

This is Afterschool in Nebraska



Nebraska 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 Nebraska, more than 115,000 children whose parents want afterschool programs do not have access to them.

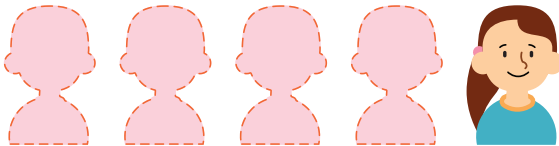
Demand for Afterschool Programs in Nebraska is Enormous

Parents of
144,606 children
want afterschool programs

✓ **28,828**
children are in
afterschool programs

✗ **115,778**
children are **not** in programs, but
would be if a program were available

4 in 5 Nebraska children are missing out.



Afterschool Programs Support Nebraska Children's Learning and Development

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



Afterschool Works in Nebraska

A 2025 data snapshot of Nebraska's 21st CCLC programs by the University of Nebraska Medical Center found that during the 2024-2025 school year, teachers reported that programs helped:

- ▲ **Boost academic performance:** A majority of high school students improved their reading (58%), writing (58%), and math performance (52%).
- ▲ **Improve school-day engagement:** Participants improved their class participation (64%), enjoyment of learning (61%), and overall engagement in learning (66%).
- ▲ **Build students' durable skills:** Students also improved their ability to bounce back from failure (45%), persevere through difficult tasks (44%), and develop and maintain friendships (44%).

Nebraska Parents Stand Behind Afterschool Programs

82%

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



86%

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

Nebraska parents report that their child's afterschool program:

89%

Helps them keep their job



95%

Leads to less stress



97%

Boosts productivity



Additionally, research spanning several states shows that **every \$1 invested** in afterschool programs **saves at least \$3** 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?

"Not having an afterschool program would add logistical stress for me. It would be difficult to maintain my normal workday and accommodate my child after school gets out."

— NEBRASKA MOM

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 NEBRASKA:

10,204
children are served by
a 21st CCLC program

120
communities
served

Demand for programming in Nebraska is so great that **3 out of every 10** applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

Citations

1. Afterschool Alliance. (2025). *Nebraska After 3PM*, fifth edition [Data set]. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/nebraska/demand>.
2. Johnson, J. & Skoglund, B. (2025). *Nebraska 21st Century Community Learning Centers continuous improvement process data snapshot 2024-25*. University of Nebraska Medical Center.
3. Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies, including California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.
4. Nebraska Department of Education. (2025). [Number of children and communities served by NE 21st CCLCs, 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

