

# Afterschool Alliance Fall 2025 Program Provider Survey - Wave 12 Results

Data are based on an online survey conducted by Edge Research between October 27-December 22, 2025. In all, 1,005 providers representing more than 6,500 program sites in 50 states and the District of Columbia participated.

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## SURVEY<sup>1</sup>

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### Screening questions

**Which best describes your program? Please select one.**

Afterschool program	47%
Summer program	5%
Year-round program	43%
Other (please specify)	6%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

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<sup>1</sup> 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	38%
We are operating at the same level as we were pre-COVID	21%
We are operating at lower than pre-COVID capacity limits	21%
Not sure	11%
Not applicable	9%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

### Is there a waitlist for your program?

Yes	48%
No	45%
Unsure	4%
Not applicable	3%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

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

Academic enrichment	91%
Homework or academic help	80%
STEM learning opportunities	78%
Reading or writing time	69%
Access to technology, including computers, laptops, and/or broadband	65%
Help increasing students' connectedness to school	52%
Youth-led programming (supporting youth in a project of their own)	44%
Employing certified teachers	43%

Connecting youth with employers/professionals	33%
Hiring youth to facilitate programming	30%
Connecting youth with college-aged mentors	28%
College and career advising or postsecondary transition coaching	25%
High-intensity tutoring	23%
Special supports to 8 <sup>th</sup> graders to help them successfully transition to high school	18%
Stipends or some form of youth payment for participation	15%
None of the above	1%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

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

Snacks and meals	88%
Time to interact with peers and build social skills	84%
Physical activity opportunities	82%
Outdoor activities	80%
Opportunities to develop life skills such as building communication, teamwork, and critical thinking skills	79%
Opportunities to talk with peers or staff members about their feelings and emotions	74%
Family or parent engagement activities	71%
Wellness activities (e.g., yoga, meditation, mindfulness activities)	62%
Leadership opportunities	59%
Wrap around services that connect students and families to community resources (e.g., health or dental clinics, financial planning, mental health services, etc.)	35%
Workforce readiness opportunities (e.g., resume help, job shadowing, internships, apprenticeships, etc.)	32%
Family leadership opportunities (e.g., parent advisory boards, teaching parents to be advocates for their children's education, etc.)	30%
Specialized mental health or counseling support	24%
Home visits and/or check in calls with students and families	15%
None of the above	0%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**IF PROVIDING STEM: You said your program offers STEM learning opportunities. Do you help students use STEM to address real-world challenges and problems?**

Yes	79%
No	9%
Unsure	12%

*Number of respondents: 786*

**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	38%
We use AI to help develop programming/curriculum for our students	30%
We teach students how to use AI tools	15%
Other (please specify)	2%
We do not use AI	47%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

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

More difficult to fill student slots than before the pandemic	22%
Less difficult to fill student slots than before the pandemic	26%
The same as before the pandemic	29%
Not sure/Not applicable	22%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**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.

Lack of funding or insufficient funding	46%
Staffing issues	40%
Decrease in student population	37%
Increased cost of running in-person programming	33%
Transportation issues	28%
Lack of interest from families	25%
Increased competition with other programs	24%
Lack of awareness about program	18%
Lack of access to appropriate space	17%
Regulatory or insurance issues	2%
Other (Please specify)	10%

*Number of respondents: 210*

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

Very easy	11%
Somewhat easy	22%
Neither easy nor difficult	22%
Somewhat difficult	28%
Very difficult	14%
Not sure	2%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

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

Increased hourly wages and/or salaries	49%
Provided additional professional development opportunities	47%
Provided free childcare for staff	22%
Created more full-time positions	18%
Provided additional paid time off	18%
Provided additional/new health and/or dental benefits	15%
Provided sign-on bonuses	11%
Other (please specify)	7%
My program has not done anything new to attract or retain staff	21%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**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	67%
Inability to offer more hours to staff	56%
Staff burnout	53%
Limited opportunities to move up within the organization	38%
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	22%
Other (please specify)	13%
Not sure	2%

