Afterschool Alliance Fall 2024 Program Provider Survey - Wave 11 Results

Data are based on an online survey conducted by Edge Research between October 29 -December 10, 2024. In all, 1,247 providers representing more than 9,200 program sites in 50 states and the District of Columbia participated.

SURVEY¹

Screening questions

Which best describes your program? Please select one.

Afterschool program	46%
Summer program	9%
Year-round program	39%
Other (please specify)	6%

¹ Totals within questions may be different due to rounding.



Current status of afterschool programs

Which of the following best describes your program?

We are operating at higher than pre-COVID capacity limits	33%
We are operating at the same level as we were pre-COVID	26%
We are operating at lower than pre-COVID capacity limits	25%
Not sure	9%
Not applicable	6%

Number of respondents: 1,247

Is there a waitlist for your program?

Yes	53%
No	39%
Unsure	5%
Not applicable	2%

Number of respondents: 1,247

Does your program currently offer any of the following educational supports for your students? Please select all that apply.

Academic enrichment	89%
Homework or academic help	75%
STEM learning opportunities	74%
Reading or writing time	67%
Access to technology, including computers, laptops, and/or	
broadband	59%
Mentoring	48%
Help increasing students' connectedness to school	47%
Employing certified teachers	37%
College and career advising or postsecondary transition coaching	25%
High intensity tutoring	18%

Special supports to 8th graders to help them successfully	
transition to high school	15%
Ability to earn additional school credits for activities and	
experiences that are not related to remediation or recovery (e.g.,	
earning math credits by learning coding or earning social studies	
credits by taking part in a leadership club through the afterschool	
program)	9%
None of the above	2%

Does your program currently offer any of the following broader supports for your students? Please select all that apply.

Snacks and meals	84%
Time to interact with peers and build social skills	84%
Physical activity opportunities	80%
Outdoor activities	76%
Opportunities to develop life skills such as building communication,	
teamwork, and critical thinking skills	74%
Opportunities to talk with peers or staff members about their feelings	
and emotions	71%
Family or parent engagement activities	70%
Wellness activities (e.g., yoga, meditation, mindfulness activities)	60%
Leadership opportunities	53%
Wrap around services that connect students and families to community	
resources (e.g., health or dental clinics, financial planning, mental health	
services, etc.)	29%
Workforce readiness opportunities (e.g., resume help, job shadowing,	
internships, apprenticeships, etc.)	27%
Family leadership opportunities (e.g., parent advisory boards, teaching	
parents to be advocates for their children's education, etc.)	26%
Specialized mental health or counseling support	20%
Home visits and/or check in calls with students and families	14%
None of the above	0%

IF PROVIDING STEM. You indicated that your program provides STEM learning opportunities. On average, how much, if anything, does your program spend annually to provide STEM-specific professional development opportunities for your staff? Your best estimate is fine.

We do not spend funds on STEM-specific professional development	
opportunities	21%
\$1-\$999	31%
\$1,000-\$4,999	17%
\$5,000-\$9,999	6%
\$10,000-\$14,999	2%
\$15,000-\$19,999	1%
\$20,000 or more	3%
Not sure	19%

Number of respondents: 916

IF PROVIDING STEM AND SPENDING FUNDS ON STEM PD. Have you noticed an improvement in staff recruitment and retention by offering STEM-specific professional development?

Yes, definitely	13%
Yes, somewhat	24%
No	43%
Unsure	21%

Number of respondents: 547

IF PROVIDING STEM AND SPENDING FUNDS ON STEM PD. Thinking about your investment in STEM-specific professional development, in which of the following ways do you measure improvement in STEM facilitation and learning? Please select all that apply.

More youth are engaged and identify with STEM	52%
STEM facilitators feel more confident in their STEM abilities	39%
More youth feel confident in their STEM abilities	38%
More youth are attending STEM programming	36%
Other (please explain)	1%

We currently do not measure this

27%

Number of respondents: 547

How do you use or engage with AI (artificial intelligence) in your program? Please select all that apply.

