

INVESTMENTS IN STUDENT RECOVERY

# Using American Rescue Plan Funds for Afterschool and Summer Programs

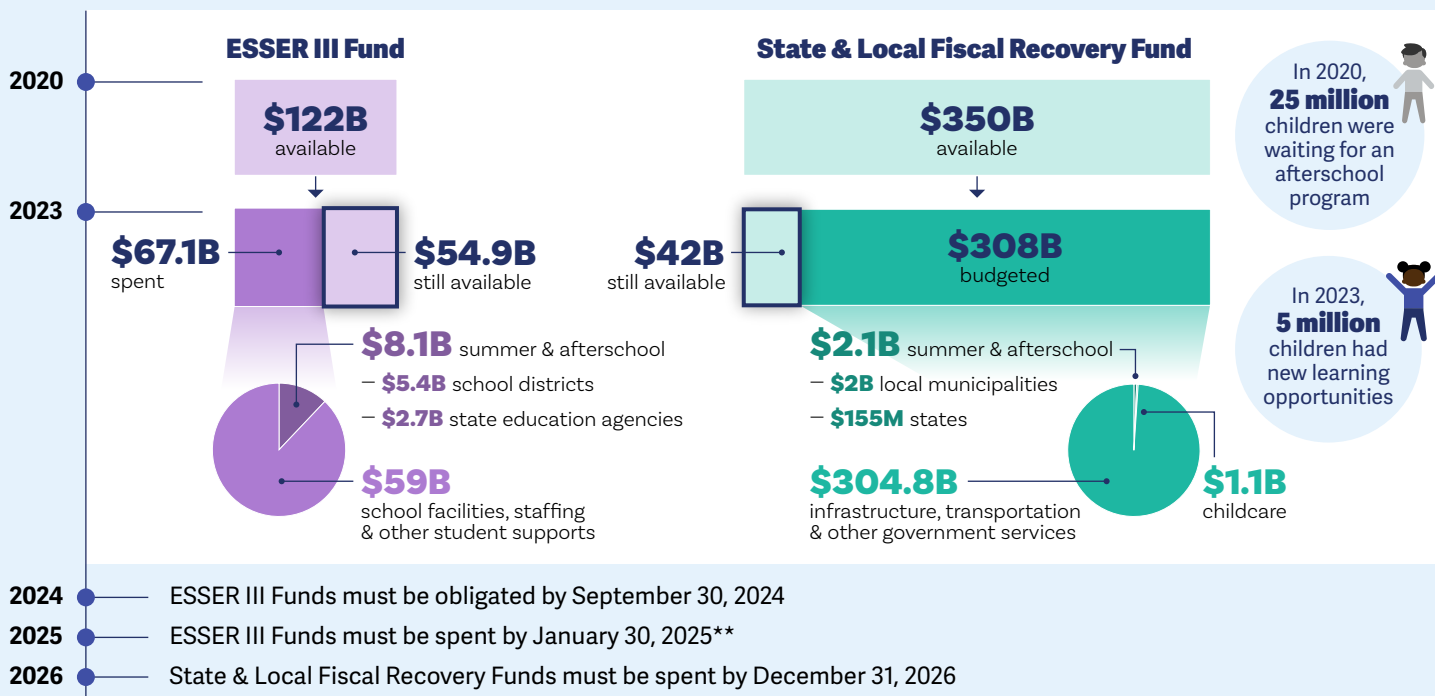


Since the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds became available in 2021, state and local leaders have been taking advantage of this unprecedented opportunity to support students' well-being and academic growth with comprehensive afterschool and summer programs. Five million young people have new learning opportunities thanks to ARP investments in afterschool and summer programs, but millions of kids are still missing out. To keep their doors open and reach more young people, these programs need additional ARP investments and sustainable local, state, and federal funding streams.

## Impact of ARP Investments on Afterschool and Summer Opportunities

In 2019, \$3B in federal funding\* was invested in afterschool & summer learning.

In 2020, Covid-relief funds for student recovery create historic opportunity to expand federal investments.



\* Through 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, and other federal funding streams.  
 \*\* School districts have the option to request a waiver that would extend the spending deadline for up to 14 months.  
 Data as of February 1, 2024.

### INVESTMENTS IN EVERY STATE

See 500+ examples of state, city, and school district investments in quality afterschool and summer at [HelpKidsRecover.org](https://www.helpkidsrecover.org). Have a story for the map?

Email us at: [info@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:info@afterschoolalliance.org)  
 with the subject line: *ARP Map Story*

A review of 6,300+ school district plans shows 8 in 10 have invested ARP funds in afterschool and summer. See the data and recommendations.



## Expanding Opportunities for Young People Who Most Need Support

**OREGON** A partnership between the Hillsboro School District (HSD) and the Hillsboro city government combined ARP Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, ESSER III funds and the Student Investment Account to expand access to afterschool programs at 10 schools, eight of which are Title I schools. This approximately \$4.8 million investment increases afterschool program slots from 320 students to more than 1,000 students in grades K-6 for the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school years.

**ARIZONA** Tuba City Unified School District, located on the Navajo Reservation, dedicated \$900,000 in ESSER III funds to expand their summer program offerings and double the number of K-12 students (up from 245 to 500) served during 2022 and 2023. Enrichment opportunities included a Native language program; weekly field trips; and hands-on projects focused on geography, the environment, and hydrology.

**MAINE** The RSU 13 School District invested \$550,000 in ARP ESSER funds to provide free afterschool and summer programs to K-8 students at all five of its schools. Students enjoyed hands-on academics and enrichment, including STEM activities, art, and trips. Through a partnership with the Herring Gut Science Center, youth learned about different habitats and created a sustainable mural out of beach materials.

As COVID-relief funds wind down, all of these school districts are pursuing alternative funding streams, but are uncertain about how to continue providing young people the same level of afterschool and summer supports without sustainable funding.

## Evaluations Show Powerful Results

**OKLAHOMA** Tulsa Public Schools dedicated up to \$9 million of its ESSER III funding toward its 2022 “Ready. Set. Summer!” program, a voluntary 4-week summer program for 10,000 students in K-12 grades. Activities included academic enrichment, gardening, robotics, and field trips.

→ From spring to fall 2021, participants showed a 3% increase in grade-level reading and a 1% increase in math proficiency

**GEORGIA** The Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) grant, made possible through state afterschool set-aside ESSER III funds:

→ Supported 97 community-based organizations and 4 statewide organizations

→ Reached more than 67,000 youth through afterschool programming

→ Reached more than 78,000 youth through summer programming

→ Is serving students from low-income families (98%), students with special needs (65%), students in foster care (64%), and English language learner students (58%)

**IDAHO** An evaluation of out-of-school time programs made possible by COVID-relief funds found that among families with children participating in programs:

→ 87% say the program helps their child succeed academically

→ 93% say that the program provides their child new experiences

→ 97% agree that their child enjoys attending the program

## Looking Ahead

Young people need afterschool opportunities more than ever and programs need sustained investments to make that possible.

When ARP and other COVID-relief funding expires, many youth will lose their programs—and families and communities will lose essential supports—if action is not taken. It will take local, state, and federal funding, as well as private philanthropy, to sustain afterschool and summer programs and continue to close the opportunity gap.