In Utah, afterschool programs provide expanded learning opportunities to 40,624 students and are a lifeline for working families. In Utah, 83% of parents report that all young people deserve access to quality afterschool and summer programs. Yet, too many kids in Utah are being left out. In fact, for every child in an afterschool program, 8 more would participate if a program were available.

Helping young people learn, grow, and thrive

Students in afterschool programs in Utah are:

- Interacting with peers and building social skills 93%
- Getting homework help 64%
- Taking part in physical activities 92%

An evaluation of Utah’s Senate Bill 43, The Intergenerational Poverty Interventions (IGPI) in Public Schools, by the University of Utah found a positive relationship between participation in an IGPI afterschool program and students’ Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) scores. The evaluation predicted a 1-point DIBELS score increase for every 10 days a student participated in an IGPI program.

Parents in Utah agree that afterschool programs:

- Provide opportunities to build life skills 87%
- Get kids excited about learning 79%
- Reduce the likelihood that youth will use drugs or engage in other risky behaviors 77%

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. In response to COVID-19, the YMCA of Northern Utah worked tirelessly to meet the needs of their youth and families by serving meals, providing virtual programming, establishing an emergency child care program, delivering surprises to staff, and utilizing social media to highlight mindfulness practices and summer camp programs. In Cedar City, Afterschool All-Stars found creative solutions, like maximizing outdoor space, to still provide high-quality, safe summer programming to students.

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

Parents in Utah are behind public investment in afterschool programs

85% 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 Utah agree that afterschool programs:

- Build positive relationships between children and adults 81%
- Keep kids safe and out of trouble 67%
- Help working parents keep their jobs 76%
- Provide working parents peace of mind 82%

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.

The 2020 Department of Education annual performance report of 21st 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

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Support is strong and bipartisan

98% Democrats 88% Independents 83% Republicans