Afterschool Alliance COVID-19 Program Provider Survey - Wave 4 Results

Data are based on an online survey conducted by Edge Research between February 19- March 15, 2021. In all, 1,235 providers representing more than 6,400 program sites in 50 states and the District of Columbia participated.

SURVEY¹

Screening questions

Which best describes your program? Please select one.

Afterschool program	44%
Summer program	3%
Year-round program	48%
Other (please specify)	5%

Number of respondents: 1,235

Is it typical for your program to be open or closed at this time of year?

Typically open	98%
Typically closed	1%
Not applicable	1%

¹ Totals within questions may be different due to rounding.



Current status of afterschool programs

How is your school district or local schools operating currently?

Open for in-person classes for all students	20%
Open for in-person classes for some students	7%
Hybrid—mix of in-person and virtual classes	58%
Online instruction only	11%
Something else	3%

Number of respondents: 1,235

To what extent is the program you work in open or closed this winter/spring 2021 in regards to serving students, due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Please select all that apply to your program.

We are completely closed; no in-person or virtual services being	
offered	2%
We are physically closed, but offering virtual programming for students	
and families	19%
We are physically closed, but delivering or offering new services for	
students and families, i.e. meals, activity packets, check in calls	9%
We are physically open in at least some capacity (this includes the	
range of ways a program is physically open, including, but not limited	
to, operating as usual, operating only some sites, serving a smaller	
number of students, or operating both in-person and virtually)	75%
Other (please specify)	5%
Not applicable	1%

IF PHYSICALLY OPEN. You selected that your program is physically open to students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Which of the following apply to your program? Please select all that apply.

We are physically open to all children (including if you are open, but with	
limited capacity due to health and safety protocols)	85%
We have established new cleaning protocols, employed social	
distancing, requiring students and staff wear masks, or reduced student	
to staff ratios	92%
We are physically open, and also providing virtual services for families	40%
that prefer that option	
We have extended the hours our program is open in-person in order to	24%
provide a safe, supervised environment during virtual school days	
We are offering onsite snacks and/or meals to students	77%
None of the above	1%
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Number of respondents: 926

IF OPEN IN SOME CAPACITY. Does your program currently offer any of the following for your students? Please select all that apply.

86%
85%
81%
80%
76%
76%
75%
53%
32%
9%
1%

IF EXTENDED HOURS. You said that your program has extended the hours it is open in person. Please select which of the following apply.

Open for longer in the AM, before school hours	26%
Open for longer during the day/virtual school hours	76%
Open for longer in the PM, after school hours	30%
Other	10%
Not sure/Not applicable	3%

Number of respondents: 214

Please enter your best estimate of the additional hours per week your program is open in person during COVID-19 compared to your pre-COVID hours.

0 2% 1-5 17% 6-10 14% 11-20 19% 21-30 21% 31+ 20% Not sure 8% Median 20 hours Mean (excluding 0) 20.7 hours		
6-1014%11-2019%21-3021%31+20%Not sure8%Median20 hours	0	2%
11-20 19% 21-30 21% 31+ 20% Not sure 8% Median 20 hours		17%
21-30 21% 31+ 20% Not sure 8% Median 20 hours		14%
31+ 20% Not sure 8% Median 20 hours		19%
Not sure 8% Median 20 hours		21%
Median 20 hours	31+	20%
	Not sure	8%
Mean (excluding 0) 20.7 hours	Median	20 hours
	Mean (excluding 0)	20.7 hours

Number of respondents: 214

IF PHYSICALLY OPEN. Is there a waitlist for your program?

Yes	37%
No	55%
Unsure	4%
Not applicable	3%

IF PHYSICALLY CLOSED. What are the primary factors preventing you from providing in-person services? Select all that apply

Concern about health and safety for staff and/or youth	61%
Ongoing changes to school district policies and procedures	50%
School or school district is closed to community partners	46%
Lack of access to appropriate space	31%
Social distancing measures not compatible with our program model	26%
Lack of interest from families	14%
Increased cost of running in-person programming	10%
Lack of access to proper health and safety equipment (face coverings,	_
cleaning supplies, etc.)	9%
Other (please specify)	10%

Number of respondents: 261

Has your afterschool program made a change in staffing this winter/spring 2021 because of COVID-19? Select all that apply.

Yes, layoffs	11%
Yes, furloughs or suspended work	14%
Yes, reduced hours of staff	29%
Yes, hiring of fewer staff for this winter/spring 2021	31%
Yes, hiring of more staff for this winter/spring 2021	14%
Yes, increased hours of staff to provide services for children who	
attend during virtual school days	18%
No, but anticipate layoffs or furloughs	2%
No change	28%
Not applicable	3%

IF YES LAYOFF OR FURLOUGHS. At this point in time, what percentage of your afterschool program staff has been laid off or furloughed? Your best estimate is fine.