We use AI to help with our administrative tasks	22%
We use AI to help develop programming/curriculum for our students	16%
We teach students how to use AI tools	11%
Other (please specify)	2%
We do not use Al	63%

Number of respondents: 1,247

How difficult is filling student slots compared to before the COVID pandemic?

More difficult to fill student slots than before the pandemic	23%
Less difficult to fill student slots than before the pandemic	28%
The same as before the pandemic	33%
Not sure/Not applicable	16%

Number of respondents: 1,247

IF OPERATING AT REDUCED CAPACITY. You indicated that your program is operating at reduced capacity compared to pre-COVID levels. Which of the following factors are contributing to this? Please select all that apply.

Staffing issues	50%
Lack of funding or insufficient funding	41%
Increased cost of running in-person programming	34%
Lack of interest from families	29%
Transportation issues	28%
Decrease in student population	25%
Increased competition with other programs	22%

Lack of access to appropriate space	18%
Lack of awareness about program	13%
Other (Please specify)	8%

This fall, how easy or difficult has it been for your program to hire and/or retain staff?

Very easy	9%
Somewhat easy	23%
Neither easy nor difficult	18%
Somewhat difficult	28%
Very difficult	20%
Not sure	3%

Number of respondents: 1,247

What, if anything, has your program done to attract staff and/or retain staff? Select all that apply.

Increased hourly wages and/or salaries	55%
	33 /0
Provided additional professional development	
opportunities	40%
Provided free childcare for staff	20%
Created more full-time positions	18%
Provided additional paid time off	18%
Provided sign-on bonuses	14%
Provided additional/new health and/or dental benefits	13%
Other (please specify)	9%
My program has not done anything new to attract or	
retain staff	19%

IF SOMEWHAT OR VERY DIFFICULT TO ATTRACT/RETAIN STAFF. Which of the following are making it difficult to hire and retain staff? Select all that apply.

Difficult to compete with salaries/wages offered by other	
companies	72%
Inability to offer more hours to staff	55%
Staff burnout	52%
Limited opportunities to move up within the organization	36%
Lack of resources and/or tools to recruit and train new	
staff	28%
Regulatory requirements on staff ratios or staff	
qualifications	26%
Lack of awareness of job opportunities within the out-of-	
school time field	21%
Other (please specify)	15%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 580

IF SOMEWHAT OR VERY DIFFICULT TO ATTRACT/RETAIN STAFF. What impact, if any, are staff hiring/retention issues having on your program? Select all that apply.

Increase in staff stress	75%
Inability to serve more students	66%
Negatively affecting program quality	52%
Decrease in staff morale	50%
Increased costs due to hiring and training	37%
Loss of productivity	35%
Negatively impacting students' well-being	26%
Loss of institutional knowledge	25%
Other (please specify)	4%
Not sure	2%
None of the above	3%

Compared to the 2023-2024 school year, has your program made a change in staffing this fall? Please select all that apply.

Yes, hiring of fewer staff for this fall due to decreased demand for	
programming	9%
Yes, hiring of fewer staff for this fall due to challenges recruiting staff	20%
Yes, hiring of more staff for this fall due to increased demand for	
programming	31%
Yes, increased hours of staff to create full-time position(s)	8%
No change	32%
Not applicable	7%

Number of respondents: 1,247

How are you and/or staff in your program being financially supported? Please select all that apply.

Being paid full salaries	50%
Being paid partial salaries	10%
Being paid hourly	70%
Being provided with paid leave	29%
Full or partial benefits being covered by program	33%
Other (please specify)	4%
Not sure/Not applicable	4%

Number of respondents: 1,247

When thinking about the future of your afterschool program, which comes closest to your view today, even if neither is exactly right?

