



This is Afterschool in California

California parents value afterschool programs for keeping kids safe and providing them opportunities to learn, connect, and build foundational life skills. Programs also help parents keep their jobs, boost productivity, and reduce stress. But too many families are missing out. In California, nearly 2.9 million children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

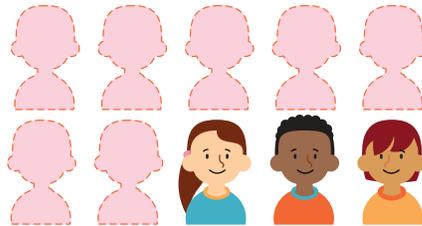
Demand for Afterschool Programs in California is Enormous

Parents of more than **4 million children** want afterschool programs

✓ **1,169,044** children are in afterschool programs

✗ **2,892,963** children are **not** in programs, but would be if a program were available

Approximately **7 in 10** California children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support California Children’s Learning and Development

California parents give programs high marks for quality and for supporting their child with:



Afterschool Works in California

In a 2024 U.S. Department of Education report on 21st CCLC programs nationally, California students attending afterschool programs saw both academic and behavioral improvements. Programs helped:

- ▲ **Reduce chronic absenteeism:** Two-thirds of chronically absent students improved their school-day attendance.
- ▲ **Improve engagement and behavior:** 78% of participants in grades 1 through 5 improved their teacher-reported engagement in learning, and 1 in 4 students in grades 1 through 12 (26%) decreased their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.
- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** About one-third of students in 4th through 8th grade made gains on their state reading/language arts (33%) and math assessments (31%). Additionally, 37% of 7th through 8th and 10th through 12th grade students with a GPA less than 3.0 the previous school year improved their GPA.

California Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

89%

Agree that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs.



90%

Are in favor of public funding for afterschool programs. Support for public funding is also high across political affiliations.



Afterschool Programs Help Working Families and Strengthen the Economy

California parents report that their child's afterschool program:

81%

Helps them keep their job



87%

Leads to less stress



91%

Boosts productivity



Research has found that **every \$1 invested** in California afterschool programs leads to a return on investment of **up to \$12** by:



Increasing kids' earning potential as adults



Improving kids' performance at school



Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



If there were not an afterschool program available, what, if any impact would it have on your family?

"I don't think our family could function. Both parents have full-time jobs and would not be able to care for our child in the hours immediately after school."

— CALIFORNIA DAD

21st Century Community Learning Centers

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21st CCLC) is the only federal funding dedicated to afterschool and summer programs, enabling states to award funds to local programs that meet community needs. 21st CCLC programs engage students in hands-on learning activities aimed at supporting their academic growth, provide a variety of enrichment activities to complement school-day learning, and offer educational and support services to the families of participating children.

IN CALIFORNIA:

175,688

children are served by a 21st CCLC program

701

communities served

Demand for programming in California is so great that more than **1 out of every 2** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *California After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/california/demand>.
2. U.S. Department of Education. (2024). *21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) analytic support for evaluation and program monitoring: An overview of the 21st CCLC performance data: 2022-2023 (19th report)*. Washington, DC.
3. Brown, W. O., Frates, S. B., Rudge, I. S., & Tradewell, R. L. (2002). *The costs and benefits of after school programs: The estimated effects of the After School Education and Safety Program Act of 2002*. Rose Institute of State and Local Government.
4. California Department of Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by CA 21st CCLCs, 2024-2025] [Unpublished raw data].

About the Afterschool Alliance

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. Learn more at: www.afterschoolalliance.org



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