25% or less	36%
26-49%	23%
50-75%	18%
More than 75%	15%
Not sure	8%

Number of respondents: 265

How are you and/or staff in your program being financially supported? Please select all that apply.

Being paid full salaries	60%
Being paid partial salaries	5%
Being paid hourly	60%
Being provided with paid leave	15%
Being allowed to use all accrued leave	16%
Full or partial benefits being covered by program	18%
Staff relying on unemployment insurance	9%
Staff are not being financially supported by the program at this time	4%
Other (please specify)	3%
Not sure/Not applicable	3%

What was the cost-per-child per week in your afterschool program during the 2019-2020 school year, before COVID-19 related closures? Your best estimate is fine. "Cost-per-child" refers to the cost to the program for each participating student per week. This cost is not necessarily the same as the fee charged per child to parents.

\$0	6%
\$1-\$25	9%
\$26-\$50	9%
\$51-\$100	13%
\$101-200	6%
More than \$200	5%
Mean (excluding \$0):	\$164.40

Number of respondents: 1,235

What is the cost-per-child per week for in-person services in your afterschool program this year? Your best estimate is fine. "Cost-per-child" refers to the cost to the program for each participating student per week. This cost is not necessarily the same as the fee charged per child to parents.

\$0	6%
\$1-\$25	7%
\$26-\$50	8%
\$51-\$100	11%
\$101-200	7%
More than \$200	6%
Mean (excluding \$0):	\$201.10

Number of respondents: 1,235

Please tell us if your program is currently conducting or plans to conduct any of the following activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

	Currently	Plan to	Stopped
	providing	provide	providing
Serving youth remotely/finding alternate ways to			
stay connected to youth	57%	6%	12%
Engaging staff in remote professional development			
and training	73%	12%	5%

Serving as a meals site, delivering meals, or			
distributing other resources to families	57%	5%	7%
Providing care for children of essential workers	49%	4%	6%
Connecting families with community resources			
(e.g., health or dental clinics, financial planning,			
mental health services, etc.)	53%	11%	3%
Providing a safe, supervised learning environment			
during virtual school days	57%	4%	9%

Number of respondents: 1,235

Is your program operating in its usual location and space this winter/spring **2021?** (Among programs physically open)

Yes	87%
No	12%
Not sure/To be determined	1%
Not applicable	0%

Number of respondents: 926

IF NO OR NOT SURE/TO BE DETERMINED. Why is your program currently unable to, or potentially unable to, operate in its usual location and space this fall?

Schools are closed to community partners	51%
Not enough space for social distancing	37%
No way to safely handle transportation from school to	
usual location	7%
Other	29%

Supports and resources important to afterschool programs

At this point in time, how important is funding sources or money to your program?

Extremely or very important overall	78%
Extremely important	50%
Very important	28%
Somewhat important	15%
Not too or at all important overall	6%
Not too important	4%
Not at all important	2%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,235

At this point in time, how important is better guidance and more information to help plan for the future?

Extremely or very important overall	67%
Extremely important	28%
Very important	38%
Somewhat important	23%
Not too or at all important overall	8%
Not too important	7%
Not at all important	1%
Not sure	2%

At this point in time, how important is guidance on how to work with school districts and/or local schools regarding schedules and programming?

Extremely or very important overall	62%
Extremely important	27%
Very important	35%
Somewhat important	20%
Not too or at all important overall	13%
Not too important	10%
Not at all important	3%
Not sure	5%

Number of respondents: 1,235

At this point in time, how important is better guidance and resources to protect the health and safety of staff and students to your program?

Extremely or very important overall	61%
Extremely important	26%
Very important	35%
Somewhat important	25%
Not too or at all important overall	11%
Not too important	9%
Not at all important	3%
Not sure	2%

At this point in time, how important is ensuring staff get vaccinated?

Extremely or very important overall	56%
Extremely important	30%
Very important	26%
Somewhat important	22%
Not too or at all important overall	15%
Not too important	10%
Not at all important	5%
Not sure	6%

Number of respondents: 1,235

At this point in time, how important is more online resources or more student access to technology to your program (including broadband)?

Extremely or very important overall	54%
Extremely important	23%
Very important	30%
Somewhat important	27%
Not too or at all important overall	16%
Not too important	12%
Not at all important	4%
Not sure	3%

At this point in time, how important is finding and paying for protective equipment and cleaning supplies to your program?

