



This is Afterschool in Utah

In Utah, the Y of Northern Utah received \$275,000 in American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds from the Utah State Board of Education, allowing the program to provide safe, fun, and educational afterschool and summer day camp programs to 300 Ogden elementary and middle schoolers, a majority of whom are from families with low incomes. In addition to supporting a new summer teen leadership camp where teens built and honed their leadership and mentorship skills, the funding helped the program reach youth who otherwise would not have had access to the programs, making it possible to offer programs at no charge or at significantly discounted rates. Based on the program's most recent Deveraux Student Strengths Assessment, which measures students' skills and competencies such as self-awareness, decision-making, and self-management, nearly half of students in the program (48%) who started the year with a "Needs" score, moved up to "Typical" or "Strength" scores by the end of the year, with 91% of all students scoring in the Typical or Strength range by the end of the year. Looking to the future, the Y of Northern Utah is seeking new funding streams in hopes of continuing to offer its expanded programming to a greater number of young people from families with low incomes.

However, as American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief funding expires, many Utah youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. In Utah, for every child in an afterschool program, 8 more would participate if a program were available. And a national fall 2023 survey of afterschool program providers found that nearly 3 in 4 are concerned about their program's long-term funding and future. Afterschool and summer programs across Utah are accelerating students' growth, supporting students' well-being, and helping working families. To keep their doors open, these programs need additional investments at the local, state, and federal levels.

IMPROVING SCHOOL-DAY ENGAGEMENT AND REDUCING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM







A 2023 U.S. Department of Education report on 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)—local before-school, afterschool, and summer learning programs that serve more than 1.3 million students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools—found that:

7 IN 10 students in the program demonstrated an **IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN LEARNING**

NEARLY HALF of students who were **CHRONICALLY ABSENT** the previous year **IMPROVED THEIR SCHOOL-DAY ATTENDANCE**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ACCELERATE STUDENTS' ACADEMIC GROWTH AND SUPPORT THEIR WELL-BEING

Utah students in afterschool programs are:

-  Getting homework help (64%)
-  Engaging in STEM learning opportunities (75%)
-  Working on their reading and writing skills (71%)
-  Interacting with their peers and building social skills (93%)
-  Taking part in physical activities (87%)
-  Building confidence (85%)



97% of Utah parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES

Utah parents agree that afterschool programs are:



Helping working parents keep their jobs **(76%)**



Providing working parents peace of mind knowing that their children are safe **(82%)**

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE A SMART INVESTMENT

An overwhelming majority of Utah parents favor public funding for afterschool and summer learning programs.



Research spanning several states shows that **EVERY \$1 INVESTED** in afterschool programs **SAVES AT LEAST \$3** by:

- ✓ Increasing kids' earning potential as adults
- ✓ Improving kids' performance at school
- ✓ Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

With strong public support, a national survey found that approximately 8 in 10 registered voters said that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity for their community (79%) and that they want their federal, state, and local leaders to provide more funding for programs (80%).

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) programs engage students in hands-on learning activities aimed at supporting their academic growth, provide a variety of enrichment activities to complement school-day learning, and offer educational and support services to the families of participating children. The 2023 Department of Education annual performance report of 21st CCLC found that among regular participants:



MORE THAN 1 IN 2 improved their GPA



7 IN 10 improved their engagement in learning



2 IN 5 saw a decrease in school suspensions

In Utah, 12,841 children in 83 communities take part in a 21st Century Community Learning Center. 21st CCLC grants are the only dedicated federal funding sources that support local communities' afterschool and summer programs. Demand for programming in Utah is so great that 3 out of every 5 applications were not funded during the most recent competition.

AFTERSCHOOL WORKS

Studies have shown that students regularly participating in quality afterschool programs attend school more often, are more engaged in school, get better grades, and are more likely to be promoted to the next grade. For example, a 2023 report by the U.S. Department of Education on 21st CCLC programs nationally included findings that showed that Utah 21st CCLC participants became more engaged in learning and made academic and behavioral gains. Based on teachers surveyed, 3 in 4 participants in grades 1 through 5 (75%) improved their engagement in learning and 44% of 1st through 12th grade students with an attendance rate below 90% the previous school year improved their school-day attendance. Nearly half of Utah's 21st CCLC participants in grades 7-8 and 10-12 who had a GPA below 3.0 the previous year improved their average (48%). And more than 2 in 5 students in grades 4 through 8 demonstrated growth on the state's reading/language arts (47%) and math assessments (41%). Students in programs also demonstrated improvements in their behavior in school, with more than 1 in 5 students (22%) decreasing their in-school suspensions compared to the previous year.

