



# Afterschool Alliance

## UNCERTAIN TIMES: FUNDING INSECURITY PUTS AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS AT RISK First Wave -- Topline Findings

In August 2006, afterschool programs from across the country responded to questions about their funding sources, services they provide, youth they serve, and plans and prospects for the future. For this first wave of findings, 1,965 responses were reviewed. 337 responses did not provide sufficient data to be included in the final analysis; therefore the final sample was 1,628 responses. Below are the topline findings for a select number of questions included in the survey. A second release later this fall will include additional data gathered in September and will provide data for the survey questions not included in this first wave of findings.

Which of the following best describes your program's capacity during the 2005-2006 school year? (check one)

- 24% We operated above maximum capacity and served more students than we had budgeted to serve.
- 51% We operated at maximum capacity.
- 25% We operated below maximum capacity and served fewer students than we had budgeted to serve.

Number of respondents: 1,628 (100%)

What percentage of program participants qualified for the federal free or reduced lunch program? (check one)

- 3.1% none
- 4.4% - 1-5%
- 2.8% - 6-10%
- 2.3% - 11-15%
- 2.7% - 16-20%
- 4.7% - 21-30%
- 4.9% - 31-40%
- 5.9% - 41-50%
- 5.8% - 51-60%
- 7.1% - 61-70%
- 10.1% - 71-80%
- 11.9% - 81-90%
- 24.8% - 91-100%
- 9.6% - Unknown

Number of respondents; 1,628 (100%)

How has your funding changed over the last 2 years? (check one)

- 24% Funding is down a lot
- 23% Funding is down a little
- 30% Funding is unchanged
- 18% Funding is up a little
- 5% Funding is up a lot

Number of respondents: 1,414 (87%)

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) **[Skip question if funding is up]**

- 36% Added or increased fees
- 31% Cut field trips
- 30% Cut variety of activities offered in the program
- 27% No changes have been made
- 22% Reduced number of children served
- 22% Increased staff/student ratio
- 20% Reduced staff pay and/or benefits
- 20% Cut professional development
- 18% Reduced daily hours or number of days of service
- 17% Cut transportation services
- 10% Cut holiday and/or weekend service
- 9% Cut summer program
- 8% Reduced or cut food services offered
- 7% Reduced family services
- 7% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- 6% Lowered standards or criteria for hiring staff
- 5% Reduced school-community partnerships
- 4% Reduced social services offered
- 7% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of respondents: 1,057 (97%)

In the future, if you receive more funding, what change would you be most likely to make to your program? (Check one)

- 29% Serve more children
- 15% Increase staff pay and/or benefits
- 11% Add variety of activities offered in the program
- 7% Decrease staff/student ratio
- 5% Increase daily hours or number of days of service
- 5% Add transportation services
- 4% Raise standards or criteria for hiring staff
- 4% Add field trips
- 4% Add school-community partnerships
- 3% Add professional development

- 3% Add family services
  - 3% Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2% Add social services offered
  - 2% Cut or decrease fees
  - 2% Add summer program
  - 2% None. I wouldn't make any changes.
  - 1% Add or increased food services offered
  - 1% Add holiday and/or weekend service
- Number of respondents: 1,393 (86%)

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

	<b>Not Secure</b>	<b>Somewhat Secure</b>	<b>Secure</b>	<b>Very Secure</b>
1-2 years	17%	36%	33%	14%
3-5 years	47%	34%	15%	5%

Number of Respondents: 1392 (86%)

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

- 86% Yes
- 14% No

Number of Respondents: 1,386 (85%)

*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 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. For this first wave of data, 1,965 responses were reviewed. 337 of them did not provide sufficient data to be included in the final analysis; therefore the final sample was 1,628 responses which represent approximately 7,857 afterschool sites serving 1.5 million children. (Many respondents are responsible for multiple sites.)*