Extremely or very important overall	52%
Extremely important	23%
Very important	29%
Somewhat important	28%
Not too or at all important overall	16%
Not too important	11%
Not at all important	5%
Not sure	3%

Number of respondents: 1,235

And which resources would be most helpful to your afterschool program right now? Please pick up to 3.

Advice on staff burnout and keeping teams engaged	42%
Advice on funding streams and securing foundation funds	35%
Tools and trainings to prepare staff to deliver high-quality	
summer learning programs	33%
Communication tools to help families learn more about the	
supports and benefits of afterschool and summer programs	28%
Updates on COVID-19 relevant to the afterschool field	25%
Advice on how to work with the school district and/or local	
schools about programming	21%
Virtual programming resources/materials/strategies	20%
Online trainings for direct-service staff	19%
Online educational resources to share with families	15%
Online trainings for leadership	13%
Virtual coaching for program leaders and staff	12%
Advocacy communication tools to use with decision makers	9%
Opportunities to stay virtually connected to others in the field	7%
Other (if other, please specify)	2%

Concerns

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students' mental and emotional health?

Extremely or very concerned overall	83%
Extremely concerned	53%
Very concerned	30%
Somewhat concerned	12%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	5%
Not too concerned	3%
Not at all concerned	2%
Not sure	0%

Number of respondents: 1,235

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students experiencing learning loss?

Extremely or very concerned overall	81%
Extremely concerned	53%
Very concerned	27%
Somewhat concerned	14%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	5%
Not too concerned	4%
Not at all concerned	1%
Not sure	1%

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students missing opportunities for social connections with peers and caring adults?

Extremely or very concerned overall	78%
Extremely concerned	44%
Very concerned	34%
Somewhat concerned	15%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	7%
Not too concerned	4%
Not at all concerned	3%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,235

How concerned are you about your students having adverse childhood experiences?

Extremely or very concerned overall	68%
Extremely concerned	37%
Very concerned	31%
Somewhat concerned	21%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	9%
Not too concerned	6%
Not at all concerned	3%
Not sure	2%

At this point in time, how concerned are you about losing touch with students in need as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	68%
Extremely concerned	34%
Very concerned	34%
Somewhat concerned	19%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	11%
Not too concerned	8%
Not at all concerned	4%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,235

At this point in time, how concerned are you that there are children in your community who need afterschool programming and are not able to access it?

Extremely or very concerned overall	65%
Extremely concerned	35%
Very concerned	30%
Somewhat concerned	21%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	12%
Not too concerned	8%
Not at all concerned	4%
Not sure	3%

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students missing out on physical activity and/or time spent outdoors?

Extremely or very concerned overall	60%
Extremely concerned	30%
Very concerned	30%
Somewhat concerned	23%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	15%
Not too concerned	10%
Not at all concerned	5%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,235

How concerned are you about long-term funding and the program's future as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	58%
Extremely concerned	33%
Very concerned	26%
Somewhat concerned	24%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	16%
Not too concerned	11%
Not at all concerned	5%
Not sure	2%

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students lacking a safe, structured environment?

Extremely or very concerned overall	58%
Extremely concerned	28%
Very concerned	30%
Somewhat concerned	23%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	18%
Not too concerned	12%
Not at all concerned	6%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,235

At this point in time, how concerned are you about finding staff to hire/staffing shortages?

Extremely or very concerned overall	55%
Extremely concerned	31%
Very concerned	24%
Somewhat concerned	20%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	21%
Not too concerned	15%
Not at all concerned	6%
Not sure	4%

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students experiencing food insecurity?

Extremely or very concerned overall	55%
Extremely concerned	27%
Very concerned	28%
Somewhat concerned	26%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	17%
Not too concerned	12%
Not at all concerned	5%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,235

At this point in time, how concerned are you about maintaining adequate staff through health concerns and new procedures?

Extremely or very concerned overall	52%
Extremely concerned	24%
Very concerned	28%
Somewhat concerned	25%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	21%
Not too concerned	15%
Not at all concerned	6%
Not sure	2%

At this point in time, how concerned are you about meeting the needs of families who will need afterschool programs for longer periods of time due to schools' mix of virtual and in person teaching?

Extremely or very concerned overall	52%
Extremely concerned	23%
Very concerned	29%
Somewhat concerned	26%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	18%
Not too concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	5%
Not sure	5%

Number of respondents: 1,235

How concerned are you about whether families will come back after the pandemic is over as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	51%
Extremely concerned	26%
Very concerned	25%
Somewhat concerned	25%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	22%
Not too concerned	14%
Not at all concerned	8%
Not sure	2%

How concerned are you about loss of funding to the program this year as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	50%
Extremely concerned	28%
Very concerned	23%
Somewhat concerned	23%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	23%
Not too concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	10%
Not sure	4%

Number of respondents: 1,235

At this point in time, how concerned are you about the availability of physical space to offer programming while meeting public health procedures?

