



Afterschool Alliance

Uncertain Times 2009: Recession Imperiling Afterschool Programs and the Children They Serve

From April 9, 2009 to May 7, 2009 the Afterschool Alliance surveyed afterschool programs on how the economy is affecting their programs and communities. 1,447 programs responded to the survey, representing 8,587 afterschool sites serving more than 1.2 million children. Overall, program leaders report that they are serving a high need population, struggling to maintain their funding and are worried about how the recession will affect future 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.

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

34% Rural

31% Suburban

43% Urban

Number of respondents: 1439 (99%)

On average, how many days a week does your program operate during the school year?

2% one day

6% 2-3 days

87% 4-5 days

4% 6-7 days

Number of respondents: 1446 (99%)

What percentage of participating students are in elementary, middle and high school?

76% Elementary

29% Middle School

15% High School

Number of respondents: 1433 (99%)

What ethnic groups (by percentage) are served by your program?

5% Asian/Pacific Islander

36% African American

47% Caucasian

25% Hispanic/Latino

4% Native American

6% Other

Number of respondents: 1410 (97%)

What percentage of program participants are female and male?

52% Female

48% Male

Number of respondents: 1406 (97%)

What percentage of program participants qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program?

Average is 67%

Number of respondents: 1445 (99%)

What percentage of program participants are Limited English Proficient?

Average is 14%

Number of respondents: 1397 (97%)

What percentage of program participants have special needs/ disabilities?

Average is 11%

Number of respondents: 1399 (97%)

Including the 2008-2009 school year, how many years has your program been in operation?

5% 1

13% 2-3

15% 4-5

28% 6-10

39% 11+

Number of respondents: 1435 (99%)

What is the primary affiliation of your program?

34% Community-Based Organization/Local Non-profit

31% School-Based

16% Nationally Affiliated Nonprofit

9% Other

4% Private for-profit

4% Faith-Based Organization

1% Library/Museum

1% College/University-Based

Number of respondents: 1437 (99%)

What types of activities is your program offering youth over the 2008-2009 school year? (Check all that apply)

92% Homework Help

86% Arts/Music/Cultural Activities

82% Reading

73% Science, Math and/or Technology

65% Community Service

61% Obesity Prevention/Nutrition/Athletics/Recreation

60% Mentoring

- 52% Services for Parents and Families
 - 41% Drug, Alcohol or Tobacco prevention programs
 - 34% Violence/Gang Prevention
 - 25% Career/Internship or Workforce Development
 - 24% Language and/or ESL services
 - 24% Services for Children with Disabilities
 - 23% College Preparation
 - 16% Other
 - 16% Pregnancy prevention programs
 - 13% Mental Health Services
 - 9% Social Justice (Local or State Advocacy)
 - 8% Medical and/or Dental Services
- Number of respondents: 1435 (99%)

Does your afterschool program offer high school students credits toward graduation?

16% of those who serve high school students offer credits towards graduation
 Number of respondents: 1433 (99%)

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

- 48% Holidays and/or inter-session
 - 37% Before school
 - 22% Weekends
 - 30% None of the above
- Number of respondents: 1414 (98%)

Do you offer a summer program?

- 81% Yes
 - 19% No
- Number of respondents: 1442 (99%)

What do you anticipate your enrollment for the summer 2009 to be relative to the summer of 2008?

- 14% Much higher
 - 27% A little higher
 - 23% No different
 - 19% A little lower
 - 8% Much lower
 - 6% May or will not be able to offer a summer 2009 program
 - 2% Not applicable (no summer program in 2008)
- Number of respondents: 1137 (79%)

Based on your experience, how easy is it to obtain the following sources of funding? (Please provide an answer for each funding source.)

	Not Accessible	Somewhat Accessible	Accessible	Very Accessible	Don't Know
21st Century Community Learning Centers	20%	18%	22%	8%	31%
Supplemental Educational Services	25%	15%	8%	3%	50%
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	21%	16%	10%	3%	51%
All other Federal Education Grants (Title I, etc.)	25%	17%	11%	3%	44%
Child Care and Development Block Grant	24%	14%	8%	3%	51%
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	24%	13%	11%	3%	49%
Child and Adult Care Food Program (snack and supper funding)	14%	11%	23%	19%	33%
State government (D.O.E., D.O.J., D.C.F., etc.)	19%	16%	13%	5%	47%
Local government (City, County)	26%	19%	14%	6%	35%
School District	31%	18%	14%	8%	29%
Corporation/Business	17%	29%	19%	5%	30%
Foundation/Philanthropic organization	15%	25%	22%	7%	31%
Faith-based organization	25%	16%	11%	5%	43%
College/University	31%	15%	7%	3%	45%
Parent Fees	22%	19%	23%	21%	15%

Number of respondents: varied (85%)

How has your funding changed from two years ago (2006-2007 school year)?

- 36% Funding is down a lot
- 26% Funding is down a little
- 21% Funding is unchanged
- 6% Not Applicable (i.e. Program is new)
- 8% Funding is up a little
- 2% Funding is up a lot

Number of respondents: 1273 (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 35 as a state source of funding awarded through the agency that administers these federal funds.]

35%	21st Century Community Learning Centers grant
27%	None
25%	Other
23%	Child and Adult Care Food Program (snack and supper funding)
9%	Child Care and Development Block Grant
8%	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
7%	Other Title I education funds not listed
6%	Safe and Drug Free Schools & Communities
6%	Supplemental Educational Services
2%	Innovative Programs
1%	Earmark
0.2%	Comprehensive School Reform

Number of respondents: varied (89%)

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.)