*Number of respondents: 425*

**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	66%
Inability to serve more students	61%
Decrease in staff morale	49%
Negatively affecting program quality	48%
Increased costs due to hiring and training	37%
Loss of productivity	34%
Negatively impacting students' well-being	25%
Loss of institutional knowledge	22%
Other (please specify)	5%
Not sure	3%
None of the above	3%

*Number of respondents: 425*

**Compared to the 2024-2025 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	8%
Yes, hiring of fewer staff for this fall due to challenges recruiting staff	19%
Yes, hiring of more staff for this fall due to increased demand for programming	29%
Yes, increased hours of staff to create full-time position(s)	8%
No change	37%
Not applicable	8%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

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

Being paid full salaries	52%
Being paid partial salaries	8%

Being paid hourly	69%
Being provided with paid leave	30%
Full or partial benefits being covered by program	37%
Other (please specify)	5%
Not sure/Not applicable	3%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**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	<b>69%</b>
Strongly optimistic	38%
Somewhat optimistic	32%
Neutral	22%
Pessimistic overall	<b>9%</b>
Somewhat pessimistic	7%
Strongly pessimistic	2%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

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

Yes	64%
No	26%
Not sure/Not applicable	10%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

## 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	48%
Advice on staff burnout and keeping teams engaged	32%
Tools and trainings to prepare staff to deliver high-quality summer learning programs	28%
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	27%
Communication tools to help families learn more about the supports and benefits of afterschool and summer programs	26%
Trainings and resources to support supervisors and managers	26%
Advice on how to work with the school district and/or local schools about programming	23%
Trainings and resources related to recruiting staff and onboarding new staff	19%
Advocacy communication tools to use with decision makers	18%
Online educational resources to share with families	15%
Other (if other, please specify)	3%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

## Concerns

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>75%</b>
Extremely concerned	36%
Very concerned	38%
Somewhat concerned	19%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>6%</b>
Not too concerned	4%
Not at all concerned	2%
Not sure	0%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**At this point in time, how concerned are you about unproductive screen time harming your student's well-being?**

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>71%</b>
Extremely concerned	34%
Very concerned	37%
Somewhat concerned	21%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>7%</b>
Not too concerned	5%
Not at all concerned	2%
Not sure	1%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**At this point in time, how concerned are you about long-term funding and the program's future?**

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>67%</b>
Extremely concerned	41%
Very concerned	27%

Somewhat concerned	20%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>12%</b>
Not too concerned	8%
Not at all concerned	4%
Not sure	0%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students having adverse childhood experiences (i.e. abuse, neglect, and other household dysfunctions)?**

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>66%</b>
Extremely concerned	30%
Very concerned	36%
Somewhat concerned	24%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>9%</b>
Not too concerned	7%
Not at all concerned	2%
Not sure	1%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>64%</b>
Extremely concerned	30%
Very concerned	34%
Somewhat concerned	24%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>12%</b>
Not too concerned	8%
Not at all concerned	3%
Not sure	1%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**At this point in time, how concerned are you about paying staff a livable wage and benefits?**

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>62%</b>
Extremely concerned	32%
Very concerned	30%
Somewhat concerned	23%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>13%</b>
Not too concerned	8%
Not at all concerned	4%
Not sure	2%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>62%</b>
Extremely concerned	26%
Very concerned	36%
Somewhat concerned	24%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>13%</b>
Not too concerned	10%
Not at all concerned	3%
Not sure	1%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**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	<b>62%</b>
Extremely concerned	31%

Very concerned	31%
Somewhat concerned	23%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>13%</b>
Not too concerned	10%
Not at all concerned	3%
Not sure	1%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**At this point in time, how concerned are you about loss of funding to the program this year?**

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>55%</b>
Extremely concerned	34%
Very concerned	22%
Somewhat concerned	21%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>21%</b>
Not too concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	8%
Not sure	2%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**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	<b>51%</b>
Extremely concerned	21%
Very concerned	30%
Somewhat concerned	28%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>21%</b>
Not too concerned	14%
Not at all concerned	7%
Not sure	0%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>50%</b>
Extremely concerned	24%
Very concerned	26%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>21%</b>
Not too concerned	15%
Not at all concerned	6%
Not sure	2%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**At this point in time, how concerned are you about having to permanently close the program?**

