Afterschool Alliance COVID-19 Program Provider Survey - Wave 6 Results

Data are based on an online survey conducted by Edge Research between Nov. 1 – Dec. 13, 2021. In all, 1,048 providers representing more than 9,800 program sites in 49 states and the District of Columbia participated.

SURVEY¹

Screening questions

Which best describes your program? Please select one.

Afterschool program	46%
Summer program	2%
Year-round program	46%
Other (please specify)	7%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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

Typically open	98%
Typically closed	2%
Not applicable	1%

¹ Totals within questions may be different due to rounding.



Current status of afterschool programs

To what extent is the program you work in open or closed this fall 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	1%
We are physically closed, but offering virtual programming for students and	
families	2%
We are physically closed, but delivering or offering new services for	
students and families, i.e. meals, activity packets, check in calls	2%
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)	86%
Other (please specify)	8%
Not applicable	3%

Number of respondents: 1,048

IF PHYSICALLY OPEN. You selected that your program is physically open to students this fall. Which of the following apply to your program? Please select all that apply.

We are physically open and operating at pre-COVID capacity limits	45%
We are physically open, but at reduced capacity due to health and safety	
protocols	46%
We are physically open, with programming primarily provided outdoors	8%
We are physically open, and also providing virtual services for families	
that prefer that option	13%
We have extended the hours our program is open in-person in order to	
provide a safe, supervised environment during school closures or virtual	
school days	8%
We are offering onsite snacks and/or meals to students	67%
We have established new cleaning protocols, employed social distancing,	
or reduced student to staff ratios	75%
None of the above	1%

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

Academic enrichment	96%
Time to interact with peers and build social skills	91%
Physical activity opportunities	86%
Homework or academic help	85%
Opportunities to develop life skills, such as building communication,	
teamwork, and critical thinking skills	85%
Outdoor activities	83%
Opportunities to talk with peers or staff members about their feelings	
and emotions	81%
STEM learning opportunities	81%
Reading or writing time	79%
Access to technology, including computers, laptops, and/or broadband	71%
Family or parent engagement activities	57%
Other social and emotional supports	50%
Employing certified teachers	43%
Take home activities and other virtual activities	29%
Home visits and/or check in calls with students and families	21%
Ability to earn school credits	6%
None of the above	0%

Number of respondents: 926

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

Yes	54%
No	43%
Unsure	2%
Not applicable	2%

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	14%
Open for longer during the day/virtual school hours	33%
Open for longer in the PM, after school hours	59%
Other	29%
Not sure/Not applicable	0%

Number of respondents: 69

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	3%
1-5	41%
6-10	22%
11-20	10%
21-30	4%
31+	1%
Not sure	19%
Median	5 hours
Mean (excluding 0)	8.7 hours

Number of respondents: 69

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

58%
58%
48%
36%
30%
24%
24%
24%

Lack of access to proper health and safety equipment (face coverings,	
cleaning supplies, etc.)	15%
Other (please specify)	9%

This fall, how easy or difficult has it been for your program to hire and/or retain staff?

Very easy	5%
Somewhat easy	9%
Neither easy nor difficult	11%
Somewhat difficult	26%
Very difficult	47%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,048

What, if anything, has your program done to attract staff and/or retain staff? Select all that apply.

Increased salaries	53%
Provided additional professional development	
opportunities	32%
Provided free childcare for staff	18%
Provided sign-on bonuses	15%
Provided additional paid time off	10%
Provided additional/new health and/or dental benefits	5%
Other (please specify)	11%
My program has not done anything new to attract or	
retain staff	29%

Compared to the fall of 2020, has your program made a change in staffing this fall because of COVID-19? Please select all that apply.

Yes, layoffs	2%
Yes, furloughs or suspended work	4%
Yes, reduced hours of staff	8%
Yes, hiring of fewer staff for this fall	12%
Yes, hiring of more staff for this fall due to increased demand for	
programming	31%
Yes, hiring of more staff for this fall due to social distancing and new	
student/staff ratios	15%
Yes, increased hours of staff to provide services for children who	
attend during virtual school days	5%
No, but anticipate layoffs or furloughs	2%
No change	34%
Not applicable	8%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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	43%
26-49%	21%
50-75%	12%
More than 75%	10%
Not sure	14%

Number of respondents: 58

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

Being paid full salaries	63%
Being paid partial salaries	4%
Being paid hourly	65%
Being provided with paid leave	22%

Being allowed to use all accrued leave	14%
Full or partial benefits being covered by program	21%
Staff relying on unemployment insurance	2%
Staff are not being financially supported by the program at this time	2%
Other (please specify)	3%
Not sure/Not applicable	3%

How has COVID-19 impacted your cost-per-child per week for in-person services this fall, or how do you anticipate it impacting your cost-per-child per week for in-person services?