Optimistic/Pessimistic

Optimistic overall	62%
Strongly optimistic	32%
Somewhat optimistic	31%
Neutral	24%
Pessimistic overall	14%

Somewhat pessimistic	12%
Strongly pessimistic	3%

Is your organization involved in conversations organized by the school district or individual schools about how best to support students' learning this fall?

Yes	61%
No	28%
Not sure/Not applicable	11%

Supports and resources important to afterschool programs

Which resources would be most helpful to your program right now? Please pick up to 3.

Advice on funding streams and securing foundation funds	44%
Advice on staff burnout and keeping teams engaged	34%
Tools and resources related to helping provide benefits and	
supports for staff, such as childcare, bonuses, professional	
development, flexible schedules, and creating additional full-time	
positions	31%
Tools and trainings to prepare staff to deliver high-quality summer	
learning programs	25%
Trainings and resources to support supervisors and managers	24%
Communication tools to help families learn more about the	
supports and benefits of afterschool and summer programs	24%
Advice on how to work with the school district and/or local schools	
about programming	22%
Trainings and resources related to recruiting staff and onboarding	
new staff	21%
Online educational resources to share with families	15%
Advocacy communication tools to use with decision makers	14%
Other (if other, please specify)	3%

Concerns

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students' mental and emotional health?

Extremely or very concerned overall	73%
Extremely concerned	34%
Very concerned	39%
Somewhat concerned	19%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	7%
Not too concerned	5%
Not at all concerned	1%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,247

How concerned are you about unproductive screen time harming your student's well-being?

Extremely or very concerned overall	63%
Extremely concerned	28%
Very concerned	35%
Somewhat concerned	24%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	11%
Not too concerned	8%
Not at all concerned	3%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,247

How concerned are you about your students having adverse childhood experiences (i.e. abuse, neglect, and other household dysfunctions)?

Extremely or very concerned overall	63%
Extremely concerned	28%
Very concerned	35%

Somewhat concerned	22%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	13%
Not too concerned	10%
Not at all concerned	3%
Not sure	1%

How concerned are you about paying staff a livable wage and benefits?

Extremely or very concerned overall	59%
Extremely concerned	31%
Very concerned	28%
Somewhat concerned	24%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	15%
Not too concerned	10%
Not at all concerned	5%

Number of respondents: 1,247

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students experiencing learning loss?

Extremely or very concerned overall	56%
Extremely concerned	25%
Very concerned	31%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	15%
Not too concerned	11%
Not at all concerned	4%
Not sure	2%

At this point in time, how concerned are you that there are children in your community who need afterschool programming and are not able to access it?

Extremely or very concerned overall	56%
Extremely concerned	27%
Very concerned	29%
Somewhat concerned	26%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	15%
Not too concerned	11%
Not at all concerned	4%
Not sure	3%

Number of respondents: 1,247

How concerned are you about long-term funding and the program's future?

Extremely or very concerned overall	55%
Extremely concerned	32%
Very concerned	22%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	18%
Not too concerned	11%
Not at all concerned	6%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,247

At this point in time, how concerned are you about finding staff to hire/staffing shortages?

Extremely or very concerned overall	52%
Extremely concerned	28%
Very concerned	25%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	19%
Not too concerned	14%

Not at all concerned	5%
Not sure	2%

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students experiencing food insecurity?

Extremely or very concerned overall	51%
Extremely concerned	20%
Very concerned	31%
Somewhat concerned	29%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	18%
Not too concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	4%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,247

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students missing opportunities for social connections with peers and caring adults?

Extremely or very concerned overall	51%
Extremely concerned	20%
Very concerned	31%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	20%
Not too concerned	14%
Not at all concerned	6%
Not sure	1%

How concerned are you about loss of funding to the program this year?

Extremely or very concerned overall	40%
Extremely concerned	22%
Very concerned	17%
Somewhat concerned	23%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	34%
Not too concerned	21%
Not at all concerned	13%
Not sure	3%

Number of respondents: 1,247

How concerned are you about changes to state or federal regulatory requirements, such as school-age childcare licensing requirements or the updated 21st CCLC non-regulatory guidance?

