

Afterschool Alliance COVID-19 Program Provider Survey - Wave 5 Results

Data are based on an online survey conducted by Edge Research between June 2-28, 2021. In all, 937 providers representing more than 6,400 program sites in 49 states and the District of Columbia participated.

SURVEY¹

Screening questions

Which best describes your program? Please select one.

Afterschool program	36%
Summer program	10%
Year-round program	48%
Other (please specify)	6%

Number of respondents: 937

Is it typical for your program to be open or closed at this time of year?

Typically open	81%
Typically closed	17%
Not applicable	2%

Number of respondents 937

¹ Totals within questions may be different due to rounding.



Current status of summer programs

To what extent is the program you work in open or closed this summer in regards to serving students, due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Please select all that apply to your program.

We are completely closed; no in-person or virtual services being offered	2%
We are physically closed, but offering virtual programming for students and families	6%
We are physically closed, but delivering or offering new services for students and families, i.e. meals, activity packets, check in calls	4%
We are physically open in at least some capacity (this includes the range of ways a program is physically open, including, but not limited to, operating as usual, operating only some sites, serving a smaller number of students, or operating both in-person and virtually)	83%
Other (please specify)	7%
Not applicable	2%

Number of respondents: 601

IF PHYSICALLY OPEN. You selected that your program is physically open to students this summer. Which of the following apply to your program? Please select all that apply.

We are physically open and operating at pre-COVID capacity limits	30%
We are physically open, but at reduced capacity due to health and safety protocols	56%
We are physically open, with programming primarily provided outdoors	21%
We have reduced our student to staff ratios	35%
We are physically open, and also providing virtual services for families that prefer that option	19%
We are offering onsite snacks and/or meals to students	65%
We have established new cleaning protocols, employed social distancing, or reduced student to staff ratios	81%
None of the above	0%

Number of respondents: 501

IF OPEN IN SOME CAPACITY. Does your program currently offer any of the following for your students? Please select all that apply.

Academic enrichment	90%
Time to interact with peers and build social skills	86%
Outdoor activities	83%
Physical activity opportunities	82%
Opportunities to talk with peers or staff members about their feelings and emotions	77%
Reading or writing time	74%
STEM learning opportunities	72%
Access to technology, including computers, laptops, and/or broadband	68%
Homework or academic help	55%
Other social and emotional supports	51%
Family or parent engagement activities	48%
Employing certified teachers	40%
Take home activities and other virtual activities	33%
Home visits and/or check in calls with students and families	22%
Ability to earn school credits	9%
None of the above	1%

Number of respondents: 537

IF PHYSICALLY OPEN. Is there a waitlist for your program?

Yes	52%
No	41%
Unsure	6%
Not applicable	2%

Number of respondents: 501

IF PHYSICALLY CLOSED. What are the primary factors preventing you from providing in-person services? Select all that apply

Lack of interest from families, due to COVID-19 related concerns	41%
Lack of access to proper health and safety equipment (face coverings, cleaning supplies, etc.)	39%
Concern about health and safety for staff and/or youth	37%
School or school district is closed to community partners	26%
Lack of funding or insufficient funding	26%
Lack of access to appropriate space	24%
Increased cost of running in-person programming	22%
Ongoing changes to school district policies and procedures	20%
Social distancing measures not compatible with our program model	17%
Other (please specify)	6%

Number of respondents: 54

Compared to summer of 2020, has your summer program made a change in staffing this summer because of COVID-19? Please select all that apply.

Yes, layoffs	5%
Yes, furloughs or suspended work	5%
Yes, reduced hours of staff	12%
Yes, hiring of fewer staff for this summer	17%
Yes, hiring of more staff for this summer due to increased demand for programming	34%
Yes, hiring of more staff for this summer due to social distancing and new student/staff ratios	21%
Yes, increased hours of staff	19%
No, but anticipate layoffs or furloughs	1%
No change	20%
Not applicable	5%

Number of respondents: 601

IF YES LAYOFF OR FURLOUGHS. At this point in time, what percentage of your summer program staff has been laid off or furloughed? Your best estimate is fine.