Our program's cost-per-child per week for in-person services has	
increased/will increase	47%
Our program's cost-per-child per week for in-person services has	
decreased/will decrease	3%
There has been/will be no change	36%
Not sure	14%

Number of respondents: 1,048

IF INCREASED. You said that your program's cost-per-child per week for inperson services has increased or will increase due to COVID-19. Please estimate how much the cost-per-child per week has increased.

1-10% increase	47%
11-25% increase	33%
26-50% increase	6%
More than 50% increase	2%
Not sure	12%

IF INCREASED. You said that your program's cost-per-child per week for inperson services has increased or will increase due to COVID-19. What do you think is causing that increase? Please select all that apply.

Staffing costs	83%
Cleaning protocols	55%
Supplies	55%
Food	36%
Facility costs	24%
Other (please specify)	8%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 497

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	4%
\$1-\$25	7%
\$26-\$50	7%
\$51-\$100	13%
\$101-200	7%
More than \$200	3%
Not sure	58%
Mean (excluding \$0):	\$125.80

Number of respondents: 1,048

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 providing	Plan to provide	Stopped providing
Serving youth remotely/finding alternate ways to	-		
stay connected to youth	26%	7%	37%

Engaging staff in remote professional development			
and training	66%	12%	9%
Serving as a meals site, delivering meals, or			
distributing other resources to families	44%	4%	16%
Connecting families with community resources			
(e.g., health or dental clinics, financial planning,			
mental health services, etc.)	55%	13%	3%
Providing a safe, supervised learning environment			
during virtual school days	28%	6%	31%

Supports and resources important to afterschool programs

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

Extremely or very important overall	74%
Extremely important	43%
Very important	31%
Somewhat important	16%
Not too or at all important overall	8%
Not too important	6%
Not at all important	2%
Not sure	3%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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

Extremely or very important overall	53%
Extremely important	17%
Very important	35%
Somewhat important	33%
Not too or at all important overall	12%
Not too important	10%
Not at all important	3%
Not sure	3%

Number of respondents: 1,048

At this point in time, how important is guidance on how to access COVID relief funding, including the American Rescue Plan or Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) I, II, or III funds?

Extremely or very important overall	53%
Extremely important	25%
Very important	28%

Somewhat important	24%
Not too or at all important overall	16%
Not too important	11%
Not at all important	4%
Not sure	8%

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	48%
Extremely important	15%
Very important	33%
Somewhat important	31%
Not too or at all important overall	19%
Not too important	13%
Not at all important	5%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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	46%
Extremely important	17%
Very important	29%
Somewhat important	28%
Not too or at all important overall	20%
Not too important	15%
Not at all important	5%
Not sure	6%

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

Extremely or very important overall	44%
Extremely important	18%
Very important	26%
Somewhat important	25%
Not too or at all important overall	24%
Not too important	15%
Not at all important	10%
Not sure	6%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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	38%
Extremely important	15%
Very important	23%
Somewhat important	30%
Not too or at all important overall	27%
Not too important	18%
Not at all important	9%
Not sure	4%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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	38%
Extremely important	12%
Very important	25%
Somewhat important	30%
Not too or at all important overall	28%
Not too important	19%
Not at all important	9%
Not sure	4%

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

Advice on staff burnout and keeping teams engaged	52%
Advice on funding streams and securing foundation funds	34%
Tools and trainings to prepare staff to deliver high-quality summer	
learning programs	28%
Online trainings for direct-service staff	23%
Communication tools to help families learn more about the	_
supports and benefits of afterschool and summer programs	23%
Advice on how to work with the school district and/or local schools	
about programming	19%
Updates on COVID-19 relevant to the afterschool field	17%
Information on how to connect with state and local education	_
leaders about COVID relief funding, including the American Rescue	
Plan Act funds	15%
Online trainings for leadership	14%
Online educational resources to share with families	12%
Virtual coaching for program leaders and staff	12%
Virtual programming resources/materials/strategies	10%
Advocacy communication tools to use with decision makers	9%
Opportunities to stay virtually connected to others in the field	5%
Other (if other, please specify)	3%

Concerns

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	81%
Extremely concerned	46%
Very concerned	36%
Somewhat concerned	15%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	4%
Not too concerned	2%
Not at all concerned	2%
Not sure	0%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	74%
Extremely concerned	42%
Very concerned	33%
Somewhat concerned	18%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	7%
Not too concerned	5%
Not at all concerned	2%
Not sure	0%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	71%
Extremely concerned	51%
Very concerned	20%
Somewhat concerned	17%

Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	10%
Not too concerned	8%
Not at all concerned	3%
Not sure	2%

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	64%
Extremely concerned	29%
Very concerned	36%
Somewhat concerned	21%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	14%
Not too concerned	10%
Not at all concerned	5%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,048

How concerned are you about your students having adverse childhood experiences (i.e. abuse, neglect, and other household dysfunctions)?