Extremely or very concerned overall	39%
Extremely concerned	18%
Very concerned	21%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	25%
Not too concerned	18%
Not at all concerned	7%
Not sure	9%

Number of respondents: 1,247

How concerned are you about waitlists for students/being able to meet the demand for programs?

Extremely or very concerned overall	29%
Extremely concerned	12%
Very concerned	17%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	39%
Not too concerned	24%

Not at all concerned	16%
Not sure	5%

At this point in time, how concerned are you about challenges with recruitment and enrollment of families?

Extremely or very concerned overall	27%
Extremely concerned	11%
Very concerned	16%
Somewhat concerned	28%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	44%
Not too concerned	29%
Not at all concerned	15%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 1,247

How concerned are you about having to permanently close the program?

Extremely or very concerned overall	23%
Extremely concerned	12%
Very concerned	12%
Somewhat concerned	21%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	54%
Not too concerned	29%
Not at all concerned	25%
Not sure	2%

How concerned are you about having to lay off or furlough staff in the months to come?

Extremely or very concerned overall	22%
Extremely concerned	11%
Very concerned	11%
Somewhat concerned	19%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	54%
Not too concerned	27%
Not at all concerned	27%
Not sure	5%

Summer questions

Did you offer programming this past summer (2024)?

Yes	84%
No, but typically offer summer programming	5%
No, typically do not offer summer programming	8%
Not applicable	3%
Not sure/to be determined	-

Number of respondents: 1,247

IF OFFERING PROGRAMMING. What changes, if any, did you make to your summer 2024 program compared to previous years? Select all that apply.

Expanded summer program to serve more children	31%
A greater focus on ensuring a balance of academic and	
enrichment activities	25%
More intentionally focusing on students' holistic needs and	
supporting overall well-being	25%
Offered summer programs at more sites than in the past	15%
Offered summer programs at fewer sites than in the past	13%
Decreased number of children served	12%
Offered special supports to 8th graders to help them	
successfully transition to high school	5%
This was our first time offering a summer program	3%
Other (please specify)	6%
None, no changes compared to previous years	20%
Not sure	3%

Was there a waitlist for your summer program?

Yes	47%
No	46%
Not sure/Not applicable	7%

Number of respondents: 1,044

How concerned were you about being able to hire enough staff during your summer program?

Extremely or very concerned overall	41%
Extremely concerned	19%
Very concerned	22%
Somewhat concerned	28%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	28%
Not too concerned	17%
Not at all concerned	11%
Not sure	3%

Number of respondents: 1,044

How concerned were you about being able to adequately support young people's mental health and well-being during your summer program?

Extremely or very concerned overall	37%
Extremely concerned	12%
Very concerned	25%
Somewhat concerned	36%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	25%
Not too concerned	18%
Not at all concerned	7%
Not sure	2%

How concerned were you about being able to meet interest/demand from families this past summer?

Extremely or very concerned overall	31%
Extremely concerned	10%
Very concerned	21%
Somewhat concerned	30%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	37%
Not too concerned	25%
Not at all concerned	13%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 1,044

How concerned were you about being able to meet the academic needs of children/learning loss during your summer program?

Extremely or very concerned overall	29%
Extremely concerned	8%
Very concerned	21%
Somewhat concerned	32%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	34%
Not too concerned	24%
Not at all concerned	10%
Not sure	4%

Number of respondents: 1,044

How concerned were you about reduced enrollment this past summer?

Extremely or very concerned overall	22%
Extremely concerned	9%
Very concerned	13%
Somewhat concerned	22%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	51%
Not too concerned	29%

Not at all concerned	22%
Not sure	4%

How concerned were you about the school year being extended through summer months?