Extremely or very concerned overall	46%
Extremely concerned	20%
Very concerned	26%
Somewhat concerned	24%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	28%
Not too concerned	17%
Not at all concerned	10%
Not sure	2%

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students not having access to the technology they need at this time?

Extremely or very concerned overall	43%
Extremely concerned	18%
Very concerned	26%
Somewhat concerned	28%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	27%
Not too concerned	16%
Not at all concerned	10%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,235

How concerned are you that new restrictions as a result of COVID-19, such as student/staff ratios, cleaning protocols, and social distancing guidelines, will make it cost prohibitive to offer programming?

Extremely or very concerned overall	42%
Extremely concerned	17%
Very concerned	25%
Somewhat concerned	29%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	27%
Not too concerned	19%
Not at all concerned	8%
Not sure	2%

How concerned are you about ensuring staff get vaccinated?

Extremely or very concerned overall	37%
Extremely concerned	17%
Very concerned	20%
Somewhat concerned	24%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	34%
Not too concerned	20%
Not at all concerned	14%
Not sure	5%

Number of respondents: 1,235

How concerned are you about having to lay off or furlough staff in the months to come as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	27%
Extremely concerned	14%
Very concerned	13%
Somewhat concerned	21%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	41%
Not too concerned	24%
Not at all concerned	17%
Not sure	11%

How concerned are you about having to permanently close the program as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	26%
Extremely concerned	14%
Very concerned	12%
Somewhat concerned	18%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	51%
Not too concerned	26%
Not at all concerned	24%
Not sure	6%

Number of respondents: 1,235

How concerned are you about being able to re-hire furloughed staff in the months to come?

Extremely or very concerned overall	24%
Extremely concerned	11%
Very concerned	13%
Somewhat concerned	17%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	34%
Not too concerned	20%
Not at all concerned	14%
Not sure	25%

How concerned are you about paying for staff health insurance and other benefits?

Extremely or very concerned overall	23%
Extremely concerned	12%
Very concerned	11%
Somewhat concerned	18%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	34%
Not too concerned	20%
Not at all concerned	14%
Not sure	25%

Number of respondents: 1,235

How concerned are you about lack of certainty about when your program will re-open? (Only asked of programs that are closed)

Extremely or very concerned overall	47%
Extremely concerned	24%
Very concerned	23%
Somewhat concerned	22%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	23%
Not too concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	10%
Not sure	8%

How concerned are you about rushing to reopen before it is safe for students and staff? (Only asked of programs that are closed)

Extremely or very concerned overall	44%
Extremely concerned	25%
Very concerned	19%
Somewhat concerned	22%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	28%
Not too concerned	16%
Not at all concerned	12%
Not sure	6%

Future oriented questions

Will you be offering programming this summer (2021)?

Yes	79%
No, but typically offer summer programming	3%
Not sure/To be determined	16%

Number of respondents: 1,127

What will be included in your summer programming?

Serving students in-person	64%
Serving students virtually	3%
Serving students both in-person and virtually	25%
Not sure/To be determined	8%

Number of respondents: 895

What most concerns you as you plan for the summer? Please select up to three.

52%
44%
42%
36%
35%
19%
14%
7%
5%
2%

How concerned are you that your program will not be able to provide in-person services next fall for the 2021/2022 school year?

Extremely or very concerned overall	20%
Extremely concerned	9%
Very concerned	11%
Somewhat concerned	26%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	51%
Not too concerned	31%
Not at all concerned	19%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,235

As the pandemic continues into 2021, which best describes your program's likely financial future?

Our program will have to raise parent fees or find new	
sources of revenue	30%
Our program will have to shut down	2%
Our program will not need to make significant changes	41%
Not sure	27%

Number of respondents: 1,235

Is your organization involved in conversations organized by the school district or individual schools about how best to support students' learning this upcoming summer?

Yes	58%
No	28%
Not sure/Not applicable	14%

Is your organization involved in conversations organized by the school district or individual schools about how to best re-open schools and/or return to serving all students in person?

Yes	47%
No	38%
Not sure/Not applicable	15%

Number of respondents: 1,235

Thinking about the future of your afterschool program, which comes closest to your view today, even if neither is exactly right?