25% or less	44%
26-49%	21%
50-75%	15%
More than 75%	8%
Not sure	13%

Number of respondents: 48

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

Being paid full salaries	58%
Being paid partial salaries	7%
Being paid hourly	57%
Being provided with paid leave	16%
Being allowed to use all accrued leave	13%
Full or partial benefits being covered by program	21%
Staff relying on unemployment insurance	5%
Staff are not being financially supported by the program at this time	5%
Other (please specify)	3%
Not sure/Not applicable	4%

Number of respondents: 601

How has COVID-19 impacted your cost-per-child per week for in-person services this summer, or how do you anticipate it impacting your cost-per-child per week for in-person services?

Our program's cost-per-child per week for in-person services has increased/will increase	43%
Our program's cost-per-child per week for in-person services has decreased/will decrease	8%
There has been/will be no change	33%
Not sure	17%

Number of respondents: 937

IF INCREASED. You said that your program's cost-per-child per week for in-person services has increased or will increase due to COVID-19. Please estimate how much the cost-per-child per week has increased.

1-10% increase	43%
11-25% increase	34%
26-50% increase	11%
More than 50% increase	2%
Not sure	10%

Number of respondents: 401

What is the cost-per-child per week for in-person services in your summer 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	4%
\$1-\$25	5%
\$26-\$50	4%
\$51-\$100	8%
\$101-200	15%
More than \$200	11%
Mean (excluding \$0):	\$219.50

Number of respondents: 937

Please tell us if your program is currently conducting or plans to conduct any of the following activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

	Currently providing	Plan to provide	Stopped providing
Serving youth remotely/finding alternate ways to stay connected to youth	41%	9%	25%
Engaging staff in remote professional development and training	65%	14%	10%
Serving as a meals site, delivering meals, or distributing other resources to families	53%	10%	10%
Providing care for children of essential workers	45%	8%	8%
Connecting families with community resources (e.g., health or dental clinics, financial planning, mental health services, etc.)	52%	16%	4%
Providing a safe, supervised learning environment during virtual school days	45%	8%	19%

Number of respondents: 937

Supports and resources important to summer programs

At this point in time, how important is funding sources or money to your program?

Extremely or very important overall	75%
Extremely important	41%
Very important	34%
Somewhat important	16%
Not too or at all important overall	7%
Not too important	5%
Not at all important	2%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 937

At this point in time, how important is better guidance and more information to help plan for the future?

Extremely or very important overall	60%
Extremely important	21%
Very important	39%
Somewhat important	28%
Not too or at all important overall	11%
Not too important	9%
Not at all important	2%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 937

At this point in time, how important is guidance on how to access COVID relief funding, including the American Rescue Plan or Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) I, II, or III funds?

Extremely or very important overall	56%
Extremely important	26%
Very important	30%
Somewhat important	24%
Not too or at all important overall	13%
Not too important	9%
Not at all important	4%
Not sure	8%

Number of respondents: 937

At this point in time, how important is guidance on how to work with school districts and/or local schools regarding schedules and programming?

Extremely or very important overall	55%
Extremely important	22%
Very important	33%
Somewhat important	26%
Not too or at all important overall	14%
Not too important	9%
Not at all important	4%
Not sure	5%

Number of respondents: 937

At this point in time, how important is better guidance and resources to protect the health and safety of staff and students to your program?

Extremely or very important overall	53%
Extremely important	19%
Very important	34%
Somewhat important	30%
Not too or at all important overall	15%
Not too important	12%
Not at all important	4%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 937

At this point in time, how important is more online resources or more student access to technology to your program (including broadband)?

Extremely or very important overall	47%
Extremely important	17%
Very important	30%
Somewhat important	29%
Not too or at all important overall	20%
Not too important	16%
Not at all important	4%
Not sure	3%

Number of respondents: 937

At this point in time, how important is ensuring staff get vaccinated?

Extremely or very important overall	45%
Extremely important	19%
Very important	26%
Somewhat important	26%
Not too or at all important overall	22%
Not too important	14%
Not at all important	8%
Not sure	7%

Number of respondents: 937

At this point in time, how important is finding and paying for protective equipment and cleaning supplies to your program?

