UNCERTAIN TIMES: FUNDING INSECURITY PUTS AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS AT RISK

In August and September of 2006, afterschool programs from across the country responded to questions about their funding sources, services they provide, youth they serve, and plans and prospects for the future. As of September 20, 2006, 2,614 responses were reviewed. 503 responses did not provide sufficient data to be included in the final analysis or were duplicate responses; therefore the final sample was 2,111 responses. In early September the Afterschool Alliance released a preliminary summary of data from the first 1,628 valid responses. This release includes updated data as well as responses to questions not included in the first wave.

Which of the following best describes your program's capacity during the 2005-2006 school year? (check one)

25%	We operated above maximum capacity and served more students than we had budgeted to serve.
50%	We operated at maximum capacity.
25%	We operated below maximum capacity and served fewer students than we had budgeted to serve.

Number of respondents: 2108 (99.9%)

How would you characterize the community that your afterschool program serves?

34%	Rural
24%	Suburban
42%	Urban

Number of respondents: 2102 (99.6%)

Including the 2005-2006 school year, how many years has your program been in operation?

6%	0-1
10%	1-2
11%	2-3
10%	3-4
11%	4-5
22%	5-10
31%	10+

Number of respondents: 2110 (100%)

What is the primary affiliation of your program?

20%	Nationally Affiliated Organization

30%   Community-Based Organization
35%   School-Based Organization
1%   Library/Museum
4%   Faith-Based Organization
3%   Private for-profit
6%   Other
Number of respondents: 2110 (100%)

What percentage of program participants qualified for the federal free or reduced lunch program? (check one)
3%   none
4%   1-5%
3%   6-10%
3%   11-15%
3%   16-20%
4%   21-30%
5%   31-40%
6%   41-50%
6%   51-60%
8%   61-70%
10%   71-80%
12%   81-90%
25%   91-100%
10%   Unknown
Number of respondents: 2110 (100%)

What percentage of program participants were Limited English Proficient?
33%   none
27%   1-5%
8%   6-10%
4%   11-15%
5%   16-20%
4%   21-30%
4%   31-40%
3%   41-50%
2%   51-60%
2%   61-70%
2%   71-80%
1%   81-90%
2%   91-100%
5%   Unknown
Number of respondents: 2110 (100%)

What percentage of program participants had special needs/disabilities?
9%   none

40%	1-5%
17%	6-10%
9%	11-15%
8%	16-20%
6%	21-30%
3%	31-40%
1%	41-50%
1%	51-60%
0.8%	61-70%
0.3%	71-80%
0.3%	81-90%
0.6%	91-100%
4%	Unknown

Number of respondents: 2110 (100%)

During the 2005-2006 school year, what types of activities did your program offer youth? (Check all that apply)

92%	Arts/Music/Cultural Activities
91%	Homework Help
84%	Reading
77%	Science, Math and/or Technology
56%	Services for Parents and Families
68%	Community Service
64%	Obesity Prevention/Nutrition/Athletics/Recreation
61%	Mentoring
49%	Drug, Alcohol or Tobacco prevention programs
45%	Violence prevention programs
31%	Language and/or ESL services
31%	Career and/or College prep
25%	Services for Children with Disabilities
20%	Other
16%	Pregnancy prevention programs
15%	Mental Health Services
12%	Medical and/or Dental Services

Number of respondents: 2106 (99.7%)

In addition to after school, did your program offer services during the following times? (check all that apply)

48%	Holidays and/or inter-session
36%	Before school
27%	Weekends
28%	None of the above

Number of respondents: 2107 (99.8%)

Did you offer a summer program?

81%	Yes

19%   No
Number of respondents: 2107 (99.8%)

Based on your experience, how accessible are the following sources of funding? (Please check a box for each funding source.)

	Not Accessible	Somewhat Accessible	Accessible	Very Accessible	Don't Know
21st Century Community Learning Centers	22%	15%	20%	19%	25%
Supplemental Educational Services	24%	15%	9%	3%	49%
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	21%	17%	13%	4%	45%
All other Federal Education Grants (School Improvement, etc.)	23%	20%	10%	2%	45%
Child Care and Development Block Grant	24%	14%	10%	4%	49%
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	24%	13%	11%	4%	49%
State government (D.O.E., D.O.J., D.C.F., etc.)	19%	20%	15%	5%	41%
Local government (City, County)	24%	20%	18%	8%	31%
School District	28%	21%	16%	8%	27%
Corporation/Business	17%	29%	20%	7%	28%
Foundation/Philanthropic organization	17%	23%	20%	9%	30%
Faith-based organization	28%	17%	11%	4%	41%
College/University	33%	14%	8%	3%	42%
Parent Fees	25%	16%	20%	22%	17%

Number of respondents: varied (88%)