Extremely or very concerned overall	64%
Extremely concerned	31%
Very concerned	32%
Somewhat concerned	25%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	10%
Not too concerned	8%
Not at all concerned	2%
Not sure	2%

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	62%
Extremely concerned	28%
Very concerned	33%
Somewhat concerned	22%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	14%
Not too concerned	10%
Not at all concerned	4%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	58%
Extremely concerned	31%
Very concerned	27%
Somewhat concerned	24%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	16%
Not too concerned	11%
Not at all concerned	5%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	51%
Extremely concerned	22%
Very concerned	29%
Somewhat concerned	30%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	19%
Not too concerned	12%

Not at all concerned	6%
Not sure	1%

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	50%
Extremely concerned	20%
Very concerned	30%
Somewhat concerned	26%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	23%
Not too concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	10%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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	48%
Extremely concerned	19%
Very concerned	29%
Somewhat concerned	32%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	19%
Not too concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	6%
Not sure	2%

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	48%
Extremely concerned	25%
Very concerned	24%
Somewhat concerned	28%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	22%
Not too concerned	15%
Not at all concerned	7%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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	43%
Extremely concerned	17%
Very concerned	26%
Somewhat concerned	22%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	34%
Not too concerned	20%
Not at all concerned	14%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	37%
Extremely concerned	18%
Very concerned	19%
Somewhat concerned	21%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	37%
Not too concerned	23%
Not at all concerned	14%

Not sure	5%
	0 70

How concerned are you about waitlists for students/being able to meet the demand for programs?

Extremely or very concerned overall	36%
Extremely concerned	18%
Very concerned	18%
Somewhat concerned	25%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	31%
Not too concerned	18%
Not at all concerned	12%
Not sure	9%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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	32%
Extremely concerned	15%
Very concerned	18%
Somewhat concerned	28%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	38%
Not too concerned	25%
Not at all concerned	12%
Not sure	2%

How concerned are you that 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	31%
Extremely concerned	12%
Very concerned	19%
Somewhat concerned	30%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	37%
Not too concerned	25%
Not at all concerned	11%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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	30%
Extremely concerned	13%
Very concerned	18%
Somewhat concerned	31%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	37%
Not too concerned	23%
Not at all concerned	14%
Not sure	2%

How concerned are you about whether families will feel safe sending their child to an afterschool program?

Extremely or very concerned overall	29%
Extremely concerned	9%
Very concerned	19%
Somewhat concerned	35%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	35%
Not too concerned	23%
Not at all concerned	12%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,048

How concerned are you about whether families will come back after the pandemic is over?

Extremely or very concerned overall	28%
Extremely concerned	12%
Very concerned	16%
Somewhat concerned	29%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	40%
Not too concerned	25%
Not at all concerned	15%
Not sure	3%

How concerned are you about ensuring staff are vaccinated?

Extremely or very concerned overall	27%
Extremely concerned	10%
Very concerned	17%
Somewhat concerned	25%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	41%
Not too concerned	23%
Not at all concerned	17%
Not sure	7%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	23%
Extremely concerned	10%
Very concerned	13%
Somewhat concerned	16%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	35%
Not too concerned	22%
Not at all concerned	13%
Not sure	25%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	17%
Extremely concerned	8%
Very concerned	9%
Somewhat concerned	14%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	36%
Not too concerned	18%
Not at all concerned	18%
Not sure	34%

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	17%
Extremely concerned	9%
Very concerned	8%
Somewhat concerned	19%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	59%
Not too concerned	30%
Not at all concerned	29%
Not sure	4%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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	14%
Extremely concerned	6%
Very concerned	8%
Somewhat concerned	17%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	57%
Not too concerned	29%
Not at all concerned	27%
Not sure	11%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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	17%
Extremely concerned	9%

Very concerned	8%
Somewhat concerned	20%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	45%
Not too concerned	25%
Not at all concerned	20%
Not sure	18%

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	16%
Extremely concerned	8%
Very concerned	8%
Somewhat concerned	15%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	30%
Not too concerned	12%
Not at all concerned	18%
Not sure	39%