Extremely or very concerned overall	13%
Extremely concerned	5%
Very concerned	8%
Somewhat concerned	18%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	61%
Not too concerned	33%
Not at all concerned	28%
Not sure	8%

Funding

What are your program's primary funding sources? Please check all that apply.

Parent fees	38%
Private donations/fundraisers	35%
21st Century Community Learning Centers grant (21st CCLC)	33%
Foundation/philanthropic grant	29%
State government funds (not 21st CCLC)	24%
Local government funds	24%
Corporations/businesses	17%
Public funding for COVID relief, such as American Rescue Plan,	
Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER), or	
Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding	14%
Other federal government programmatic funds (not 21st CCLC or CCDF)	13%
Federal child care subsidy program - (CCDF)	13%
Savings	6%
AmeriCorps position (funded in part by Corporation for National and	
Community Service)	5%
Loans	1%
Other	7%
Not sure	6%

Number of respondents: 1,247

IF COVID RELIEF FUNDING. Which of the following has the COVID relief funding helped your afterschool program to do? Please select all that apply.

Support staff recruitment efforts (e.g., increasing staff salaries)	47%
Hire more staff	46%
Maintain current levels of afterschool programming	44%
Serve more students	42%
Expand afterschool program offerings	35%
Offer additional afterschool programming	31%
Extend afterschool program hours	14%
Other	7%
Not sure	5%

Not applicable	3%
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IF COVID RELIEF FUNDING AND OFFERING OR TYPICALLY OFFER SUMMER PROGRAMMING. Which of the following has or will the COVID relief funding help your summer program to do? Please select all that apply.

Serve more students	42%
Hire more staff	39%
Maintain current levels of summer programming	39%
Expand summer program offerings	37%
Support staff recruitment efforts (e.g., increasing staff salaries)	35%
Offer a new summer program	17%
Extend summer program hours	16%
Not applicable	13%
Not sure	7%
Other	5%

Number of respondents: 155

IF COVID-RELIEF FUNDING. Has your organization partnered with (a community-based organization/local school district) to address learning loss using COVID relief funds?

Yes	37%
No	45%
Not sure	18%

Number of respondents: 164

IF COVID-RELIEF FUNDING AND PARTNERING. What does this partnership entail? Please select all that apply.

Access to operate organization's afterschool and	
summer program in school building	48%

Joint professional opportunities with school and	
organization's staff	35%
Using funds to expand pre-existing grant(s)/contract(s)	
with organization to provide afterschool and summer	
programs	34%
Using funds to support transportation to/and from	
afterschool and summer programs run by organization	33%
New school district grant(s)/contract(s) provided to	
organization to run afterschool and/or summer program	28%
Staff sharing	22%
Other partnerships with organization not listed	19%

IF COVID-RELIEF FUNDING. What changes, if any, will your program need to make when COVID-relief funding ends? Select all that apply.

Reduce the number of staff	36%
Reduce programming/activities/support	35%
Reduce the number of students served	29%
Close one or more program sites	23%
Reduce staff salaries and/or benefits	21%
Reduce hours of operation	13%
Other	7%
No changes will need to be made	21%
Not sure	16%

Number of respondents: 164

IF COVID-RELIEF FUNDING. What funding are you planning to access to continue your programming without COVID-relief funds? Select all that apply.

Start charging parent fees	14%
Increase parent fees	28%
Seek private funds from philanthropy and/or business	58%
Apply for funding at the state level	56%

Apply for funding at the state level	43%
Other (please specify)	8%
Not sure	10%

IF SERVING PRE-K, ELEMENTARY, OR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS. What is your eligibility status when it comes to accepting childcare subsidy funds (for low-income children ages 5-13)?

Currently eligible	32%
Exploring the process to become eligible	8%
Not considering eligibility (e.g., don't know the process,	
the process is too challenging, don't meet requirements,	
etc.)	17%
Not sure	26%
Not applicable	17%

Number of respondents: 1,217

Has your program's cost-per-child per week for in-person services increased in the last 12 months?

