool & Summer

District level – LEAs

- 20% of \$109B to be spent on learning recovery (afterschool/summer/ELT)
- **Total = \$22B**

State level - SEAs

- \$1.22B set-aside for summer
- \$1.22B set-aside for afterschool programs
- 5% set aside, \$6.1B, for learning recovery (afterschool/summer/ELT)



American Rescue Plan: March 2021
The Arkansas Department of Education will receive approximately \$1.25 billion

School Districts

State Department of Education

\$1.13 billion will go directly to school districts

\$125 million will stay at the State Department of Education

\$225 million must be spent on learning loss including afterschool, summer, extended day/year

Remainder can be spent on a long list of activities, programs, including afterschool, summer, community schools etc.

\$62.6 million must be spent on learning loss

\$12.5 million must be spent on summer enrichment

\$12.5 million must be spent on afterschool

Credit: https://50can.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2021/03/Federal_Funding_Memo.pdf

American Rescue Plan ESSER III: Timing

- Funds flowing now
 - SEAs disperse to LEAs within 60 days
- Can be awarded over 24-30 months until Sept 2023
- Support can cover at a minimum:
 - summer 2021, 2022, 2023
 - afterschool 21-22, 22-23

Funding Decision Makers

NATIONAL

US DOE sets direction, provides guidance on use of funds by SEAs, LEAs

STATE

Key leaders:

SEAs decide how to spend the 5% set aside for learning recovery interventions & the 1% afterschool and 1% summer set asides

SEAs provide guidance to LEAs on how to use their 20% set aside for learning recovery

Child care agencies

LOCAL

Key leaders:

Superintendents; School boards; Principals

LEAs decide how to spend the 20% set aside for learning recovery interventions

County and city government

Additional Funding Opportunities: Child Care

\$39 Billion

\$15 Billion additional for CCDBG

- Eligible to licensed, registered, and regulated programs
- All allowable uses in CCDBG law (quality funds, grants and contracts)
- To be obligated by 2023, liquidated by 2024

\$24 Billion Child Care Stabilization Grants

- 10% Maximum reservation for state agencies (TA, increase child care supply)
- 90% to CCDF eligible programs (rent, staff pay, mental health services for children or staff, reimburse COVID expenses etc)

In Arkansas: \$ 465 million total; \$178.9 million for CCDBG and \$286.1 million for stabilization

- 44% of children served nationally with CCDBG are School-Aged (28% in Arkansas)
- Support school-age children's academic, social and emotional recovery
- Economic resilience – getting parents back to work this summer and beyond
- New research on adolescent development – need for appropriate PD, staff and programming for ages 9 and up
- **States currently working on 2022-2024 CCDBG State Plans – opportunity to plan across 0-13 continuum**

Additional Funding Opportunities: CNCS

- \$1 billion investment to CNCS:
 - \$620 million AmeriCorps State & National
 - \$80 million AmeriCorps VISTA
- Funds will be used to support:
 - Increase in AmeriCorps living allowance
 - Increase diversity and cultural experiences of members
 - Stabilize existing national service programs and expand into new communities

Partnering with School Districts: The Opportunity

Summer and afterschool enrichment programs stand ready to partner with schools to support students this summer and fall. We can offer:

- ✓ More time and staff to engage students in learning activities
- ✓ Opportunities for social, emotional and interpersonal connections
- ✓ Access to supports like physical activity, meals, and mental health
- ✓ Strong communications and connections with families
- ✓ Additional spaces and resources from our community partners including libraries, parks, museums, faith-based organizations, businesses, philanthropy

How School Districts Benefit

Partnering with summer and afterschool enrichment programs can help schools **reach more students and provide:**

- ✓ Access to a variety of facilities and new resources to help teachers engage students in hands-on learning
- ✓ Expanded services: SEL supports, mental health services, family engagement
- ✓ Extended day services for students and working families who need full time programming
- ✓ Specialized support for students who have fallen behind and students with special needs

Why Afterschool and Summer?

- ✓ Proven to help kids reach their full potential
- ✓ Offerings that reinforce classroom learning
- ✓ Programs are established in communities statewide and we've innovated to continue serving during the pandemic
- ✓ Cost-effective, flexible partnerships that can be designed to meet the needs of the local community
- ✓ Strongly connected with families—and in high demand

Proven to Help Young People Kids Reach Their Full Potential

Students who participate in afterschool and summer enrichment programs:

- ✓ Get excited about learning
- ✓ Attend school more often
- ✓ Behave better in the classroom
- ✓ Make bigger gains in reading and math
- ✓ Improve work habits and grades
- ✓ Develop strong social skills, better adult connections
- ✓ Have higher graduation rates



How We Complement but do not Duplicate the School Day

- ✓ Hands-on project-based learning
- ✓ STEM, arts and music
- ✓ Planning and preparing for college
- ✓ Career exploration, internships, mentoring
- ✓ Service learning and community projects
- ✓ Youth-led learning and social activities
- ✓ Physical activity

Among participating students, those from families with low-income demonstrate the greatest gains



Our Reach & Response to COVID-19

We have strong reach, relationships, and trust in communities and with families, especially low-income households. During the pandemic, many programs have expanded their hours and services:

- ✓ Serving youth remotely
- ✓ Offering in-person supports to help students with remote school requirements
- ✓ Checking in to ensure youth and families are safe and supported
- ✓ Distributing meals to families
- ✓ Serving children of essential workers

Cost Effective and Flexible Programs

Our program models make good use of local buildings and playgrounds, including: community recreation centers, public libraries, community colleges, 4-H, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs

Flexible environment that gives teachers and program staff:

- ✓ Freedom to be more individualized in how they work with students
- ✓ Ability to collaborate on and coordinate support for students' academic progress
- ✓ Resources to support students' social, emotional and mental health
- ✓ Opportunities for outdoor education and active play
- ✓ Extra hands and tools to help communicate with families and caregivers



Tools to Make the Case

www.3to6.co/rescue

- Fact sheet: [Afterschool as Critical for Students' Recovery](#)
- Summer Enrichment [one pager](#)
- Principles of Expanded Learning – Supporting Students' Recovery in Summer and Afterschool: [2-pager](#) & [full paper](#)

How can we help?

Erik Peterson



epeterson@afterschoolalliance.org



[@erikafterschool](https://twitter.com/erikafterschool)

[@afterschool4all](https://twitter.com/afterschool4all)



Afterschool Alliance