Future oriented questions

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	74%
Strongly optimistic	38%
Somewhat optimistic	36%
Neutral	21%
Pessimistic overall	5%
Somewhat pessimistic	4%
Strongly pessimistic	1%

Number of respondents: 1,048

Worst is over/Worst is yet to come:

Trainer is a rail, trainer is yet to conner	
Worst is over overall	48%
Strongly feel that the worst is over	17%
Somewhat feel that the worst is over	31%
Neutral	46%
Worst is yet to come overall	6%
Somewhat feel that the worst is yet to come	5%
Strongly feel that the worst is yet to come	1%

Respondent Profile

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

Rural	37%
Suburban	30%
Urban	39%
State or regional	7%
National	2%

Number of respondents: 1,048

How is your school district or local schools operating currently?

Open for in-person classes for all students	86%
Open for in-person classes for some students	2%
Hybrid – mix of in-person and virtual classes	11%
Online instruction only	0%
Something else (please specify)	2%

Number of respondents: 1,048

Has your school district or local schools had to close or move to virtual learning at any point this fall due to COVID?

Yes	21%
No	75%
Not sure	4%

Number of respondents: 1,048

Is your program typically located in a public school?

Yes	66%
No	34%

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

Afterschool program run by a public school or school district	28%
Afterschool program run by a community-based organization	21%
Afterschool program run by another non-profit not listed	12%
Boys & Girls Club	11%
Afterschool program run by a child care center	8%
YMCA	8%
Afterschool program operated by a private organization	6%
Afterschool program run by a faith-based organization	4%
Afterschool program run by a city or town (including Parks and	_
Recreation Department)	4%
Afterschool program run by a private school	2%
Afterschool program run by a charter school	2%
Afterschool program run by a college or university	1%
Afterschool program run by a library	1%
Afterschool program run by a museum or science center	1%
YWCA	1%
4-H	1%
After-School All-Stars	1%
CampFire program	1%
Girls Inc.	1%
Other organization, please specify:	7%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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

Yes	65%
No	26%
Not sure/Not applicable	9%

Has your organization reached out to or been in conversations with local education leaders about receiving funding through the federal COVID relief funds, including the American Rescue Plan - Elementary & Secondary School **Emergency Relief (ESSER III) funds?**

Yes	50%
No	28%
Not sure/Not applicable	22%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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

Total number of children served last fall (2020):

0	8%
1-25	12%
26-50	17%
51-100	24%
101-150	9%
151-200	6%
201+	23%

Number of respondents: 1,045

Total number of children that your program served and/or anticipate serving this fall:

0	2%
1-25	6%
26-50	14%
51-100	24%
101-150	12%
151-200	9%
201+	33%

Number of respondents: 1,041

Total number of students estimated **in-person** this fall:

0	4%
1-25	7%
26-50	14%
51-100	22%
101-150	12%
151-200	8%
201+	32%

Total number of students estimated virtually this fall:

0	82%
1-25	6%
26-50	4%
51-100	3%
101-150	1%
151-200	1%
201+	3%

Number of respondents: 1,048

How many staff is your program employing this fall?

Full time:

i dii tiirio.	
0	20%
1-10 11-25	63%
11-25	11%
26-50	4%
51-100	1%
101+	1%

Number of respondents: 1,048

Part time:

0	11%
1-10	48%
11-25	23%

26-50	9%
51-100	5%
101+	4%

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	5%
Black or African American	25%
Hispanic or Latinx	19%
Native American	4%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1%
White	44%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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

25% or less	10%
26-49%	12%
50-75%	19%
More than 75%	49%
Not Sure	11%

Number of respondents: 1,048

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

Pre-K students	28%
Elementary school students	88%
Middle school students	59%
High school students	33%

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

Parent fees	40%
21st Century Community Learning Centers grant (21st CCLC)	37%
Private donations/fundraisers	34%
Foundation/philanthropic grant	29%
Local government funds	21%
State government funds (not 21st CCLC)	20%
Public funding for COVID relief, such as American Rescue Plan,	
Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER), or	
Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding	19%
Corporations/businesses	15%
Other federal government programmatic funds (not 21st CCLC or CCDF)	12%
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)	6%
Savings	4%
Loans	2%
Other	7%
Not sure	4%

Number of respondents: 1,048

Have you received any new funding sources for your fall 2021 programming?

Yes	34%
No	48%
Not sure	18%

Number of respondents: 1,048

Which of the following has the new funding helped your program to do? Please select all that apply.

Support staff recruitment efforts (e.g., increasing staff	_
salaries)	47%

Hire more staff	43%
Serve more students	40%
Expand program offerings	40%
Extend program hours	10%
Other (please specify)	18%