Extremely or very important overall	42%
Extremely important	16%
Very important	26%
Somewhat important	29%
Not too or at all important overall	24%
Not too important	17%
Not at all important	7%
Not sure	5%

Number of respondents: 937

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

Advice on staff burnout and keeping teams engaged	41%
Advice on funding streams and securing foundation funds	35%
Communication tools to help families learn more about the supports and benefits of afterschool and summer programs	27%
Tools and trainings to prepare staff to deliver high-quality summer learning programs	26%
Information on how to connect with state and local education leaders about COVID relief funding, including the American Rescue Plan Act funds	22%
Advice on how to work with the school district and/or local schools about programming	20%
Online trainings for direct-service staff	18%
Updates on COVID-19 relevant to the afterschool field	18%
Online educational resources to share with families	14%
Online trainings for leadership	14%
Advocacy communication tools to use with decision makers	9%
Virtual coaching for program leaders and staff	9%
Virtual programming resources/materials/strategies	9%
Opportunities to stay virtually connected to others in the field	6%
Other (if other, please specify)	2%

Number of respondents: 937

Concerns

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	77%
Extremely concerned	43%
Very concerned	35%
Somewhat concerned	17%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	5%
Not too concerned	4%
Not at all concerned	1%
Not sure	0%

Number of respondents: 937

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	74%
Extremely concerned	40%
Very concerned	34%
Somewhat concerned	19%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	7%
Not too concerned	5%
Not at all concerned	2%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 937

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	69%
Extremely concerned	33%
Very concerned	36%
Somewhat concerned	20%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	10%
Not too concerned	7%
Not at all concerned	3%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 937

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	25%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	10%
Not too concerned	7%
Not at all concerned	3%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 937

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	57%
Extremely concerned	35%
Very concerned	22%
Somewhat concerned	23%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	17%
Not too concerned	12%
Not at all concerned	5%
Not sure	4%

Number of respondents: 937

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	55%
Extremely concerned	25%
Very concerned	30%
Somewhat concerned	25%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	17%
Not too concerned	12%
Not at all concerned	4%
Not sure	3%

Number of respondents: 937

At this point in time, how concerned are you about losing touch with students in need as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	55%
Extremely concerned	24%
Very concerned	32%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	16%
Not too concerned	11%
Not at all concerned	5%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 937

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students missing out on physical activity and/or time spent outdoors?

Extremely or very concerned overall	54%
Extremely concerned	22%
Very concerned	32%
Somewhat concerned	24%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	22%
Not too concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	9%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 937

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students lacking a safe, structured environment?

Extremely or very concerned overall	54%
Extremely concerned	21%
Very concerned	33%
Somewhat concerned	25%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	20%
Not too concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	7%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 937

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

Extremely or very concerned overall	52%
Extremely concerned	21%
Very concerned	31%
Somewhat concerned	28%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	18%
Not too concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	6%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 937

How concerned are you about long-term funding and the program’s future as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	51%
Extremely concerned	27%
Very concerned	24%
Somewhat concerned	26%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	21%
Not too concerned	16%
Not at all concerned	5%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 937

At this point in time, how concerned are you about maintaining adequate staff through health concerns and new procedures?

Extremely or very concerned overall	46%
Extremely concerned	21%
Very concerned	25%
Somewhat concerned	29%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	23%
Not too concerned	16%
Not at all concerned	7%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 937

How concerned are you about loss of funding to the program this year as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	44%
Extremely concerned	22%
Very concerned	22%
Somewhat concerned	24%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	28%
Not too concerned	16%
Not at all concerned	12%
Not sure	4%

Number of respondents: 937

At this point in time, how concerned are you about meeting the needs of families who will need afterschool programs for longer periods of time due to schools' mix of virtual and in person teaching in the fall of 2021?