How has your funding changed over the last 2 years? (check one)
25%   Funding is down a lot
23%   Funding is down a little
30%   Funding is unchanged
17%   Funding is up a little
5%   Funding is up a lot
Number of respondents: 1856 (88%)

**What were your sources of Federal funding? (Check all that apply)
[NOTE: Some of these funds, such as the 21st Century Community
Learning Centers grant, are awarded through the state but are
actually federal funds. Please check the appropriate box here under
federal funding and do not include the same funding source in
question 28 as a state source of funding awarded through the
agency that administers these federal funds.]**
43%   21st Century Community Learning Centers
36%   None
20%   Other
8%   Child Care and Development Block Grant
8%   Other Title I education funds not listed
7%   Supplemental Educational Services
6%   Safe and Drug Free Schools & Communities
6%   Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
3%   School Improvement
2%   Earmark
2%   Innovative Programs
1%   Comprehensive School Reform
Number of respondents: varied (88%)

**What were your sources of State funding? (Check all that apply. Do
not include federal funds such as 21st Century Community Learning
Centers, Title I funds, or others included in the previous question.)**
53%   None
22%   Department of Education
14%   Department of Social/Health and Human Services
14%   Other
10%   Department of Children and Families
6%   Department of Justice/Juvenile Justice
1%   Earmark
Number of respondents: varied (88%)

**What were your sources of local or private funding? (Check all that
apply. Please do not include in-kind contributions in your answer.)**
44%   Parent Fees
42%   Private donations/donation containers/fundraisers
30%   Foundation/Philanthropic organization

25%	City or County funds
24%	Corporation/Business
24%	School District
17%	None
17%	Other
9%	Faith-based organization
5%	College/University

Number of respondents: varied (88%)

If you have had to makes cuts in your program due to funding loss or stagnation over the past few years, what changes have you made as a result? (Check all that apply) [Skip question if funding is up]

35%	Added or increased fees
32%	Cut field trips
29%	Cut variety of activities offered in the program
28%	No changes have been made
22%	Increased staff/student ratio
22%	Reduced number of children served
20%	Cut professional development
20%	Reduced staff pay and/or benefits
19%	Reduced daily hours or number of days of service
16%	Cut transportation services
9%	Cut holiday and/or weekend service
9%	Cut summer program
8%	Reduced family services
8%	Reduced or cut food services offered
7%	Other
6%	Lowered standards or criteria for hiring staff
5%	Reduced school-community partnerships
4%	Reduced social services offered

Number of respondents: varied (98%)

If funding increased, what changes have you made in response to your increase in funding? (Check all that apply) [Skip if funding is down]

73%	Increased number of children served
56%	Added variety of activities offered in the program
40%	Increased staff pay and/or benefits
39%	Added professional development
38%	Added school-community partnerships
37%	Added field trips
27%	Added standards or criteria for hiring staff
25%	Increased daily hours or number of days of service
22%	Added summer program
20%	Added family services
18%	Added transportation services

17%   Added or increased food services offered
15%   Decreased staff/student ratio
14%   Added holiday and/or weekend service
10%   Added social services offered
9%   Other
6%   Cut or decreased fees
5%   None. I did not receive enough new funding to make changes.
Number of respondents: varied (98%)

In the future, if you receive more funding, what change would you be most likely to make to your program? (Check one)
29%   Serve more children
14%   Increase staff pay and/or benefits
10%   Add variety of activities offered in the program
7%   Decrease staff/student ratio
5%   Increase daily hours or number of days of service
4%   Add family services
4%   Add professional development
4%   Add transportation services
4%   Increase school-community partnerships
4%   Raise standards or criteria for hiring staff
3%   Add field trips
3%   Add summer program
3%   Other
2%   Add social services offered
2%   Cut or decrease fees
2%   None. I wouldn't make any changes.
1%   Add holiday and/or weekend service
1%   Add or increased food services offered
Number of respondents: 1827 (87%)

How secure is your funding for the next 1-5 years?

	Not Secure	**Somewhat Secure**	**Secure**	**Very Secure**
1-2 years	17%	36%	33%	14%
3-5 years	46%	35%	15%	5%

Number of Respondents: 1825 (86%)

Are there currently children in your community who need afterschool care and are unable to access it?
87% Yes
13% No
Number of Respondents: 1814 (86%)

In your opinion, do you consider the following items to be barriers to participation in your program or others like it in your community?

	Not a barrier	**Slight barrier**	**Significant barrier**
Cost	45%	24%	31%
Transportation	27%	31%	43%
Older youth need to work or care for younger siblings	24%	50%	26%
Lack of available slots in program	41%	30%	29%
Lack of interest	46%	43%	11%
Negative perception of program or afterschool	69%	26%	5%
Not all children in one family are able to attend afterschool	36%	46%	18%
Not enough knowledge about program or afterschool	34%	49%	18%

Number of Respondents: 1814 (86%)