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

Today, a minority of Ohio 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 Ohio afterschool providers took the survey. They represent 167 program sites and serve more than 10,000 children. 45% percent of respondents are located in urban communities, 32% are in rural communities, and 22% are in suburban communities. The survey finds that in Ohio during the 2005/2006 school year:

➢ 66% of afterschool programs operated at or above maximum capacity.
➢ 94% of respondents say that there are children in their communities who need afterschool programs and don't have access to them.
➢ 44% of respondents say that funding is down a little (20%) or a lot (24%) in the last two years. Another 44% say it is unchanged. Just 12% say funding is up a little and no programs say funding is up a lot.
➢ If programs are able to see an increase in funding in the future, they are most likely to add to the variety of activities offered.
➢ Afterschool programs in Ohio are serving a high-need population. More than half of respondents (51%) say that more than three in five students qualify for free or reduced price lunches.
➢ Parent fees are the most accessible funding resource in Ohio. 52% percent of respondents rate parent fees as accessible or very accessible. Only 32% of respondents rate 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the only federal funding stream solely devoted to afterschool programs, as accessible or very accessible.
➢ Fewer than half (41%) of respondents feel fully secure about their funding for the next 1-2 years. Only 20% feel fully secure about their funding for the next 3-5 years.
➢ Program operators in Ohio consider the top three barriers to participation in afterschool programs to be: transportation; not enough knowledge about the program or afterschool; and older youth need to work or care for younger siblings.

In sum, *Uncertain Times* finds that many afterschool programs in Ohio 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 Ohio Results from *Uncertain Times:*

Which of the following best describes your program's capacity during the 2005-2006 school year? (check one)
18%   We operated above maximum capacity and served more
           students than we had budgeted to serve.
48%   We operated at maximum capacity.
34%   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)
6%   none
15%   1-30%
15%   31-60%
51%   61-100%
13%   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)
89%   Arts/Music/Cultural Activities
84%   Reading
80%   Homework Help
75%   Science, Math and/or Technology
58%   Obesity Prevention/Nutrition/Athletics/Recreation
58%   Services for Parents and Families
53%   Community Service
42%   Drug, Alcohol or Tobacco prevention programs
40%   Violence prevention programs
38%   Mentoring
26%   Services for Children with Disabilities
16%   Language and/or ESL services
15%   Mental Health Services
13%   Career and/or College prep
11%   Medical and/or Dental Services
11%   Other
7%   Pregnancy prevention programs
Number of respondents: 55 (100%)

In addition to after school, did your program offer services during the following times? (check all that apply)
49%   Before school

47%   Holidays and/or inter-session
16%   Weekends
33%   None of the above
Number of respondents: 55 (100%)

Did you offer a summer program?
84%   Yes
16%   No
Number of respondents: 55 (100%)

How has your funding changed over the last 2 years? (check one)
24%   Funding is down a lot
20%   Funding is down a little
44%   Funding is unchanged
12%   Funding is up a little
0%   Funding is up a lot
Number of respondents: 50 (91%)

In the future, if you receive more funding, what change would you be most likely to make to your program? (Check one)
20%   Add variety of activities offered in the program
18%   Increase staff pay and/or benefits
18%   Serve more children
10%   Add transportation services
10%   Decrease staff/student ratio
4%   Add family services
4%   Add professional development
4%   Increase daily hours or number of days of service
4%   Increase school-community partnerships
4%   Other
2%   Raise standards or criteria for hiring staff
0%   Add field trips
0%   Add holiday and/or weekend service
0%   Add or increased food services offered
0%   Add social services offered
0%   Add summer program
0%   Cut or decrease fees
0%   None. I wouldn't make any changes.
Number of respondents: 49 (89%)

Funding Security for the next 1-5 Years

	Ohio		National	
Number of respondents: 49 (89%)	Not/ Somewhat Secure	Secure/Very Secure	Not / Somewhat Secure	Secure/Very Secure

1-2 Years	59%	41%	53%	47%
3-5 Years	80%	20%	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