Extremely or very concerned overall	40%
Extremely concerned	15%
Very concerned	25%
Somewhat concerned	30%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	25%
Not too concerned	18%
Not at all concerned	7%
Not sure	5%

Number of respondents: 937

At this point in time, how concerned are you about your students not having access to the technology they need at this time?

Extremely or very concerned overall	40%
Extremely concerned	14%
Very concerned	26%
Somewhat concerned	29%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	30%
Not too concerned	20%
Not at all concerned	9%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 937

How concerned are you about whether families will come back after the pandemic is over as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	39%
Extremely concerned	17%
Very concerned	22%
Somewhat concerned	31%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	28%
Not too concerned	18%
Not at all concerned	10%
Not sure	1%

Number of respondents: 937

At this point in time, how concerned are you about the availability of physical space to offer programming while meeting public health procedures?

Extremely or very concerned overall	36%
Extremely concerned	15%
Very concerned	21%
Somewhat concerned	29%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	33%
Not too concerned	21%
Not at all concerned	12%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 937

How concerned are you that restrictions as a result of COVID-19, such as student/staff ratios, cleaning protocols, and social distancing guidelines, will make it cost prohibitive to offer programming?

Extremely or very concerned overall	35%
Extremely concerned	15%
Very concerned	21%
Somewhat concerned	31%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	32%
Not too concerned	22%
Not at all concerned	10%
Not sure	2%

Number of respondents: 937

How concerned are you about paying for staff health insurance and other benefits?

Extremely or very concerned overall	31%
Extremely concerned	17%
Very concerned	14%
Somewhat concerned	16%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	32%
Not too concerned	20%
Not at all concerned	12%
Not sure	21%

Number of respondents: 937

How concerned are you about whether families will feel safe sending their child to a summer program?

Extremely or very concerned overall	31%
Extremely concerned	12%
Very concerned	18%
Somewhat concerned	32%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	34%
Not too concerned	25%
Not at all concerned	10%
Not sure	3%

Number of respondents: 937

How concerned are you about being able to re-hire furloughed staff in the months to come?

Extremely or very concerned overall	23%
Extremely concerned	11%
Very concerned	13%
Somewhat concerned	19%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	30%
Not too concerned	15%
Not at all concerned	16%
Not sure	27%

Number of respondents: 937

How concerned are you about having to permanently close the program as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	22%
Extremely concerned	12%
Very concerned	11%
Somewhat concerned	15%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	56%
Not too concerned	27%
Not at all concerned	30%
Not sure	6%

Number of respondents: 937

How concerned are you about having to lay off or furlough staff in the months to come as a result of COVID-19?

Extremely or very concerned overall	20%
Extremely concerned	9%
Very concerned	11%
Somewhat concerned	19%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	49%
Not too concerned	27%
Not at all concerned	23%
Not sure	12%

Number of respondents: 937

How concerned are you about rushing to reopen before it is safe for students and staff? (Only asked of programs that are closed)

Extremely or very concerned overall	24%
Extremely concerned	10%
Very concerned	14%
Somewhat concerned	19%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	50%
Not too concerned	29%
Not at all concerned	21%
Not sure	8%

Number of respondents: 436

How concerned are you about lack of certainty about when your program will re-open? *(Only asked of programs that are closed)*

Extremely or very concerned overall	22%
Extremely concerned	9%
Very concerned	14%
Somewhat concerned	19%
Not too concerned or at all concerned overall	44%
Not too concerned	20%
Not at all concerned	24%
Not sure	16%

Number of respondents: 436

Future oriented questions

Will you be offering programming this upcoming fall?

Yes	89%
No, but typically offer afterschool programming	5%
Not sure/To be determined	6%

Number of respondents: 937

What will be included in your afterschool programming?

Serving students mostly or all in-person	84%
Serving students mostly or all virtually	3%
Serving students about equally in-person and virtually	6%
Not sure/To be determined	7%

Number of respondents: 820

What most concerns you as you plan for the fall? Please select up to three.