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>34%</b>
Extremely concerned	20%
Very concerned	14%
Somewhat concerned	20%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>43%</b>
Not too concerned	22%
Not at all concerned	20%
Not sure	3%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**At this point in time, how concerned are you about having to lay off or furlough staff in the months to come?**

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>32%</b>
Extremely concerned	16%
Very concerned	16%
Somewhat concerned	22%

Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>41%</b>
Not too concerned	23%
Not at all concerned	18%
Not sure	5%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**At this point in time, how concerned are you about waitlists for students/being able to meet the demand for programs?**

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>32%</b>
Extremely concerned	13%
Very concerned	18%
Somewhat concerned	25%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>37%</b>
Not too concerned	22%
Not at all concerned	15%
Not sure	6%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>31%</b>
Extremely concerned	14%
Very concerned	17%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>40%</b>
Not too concerned	26%
Not at all concerned	15%
Not sure	2%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

## Summer questions

### Did you offer programming this past summer (2025)?

Yes	85%
No, but typically offer summer programming	5%
No, typically do not offer summer programming	8%
Not applicable	2%
Not sure/to be determined	-

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

### IF OFFERING PROGRAMMING. What changes, if any, did you make to your summer 2025 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	31%
More intentionally focusing on students' holistic needs and supporting overall well-being	28%
Offered summer programs at more sites than in the past	15%
Decreased number of children served	12%
Offered summer programs at fewer sites than in the past	10%
Offered special supports to 8th graders to help them successfully transition to high school	9%
This was our first time offering a summer program	2%
Other (please specify)	6%
None, no changes compared to previous years	21%
Not sure/To be determined	4%

*Number of respondents: 851*

**Was there a waitlist for your summer program?**

Yes	47%
No	47%
Not sure/Not applicable	6%

*Number of respondents: 851*

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

<b>Extremely or very concerned overall</b>	<b>43%</b>
Extremely concerned	19%
Very concerned	24%
Somewhat concerned	31%
<b>Not too concerned or at all concerned overall</b>	<b>25%</b>
Not too concerned	16%
Not at all concerned	8%
Not sure	2%

*Number of respondents: 851*

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

<b>Extremely or very concerned overall</b>	<b>40%</b>
Extremely concerned	18%
Very concerned	22%
Somewhat concerned	25%
<b>Not too concerned or at all concerned overall</b>	<b>32%</b>
Not too concerned	20%
Not at all concerned	11%
Not sure	3%

*Number of respondents: 851*

**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	<b>35%</b>
Extremely concerned	13%
Very concerned	21%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>34%</b>
Not too concerned	23%
Not at all concerned	11%
Not sure	4%

*Number of respondents: 851*

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>34%</b>
Extremely concerned	14%
Very concerned	20%
Somewhat concerned	28%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>36%</b>
Not too concerned	24%
Not at all concerned	11%
Not sure	2%

*Number of respondents: 851*

**How concerned were you about reduced enrollment this past summer?**

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>26%</b>
Extremely concerned	12%
Very concerned	14%
Somewhat concerned	22%

Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>49%</b>
Not too concerned	25%
Not at all concerned	24%
Not sure	3%

*Number of respondents: 851*

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>17%</b>
Extremely concerned	9%
Very concerned	9%
Somewhat concerned	14%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>59%</b>
Not too concerned	30%
Not at all concerned	29%
Not sure	10%

*Number of respondents: 851*

## Funding

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

Private donations/fundraisers	40%
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers grant (21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC)	38%
Parent fees	37%
Foundation/philanthropic grant	35%
Local government funds	29%
State government funds (not 21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC)	28%
Corporations/businesses	20%
Other federal government programmatic funds (not 21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC or CCDF)	16%
Federal child care subsidy program - (CCDF)	13%
Savings	8%
AmeriCorps position (funded in part by Corporation for National and Community Service)	5%
Loans	2%
Other	7%
Not sure	6%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**As you may know, in July of this year (2025), the Trump administration suddenly withheld federal funds for afterschool and summer learning programs. What impact, if any, did this decision have on your program? Select all that apply.**