Optimistic/Pessimistic

Optimistic overall	70%
Strongly optimistic	31%
Somewhat optimistic	39%
Neutral	23%
Pessimistic overall	6%
Somewhat pessimistic	5%
Strongly pessimistic	1%

Number of respondents: 1,235

Worst is over/Worst is yet to come:

Worst is over overall	56%
Strongly feel that the worst is over	20%
Somewhat feel that the worst is over	36%
Neutral	40%
Worst is yet to come overall	4%
Somewhat feel that the worst is yet to come	4%
Strongly feel that the worst is yet to come	0%

Respondent Profile

How would you describe the setting(s) for your program? Select all that apply.

Rural	36%
Suburban	28%
Urban	42%
State or regional	9%
National	2%

Number of respondents: 1,235

Is your program typically located in a public school?

Yes	64%
No	36%

Number of respondents: 1,235

Which of the following describes your organization? Please select all that apply.

Afterschool program run by a public school or school district	27%
Afterschool program run by a community based organization	19%
Boys & Girls Club	16%
Afterschool program run by another non-profit not listed	10%
YMCA	7%
Afterschool program run by a child care center	7%
Afterschool program operated by a private organization	6%
Afterschool program run by a city or town (including Parks and	
Recreation Department)	4%
Afterschool program run by a faith-based organization	3%
4-H	2%
Afterschool program run by a college or university	2%
Afterschool program run by a private school	2%
Afterschool program run by a charter school	2%
After-School All-Stars	1%
CampFire program	1%
Girls Inc.	1%

Afterschool program run by a library	1%
Afterschool program run by a museum or science center	1%
YWCA	1%
Other organization, please specify:	7%

Number of respondents: 1,235

Please enter your best estimate for the number of students served by your program for each scenario.

Total number of children served during the 2019-2020 school year, before COVID-19 related closures

0	3%
1-25	4%
26-50	11%
51-100	20%
101-150	14%
151-200	8%
201+	40%
Mean:	582 students
Mean (excluding 0):	597 students

Number of respondents: 1,220

Total number of children that your program served and/or anticipate serving this winter/spring 2021:

0	4%
1-25	13%
26-50	19%
51-100	24%
101-150	11%
151-200	6%
201+	22%
Mean:	297 students
Mean (excluding 0):	310 students

Total number of students estimated in-person this winter/spring 2021:

0	20%
1-25	15%
26-50	17%
51-100	20%
101-150	7%
151-200	6%
201+	16%
Mean:	186 students
Mean (excluding 0):	232 students

Number of respondents: 1,234

Total number of students estimated virtually this winter/spring 2021:

0	46%
1-25	19%
26-50	10%
51-100	10%
101-150	3%
151-200	2%
201+	10%
Mean:	163 students
Mean (excluding 0):	303 students

How many staff did your program employ during the 2019-2020 school year, before COVID-19 related closures?

Full time:

0	20%
1-10	61%
11-25	13%
26-50	4%
51-100	2%
101+	1%
Mean (excluding 0):	13 full-time staff

Number of respondents: 1,234

Part time:

i dit tillio:	
0	13%
1-10	43%
11-25	22%
26-50	10%
51-100	7%
101+	5%
Mean (excluding 0):	31 part-time staff

Number of respondents: 1,235

How many staff is your program employing this winter/spring 2021?

Full time:

i an arro.	
0	21%
1-10	63%
11-25	11%
26-50	4%
51-100	1%
101+	1%
Mean (excluding 0):	10 full-time staff

22 part-time staff

Part time:	
0	16%
1-10	49%
11-25	19%
26-50	9%
51-100	5%
101+	3%

Number of respondents: 1,235

Mean (excluding 0):

What is your best estimate for your program's overall student population and the racial/ethnic backgrounds of the students you typically serve?

	Mean
Asian	4%
Black or African American	29%
Hispanic or Latinx	20%
Native American	2%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1%
White	41%

Number of respondents: 1,012

What percentage of the students served qualify for the free or reduced price lunch program?

25% or less	8%
26-49%	11%
50-75%	21%
More than 75%	50%
Not Sure	10%

What grade level are the students you typically serve? Select all that apply.

Pre-K students	26%
Elementary school students	83%
Middle school students	58%
High school students	33%

Number of respondents: 1,235

What are your program's primary funding sources? Please check all that apply.

Parent fees	39%
21st Century Community Learning Centers grant (21st CCLC)	38%
Private donations/fundraisers	32%
Foundation/philanthropic grant	27%
State government funds (not 21st CCLC)	23%
Local government funds	23%
Corporations/businesses	17%
Other federal government programmatic funds (not 21st CCLC	
or CCDF)	15%
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)	9%
Savings	5%
Loans	3%
Other	7%
Not sure	5%