Being able to hire enough staff	57%
Being able to meet the academic needs of children/learning loss	45%
Being able to meet the interest/demand from families	39%
Reduced enrollment due to COVID-19 safety concerns	37%
Access to enough space to maintain social distancing during programming	29%
Staff getting vaccinated	13%
Access to PPE for staff	7%
Other (Please specify)	6%
None of the above	4%

Number of respondents: 875

As the pandemic continues into 2021, which best describes your program's likely financial future?

Our program will have to raise parent fees or find new sources of revenue	33%
Our program will have to shut down	3%
Our program will not need to make significant changes	43%
Not sure	20%

Number of respondents: 937

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

Yes	65%
No	23%
Not sure/Not applicable	12%

Number of respondents: 937

Has your organization reached out to or been in conversations with local education leaders about receiving funding through the federal COVID relief funds, including the American Rescue Plan - Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) funds?

Yes	45%
No	30%
Not sure/Not applicable	25%

Number of respondents: 937

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	80%
Strongly optimistic	44%
Somewhat optimistic	37%
Neutral	15%
Pessimistic overall	4%
Somewhat pessimistic	4%
Strongly pessimistic	1%

Number of respondents: 937

Worst is over/Worst is yet to come:

Worst is over overall	67%
Strongly feel that the worst is over	32%
Somewhat feel that the worst is over	35%
Neutral	28%
Worst is yet to come overall	5%
Somewhat feel that the worst is yet to come	4%
Strongly feel that the worst is yet to come	1%

Number of respondents: 937

Respondent Profile

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

Rural	31%
Suburban	32%
Urban	40%
State or regional	9%
National	3%

Number of respondents: 937

Is your program typically located in a public school?

Yes	62%
No	38%

Number of respondents: 937

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

Afterschool program run by a public school or school district	23%
Afterschool program run by a community based organization	17%
Boys & Girls Club	16%
Afterschool program run by a child care center	11%
YMCA	9%
Afterschool program operated by a private organization	9%
Afterschool program run by another non-profit not listed	9%
Afterschool program run by a faith-based organization	5%
Afterschool program run by a city or town (including Parks and Recreation Department)	4%
Afterschool program run by a college or university	4%
Afterschool program run by a library	4%
Afterschool program run by a private school	3%
Afterschool program run by a charter school	3%
Afterschool program run by a museum or science center	2%

YWCA	1%
4-H	1%
After-School All-Stars	1%
CampFire program	1%
Girls Inc.	0%
Other organization, please specify:	8%

Number of respondents: 937

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

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

0	5%
1-25	13%
26-50	16%
51-100	21%
101-150	12%
151-200	7%
201+	26%
Mean (excluding 0):	395 students

Number of respondents: 601

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

0	7%
1-25	14%
26-50	17%
51-100	21%
101-150	11%
151-200	7%
201+	24%
Mean (excluding 0):	354 students

Number of respondents: 599

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

0	74%
1-25	8%
26-50	5%
51-100	4%
101-150	3%
151-200	1%
201+	6%
Mean (excluding 0):	403 students

Number of respondents: 601

How many staff is your program employing this summer?

Full time:

0	11%
1-10	64%
11-25	17%
26-50	5%
51-100	3%
101+	1%
Mean (excluding 0):	12 full-time staff

Number of respondents: 600

Part time:

0	22%
1-10	47%
11-25	17%
26-50	8%
51-100	4%
101+	2%
Mean (excluding 0):	21 part-time staff

Number of respondents: 601

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	26%
Hispanic or Latinx	20%
Native American	3%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	2%
White	42%

Number of respondents: 806

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

25% or less	9%
26-49%	15%
50-75%	20%
More than 75%	47%
Not Sure	9%

Number of respondents: 937

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

Pre-K students	30%
Elementary school students	83%
Middle school students	55%
High school students	31%

Number of respondents: 937

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

Parent fees	40%
Private donations/fundraisers	33%
21st Century Community Learning Centers grant (21st CCLC)	29%
Foundation/philanthropic grant	29%
State government funds (not 21st CCLC)	23%
Local government funds	23%
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	16%
Other federal government programmatic funds (not 21st CCLC or CCDF)	13%
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)	9%
Savings	6%
Loans	4%
Other	6%
Not sure	6%

Number of respondents: 937