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 21st CCLC programs during the 2009-2010 school year saw academic gains. More than 40% of regular 21st 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 21st 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:

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

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

*Among program providers that report that they are offering in-person services.
Support is strong and bipartisan

95% Democrats
83% Independents
86% Republicans

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.

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.