Help children and families navigate the uncertainty caused by the withholding of funds	21%
Temporarily reduce the number of staff	14%
Temporarily reduce program offerings and/or hours of programming	13%
Temporarily reduce the number of students served	12%
Seek short-term funding, lines of credit, etc. to continue operating	12%
Temporarily close one or more program sites	9%
Other (please specify)	7%
No changes were made	43%
Not sure	11%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**Looking ahead to proposed federal education budget cuts, if implemented, how concerned are you that those cuts would impact your program in the future?**

Extremely or very concerned overall	<b>69%</b>
Extremely concerned	49%
Very concerned	20%
Somewhat concerned	17%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	<b>11%</b>
Not too concerned	7%
Not at all concerned	4%
Not sure	3%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**A federal government shutdown began on October 1, 2025. How much, if at all, have the children and families you serve been impacted by the shutdown?**

A lot	27%
Some	36%
Not much/minimal	19%
Not at all	8%
Not sure	11%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**Has your program's cost-per-child per week for in-person services increased in the last 12 months? "Cost-per-child" refers to the cost to the program for each participating student per week.**

Our program's cost-per-child per week for in-person services has increased	43%
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Our program's cost-per-child per week for in-person services has decreased	4%
There has been no change	38%
Not sure	15%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

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

1-10% increase	49%
11-25% increase	36%
26-50% increase	7%
More than 50% increase	2%
Not sure	6%

*Number of respondents: 434*

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

Staffing costs	76%
Inflation	66%
Supplies	59%
Food	50%
Facility costs	34%
Transportation	33%
Other (please specify)	4%
Not sure	2%

*Number of respondents: 434*

## Respondent Profile

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

Rural	35%
Suburban	30%
Urban	42%
State or regional	9%
National	3%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**Is your program typically located in a public school?**

Yes	66%
No	34%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

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

Afterschool program run by a public school or school district	25%
Afterschool program run by a community-based organization	20%
Afterschool program run by another non-profit not listed	16%
Boys & Girls Club	13%
YMCA	7%
Afterschool program operated by a private, for-profit organization	6%
Afterschool program run by a child care center	5%
Afterschool program run by a city or town (including Parks and Recreation Department)	4%
Afterschool program run by a faith-based organization	4%
Afterschool program run by a college or university	3%
Afterschool program run by a charter school	2%
Afterschool program run by a private school	1%

After-School All-Stars	1%
Afterschool program run by a museum or science center	1%
Afterschool program run by a library	1%
YWCA	1%
4-H	1%
CampFire program	1%
Girls Inc.	0%
Other organization	7%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

**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 2024-2025 school year*

0	3%
1-25	6%
26-50	11%
51-100	19%
101-150	14%
151-200	7%
201+	40%

*Number of respondents: 1,001*

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

0	2%
1-25	6%
26-50	14%
51-100	19%
101-150	14%
151-200	8%
201+	36%

*Number of respondents: 1,002*

*Total number of students estimated **in-person** this fall:*

0	3%
1-25	6%
26-50	14%
51-100	21%
101-150	13%
151-200	7%
201+	35%

Number of respondents: 1,002

*Total number of students estimated **virtually** this fall:*

0	85%
1-25	6%
26-50	3%
51-100	2%
101-150	1%
151-200	0%
201+	3%

Number of respondents: 1,005

**How many staff is your program employing this fall?***Full time:*

0	17%
1-10	64%
11-25	11%
26-50	5%
51-100	1%
101+	1%

Number of respondents: 1,005

*Part time:*

0	11%
1-10	49%
11-25	19%
26-50	9%
51-100	6%
101+	6%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

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

	<b>Mean</b>
Asian	5%
Black or African American	30%
Hispanic or Latinx	20%
Native American	4%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	2%
White	36%
Other	3%

*Number of respondents: 882*

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

25% or less	8%
26-49%	12%
50-75%	21%
More than 75%	51%
Not Sure	9%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*

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

Pre-K students	26%
Elementary school students	83%
Middle school students	61%
High school students	37%

*Number of respondents: 1,005*