39%	None
22%	Department of Education
20%	Other
16%	Department of Children and Families
15%	Department of Social/Health and Human Services
5%	Department of Justice/Juvenile Justice
2%	Earmark

Number of respondents: varied (85%)

What were your sources of local or private funding? (Check all that apply. Please do not include in-kind contributions in your answer.)

47%	Parent Fees
43%	Private donations/donation containers/fundraisers
31%	Foundation/Philanthropic organization
24%	Corporation/Business
23%	City or County funds
22%	School District
13%	None
11%	Other
10%	Faith-based organization
4%	College/University

Number of respondents: varied (89%)

If you have had to make 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)

- 53% Reduced or eliminated field trips
 - 45% Reduced variety of activities offered in the program
 - 42% Reduced staff pay and/or benefits
 - 38% Added or increased fees
 - 34% Reduced or eliminated professional development
 - 28% Increased staff/student ratio
 - 28% Reduced number of children served
 - 25% Reduced daily hours or number of days of service
 - 24% Reduced or eliminated transportation services
 - 22% Reduced or eliminated summer programs
 - 15% Other
 - 15% Reduced or eliminated holiday and/or weekend service
 - 13% Reduced family services
 - 11% Reduced or eliminated food services offered
 - 9% Reduced school-community partnerships
 - 7% Reduced or eliminated social services offered
 - 6% Lowered standards or criteria for hiring staff
- Number of respondents: varied (54%)

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

	Not Secure	Somewhat Secure	Secure	Very Secure
1-2 years	28%	41%	25%	6%
3-5 years	45%	37%	15%	3%

Number of respondents: 1241 (86%)

Are there currently children in your community who need afterschool care and are unable to access it?

- 85% Yes
- 15% No

Number of respondents: 1231 (85%)

About how many more kids would your program need to serve to meet the needs of all kids in your community?

- 9% Less than 10% more than are currently served
- 13% 10% more than are currently served
- 37% 25% more than are currently served
- 8% 75% more than are currently served
- 16% Double what are currently served
- 6% Triple what are currently served

11% More than triple what you already serve
 Number of respondents: 1159 (80%)

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

	Not a barrier	Slight barrier	Significant barrier
Parent Fee/Cost	41%	23%	37%
Transportation	29%	32%	39%
Older youth need to work or care for younger siblings	29%	46%	25%
Lack of available slots in program	50%	28%	22%
Lack of interest	48%	42%	10%
Negative perception of program or afterschool	72%	23%	4%
Not all children in one family are able to attend afterschool because programs are not available for all age groups	39%	40%	21%
Not enough knowledge about program or afterschool	40%	47%	13%

Number of respondents: 1212 (84%)

In your opinion, how much does the current economic recession seem to be affecting your community?

62% Very Much
 34% Somewhat
 4% Not Much
 0.6% Not At All

Number of respondents: 1226 (85%)

Have you experienced any of the following in your community? (Check all that apply)

95% Increased unemployment
 78% Failing or shrinking businesses
 68% Persistently high food prices
 59% More kids going hungry or families struggling to provide food for children
 56% Persistently high gas prices

- 55% Loss of major employers/industries
 - 51% Increased provision of social services
 - 50% Increased homelessness
- Number of respondents: 1226 (85%)

Some programs have reported that the recession has caused them to lose funding that had already been committed and on which they were counting - either because of emergency cutbacks by state or local governments or grant commitments that will not be fulfilled. To what extent has this been a problem for your program?

- 14% Our program lost a significant amount of money because of the recession, causing major cutbacks in our program, or causing us to shut down one or more sites
 - 17% Our program lost a significant amount of money because of the recession, but we will be able to continue operations as before
 - 26% Our program lost a small but manageable amount of funding
 - 43% Our program has not lost funding because of the recession
- Number of respondents: 1202 (83%)

Compared to two years ago (the 2006-2007 school year), is your program's budget today:

- 47% Inadequate to meet the needs of students and families in your community
 - 27% About the same
 - 19% Adequate to meet the needs of students and families in your community
- Number of respondents: 1202 (83%)

Looking to the 2009-2010 school year, how much do you anticipate the recession will affect your program?

- 37% Very Much
 - 52% Somewhat
 - 8% Not Much
 - 3% Not At All
- Number of respondents: 1202 (83%)

Have you approached, or are you planning to approach, local or state agencies to attempt to access the following sources of funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the economic recovery package)? (Check all that apply)

- 36% Innovation or Incentive Grants
 - 31% Child Care and Development Block Grants
 - 24% Title I
 - 17% State Stabilization Funds
 - 43% None of the above
- Number of respondents: 1153 (80%)

Which of the following would be helpful to you in trying to access funding being provided to local and state agencies through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support your program? (Check all that apply)

- 82% A list of who to talk to about various funding sources
- 76% Examples of how funds might be used for afterschool
- 65% Easy access to official guidance and regulations
- 54% Talking points to use in approaching agencies

Number of respondents: 1120 (77%)

Methodology: Uncertain Times 2009 used web-based survey software. The Afterschool Alliance emailed a link to the survey to more than 10,000 contacts in its database in April 2009. 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. 1,834 responses were reviewed. 387 of them did not provide sufficient data to be included in the final analysis or were duplicate responses. Therefore, the final sample was 1,447 responses which represent approximately 8,587 afterschool sites serving more than 1.2 million children. (Many respondents are responsible for multiple sites.)