Our program's cost-per-child per week for in-person services has	-
increased	42%
Our program's cost-per-child per week for in-person services has	
decreased	9%
There has been no change	29%
Not sure	20%

Number of respondents: 1,247

IF INCREASED. You said that your program's cost-per-child per week for inperson services has increased in the last 12 months. Please estimate how much the cost-per-child per week has increased.

1-10% increase 55°	%
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11-25% increase	32%
26-50% increase	5%
More than 50% increase	1%
Not sure	7%

IF INCREASED. You said that your program's cost-per-child per week for inperson services has increased in the past 12 months. What do you think is causing that increase? Please select all that apply.

Staffing costs	77%
Inflation	66%
Supplies	58%
Food	47%
Transportation	34%
Facility costs	27%
Other (please specify)	3%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 508

What is the cost-per-child per week for in-person services in your afterschool program this year? Your best estimate is fine. "Cost-per-child" refers to the cost to the program for each participating student per week. This cost is not necessarily the same as the fee charged per child to parents.

\$0	5%
\$1-\$25	7%
\$26-\$50	7%
\$51-\$100	10%
\$101-200	7%
More than \$200	4%
Not sure	60%

Respondent Profile

How would you describe the setting(s) for your program? Select all that apply.

Rural	33%
Suburban	28%
Urban	42%
State or regional	11%
National	2%

Number of respondents: 1,247

Is your program typically located in a public school?

Yes	70%
No	30%

Number of respondents: 1,247

Which of the following describes your organization? Please select all that apply.

Afterschool program run by a public school or school district	22%
Afterschool program run by a community-based organization	21%
Afterschool program run by another non-profit not listed	17%
Boys & Girls Club	10%
YMCA	7%
Afterschool program operated by a private, for-profit	
organization	7%
Afterschool program run by a child care center	6%
Afterschool program run by a city or town (including Parks and	
Recreation Department)	5%
Afterschool program run by a faith-based organization	4%
Afterschool program run by a college or university	3%
Afterschool program run by a private school	3%
Afterschool program run by a charter school	3%

After-School All-Stars	2%
Afterschool program run by a library	2%
Afterschool program run by a museum or science center	2%
4-H	1%
CampFire program	1%
Girls Inc.	1%
YWCA	1%
Other organization	9%

Please enter your best estimate for the number of students served by your program for each scenario.

Total number of children served during the previous 2023-2024 school year

0	10%
1-25	5%
26-50	10%
51-100	16%
101-150	12%
151-200	7%
201+	39%

Number of respondents: 1,239

Total number of children that your program served and/or anticipate serving this fall:

0	10%
1-25	5%
26-50	11%
51-100	18%
101-150	12%
151-200	7%
201+	36%

Total number of students estimated in-person this fall:

0	11%
1-25	7%
26-50	11%
51-100	19%
101-150	11%
151-200	6%
201+	35%

Number of respondents: 1,241

Total number of students estimated virtually this fall:

0	93%
1-25	2%
26-50	2%
51-100	1%
101-150	1%
151-200	0%
201+	1%

Number of respondents: 1,247

How many staff is your program employing this fall?

Full time:

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0	24%
1-10	60%
11-25	10%
26-50	5%
51-100	2%
101+	1%

Part time:	
0	19%
1-10	39%
11-25	19%
26-50	10%
51-100	8%
101+	5%

What is your best estimate for your program's overall student population and the racial/ethnic backgrounds of the students you typically serve?

	Mean
Asian	4%
Black or African American	28%
Hispanic or Latinx	20%
Native American	3%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	2%
White	41%

Number of respondents: 995

What percentage of the students served qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program?

25% or less	10%
26-49%	14%
50-75%	21%
More than 75%	45%
Not Sure	11%

What grade level are the students you typically serve? Select all that apply.

Pre-K students	30%
Elementary school students	83%
Middle school students	58%
High school students	29%