A Summary of Georgia Data from the *Uncertain Times: Funding Insecurity Puts Afterschool Programs at Risk* Web-based Survey

Today, a minority of Georgia students benefit from afterschool programs while many youth in the state are unable to enroll because space is limited and funding is not keeping pace with demand. Afterschool programs provide a critical support that helps children do better in school and reassures parents that their children are safe and well cared for after the school day ends. Unfortunately, program leaders report that they are serving a high-need population; are serving more children than expected; and are struggling to maintain funding. Nearly all respondents to this web-based survey say that more children in their communities could benefit from afterschool programs, if programs were available.

55 Georgia afterschool providers took the survey. They represent 263 program sites and serve more than 37,500 children. 40% percent of respondents are located in urban communities, 31% are in rural communities, and 29% are in suburban communities. The survey finds that in Georgia during the 2005/2006 school year:

➢ 82% of afterschool programs operated at or above maximum capacity.
➢ 92% of respondents say that there are children in their communities who need afterschool programs and don't have access to them.
➢ 47% of respondents say that funding is down a little (27%) or a lot (20%) in the last two years. Another 37% say it is unchanged. Just 12% say funding is up a little and just 4% say funding is up a lot.
➢ If programs are able to see an increase in funding in the future, they are most likely to increase the number of students they serve.
➢ Afterschool programs in Georgia are serving a high-need population. More than half of respondents (69%) say that more than three in five students qualify for free or reduced price lunches.
➢ Parent fees and foundation/philanthropic organizations are the most accessible funding resources in Georgia. 41% percent of respondents rate parent fees and foundation/philanthropic organizations as accessible or very accessible.
➢ 38% of respondents feel fully secure about their funding for the next 1-2 years. Only 15% feel fully secure about their funding for the next 3-5 years.
➢ Program operators in Georgia consider the top three barriers to participation in afterschool programs to be: transportation; lack of available slots; and older youth need to work or care for younger siblings.

In sum, *Uncertain Times* finds that many afterschool programs in Georgia are fully subscribed but still unable to meet the demand, and that budget cuts and stagnation prevent them from reaching more youth and families in their communities who could benefit from afterschool.

Topline Georgia Results from *Uncertain Times:*

Which of the following best describes your program's capacity during the 2005-2006 school year? (check one)
26%   We operated above maximum capacity and served more students than we had budgeted to serve.
56%   We operated at maximum capacity.
18%   We operated below maximum capacity and served fewer students than we had budgeted to serve.
Number of respondents: 55 (100%)

What percentage of program participants qualified for the federal free or reduced lunch program? (check one)
2%   none
13%   1-30%
13%   31-60%
69%   61-100%
4%   Unknown
Number of respondents: 55 (100%)

During the 2005-2006 school year, what types of activities did your program offer youth? (Check all that apply)
87%   Homework Help
86%   Arts/Music/Cultural Activities
84%   Reading
76%   Obesity Prevention/Nutrition/Athletics/Recreation
71%   Community Service
69%   Mentoring
67%   Science, Math and/or Technology
66%   Drug, Alcohol or Tobacco prevention programs
64%   Services for Parents and Families
62%   Violence prevention programs
46%   Career and/or College prep
35%   Pregnancy prevention programs
27%   Services for Children with Disabilities
22%   Language and/or ESL services
22%   Other
18%   Medical and/or Dental Services
15%   Mental Health Services
Number of respondents: 55 (100%)

In addition to after school, did your program offer services during the following times? (check all that apply)
47%   Holidays and/or inter-session

33%   Weekends
27%   Before school
31%   None of the above
Number of respondents: 55 (100%)

Did you offer a summer program?
89%   Yes
11%   No
Number of respondents: 55 (100%)

How has your funding changed over the last 2 years? (check one)
20%   Funding is down a lot
27%   Funding is down a little
37%   Funding is unchanged
12%   Funding is up a little
4%   Funding is up a lot
Number of respondents: 49 (89%)

In the future, if you receive more funding, what change would you be most likely to make to your program? (Check one)
38%   Serve more children
13%   Decrease staff/student ratio
10%   Increase staff pay and/or benefits
8%   Add variety of activities offered in the program
4%   Add family services
4%   Add transportation services
4%   Other
4%   Raise standards or criteria for hiring staff
2%   Add or increased food services offered
2%   Add professional development
2%   Add social services offered
2%   Cut or decrease fees
2%   Increase daily hours or number of days of service
2%   Increase school-community partnerships
0%   Add field trips
0%   Add holiday and/or weekend service
0%   Add summer program
0%   None. I wouldn't make any changes.
Number of respondents: 48 (87%)

Funding Security for the next 1-5 Years

	Georgia		National	
Number of respondents: 48 (87%)	**Not/ Somewhat Secure**	**Secure/Very Secure**	**Not / Somewhat Secure**	**Secure/Very Secure**

1-2 Years	62%	38%	53%	47%
3-5 Years	85%	15%	80%	20%

Methodology: UNCERTAIN TIMES used web-based survey software and the survey was emailed to more than 10,000 contacts in the Afterschool Alliance database in August and September of 2006. Recipients were encouraged to forward the survey to afterschool program staff, and programs were asked to be certain that only one person per program completed the survey and to provide responses from a site-level coordinator when possible. 2,614 responses were reviewed. 503 of them did not provide sufficient data to be included in the final analysis or were duplicate responses; therefore the final sample was 2,111 responses which represent approximately 9,813 afterschool sites serving more than 1.5 million children. (Many respondents are responsible for multiple sites.)

Complete State Level Results Available Upon Request