

# Expanding learning and supports for an equitable recovery

## This is Afterschool in Arizona



Afterschool Alliance April 2021

In Arizona, afterschool programs provide expanded learning opportunities to 151,549 students and are a lifeline for working families. In Arizona, 85% of parents report that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs. Yet, too many kids in Arizona are being left out. In fact, **for every child in an afterschool program, 3 more would participate** if a program were available.

### Helping young people learn, grow, and thrive

#### Students in afterschool programs in Arizona are:



Interacting with peers and building social skills **92%**



Getting homework help **74%**



Taking part in physical activities **89%**

An evaluation by the Arizona Department of Education found that students regularly participating in Arizona's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs during the 2009-2010 school year saw academic gains. More than 40% of regular 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC participants saw improvements in their math grades and more than 40% improved their English grades. A spring 2021 update by the department reported that 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs in the state served more than 6,800 students, providing distance learning support, including virtual and project-based STEM learning during the pandemic.

#### Parents in Arizona agree that afterschool programs:



Provide opportunities to build life skills **84%**



Get kids excited about learning **74%**



Reduce the likelihood that youth will use drugs or engage in other risky behaviors **72%**

### Call and response: Afterschool programs stepping up during the pandemic

From the outset of the pandemic, afterschool programs have adapted and expanded their services to best meet the needs of the children and families they serve. Valley of the Sun YMCA operated emergency child care sites, where staff taught young kids to make “airplane arms” as a way to encourage social distancing. The Launch Pad Teen Center moved programming online and kept in touch with students via text and phone. Staff regularly drove a shuttle to teens’ neighborhoods to check on them, prioritizing neighborhoods they knew to be prone to violence and food insecurity. They developed a code language so teens could report imminent concerns.

#### A 2021 national survey of afterschool providers finds programs continue to provide:

Academic enrichment	<b>94%</b>
Time to interact with peers	<b>86%</b>
Physical activity	<b>81%</b>
Snacks or meals	<b>77%</b>
Check-ins with student and families	<b>32%</b>
In-person services during virtual school days*	<b>24%</b>

Looking toward the summer, **79%** of providers will be offering summer programming.

*\*Among program providers that report that they are offering in-person services.*

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) are local before-school, afterschool, and summer learning programs that serve students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools, engaging students in hands-on learning activities aimed at supporting their academic growth. They provide a variety of enrichment activities to complement school-day learning and offer educational and support services to the families of participating children.

In Arizona, 47,988 children in 181 communities take part in a Community Learning Center.

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grants are the only dedicated federal funding source that support local communities' afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programs is so great in Arizona that **1** out of every **3** applications cannot be funded.

The 2020 Department of Education annual performance report of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC found that among regular participants:



Nearly half improved their math (**48%**) and English grades (**48%**)



**69%** improved homework completion and class participation



**62%** improved their behavior

## A lifeline for working families

A national survey of parents in the fall of 2020 found that as the pandemic continued to disrupt school schedules, most parents were concerned about their child's social and emotional well-being and connection to peers, as well as their own ability to continue to provide learning support and/or care for their child as virtual school and distance learning extends into 2021.

**Based on the 2020 America After 3PM household survey, parents in Arizona agree that afterschool programs:**

- Build positive relationships between children and adults **78%**
- Keep kids safe and out of trouble **78%**
- Help working parents keep their jobs **82%**
- Provide working parents peace of mind **81%**

## A smart investment

**Research spanning several states shows that every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by:**



- 1** Increasing kids' earning potential
- 2** Improving kids' performance at school
- 3** Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

Additionally, Community Learning Centers leverage diverse partners to meet community needs. A typical program receives \$67,000 from partners to supplement its federal funding. Nationwide, partner contributions totaled more than \$1 billion between 2006 and 2010.

Parents in Arizona are behind public investment in afterschool programs

**88%** of parents favor public funding of afterschool programs to expand opportunities for kids in underserved communities.



Support is strong and bipartisan



**95%** Democrats



**83%** Independents



**86%** Republicans