



April 2025

Using Child Care Contracts to Expand Afterschool Access in Underserved Areas



Housekeeping



Experiencing delays? Try closing out of other programs running on your computer.



Have a question or comment? Use the chat to interact with presenters and other participants.



This webinar is being livestreamed and recorded — we will share a link to the recording and all resources after the presentation.

Panelists



Jillian Luchner
Policy Director
Afterschool Alliance



Ryan Page
Director of Child Care
Iowa Department of Health and
Human Services



Stephanie Barker
Interim Director
Kentucky Out of School-
Alliance



Nicole Miller
Executive Director
Vermont Afterschool



Ashlee Liska
Associate Director of
Quality Initiatives
Missouri AfterSchool
Network

Our Conversation

01

**Defining
Underserved Areas
including School-
Age Populations**

02

**Grants and
Contracts to build
afterschool and
summer supply**

03

**Supporting school-
age quality and
professional
development for
impact**

Impacts

Quality Afterschool and Early Care Programs work in coordination to impact youth development in the short and long term.



AFTERSCHOOL IS BUILDING STRONGER LEARNERS, EARNERS AND LEADERS³

Kids who participate in afterschool programs benefit for life!



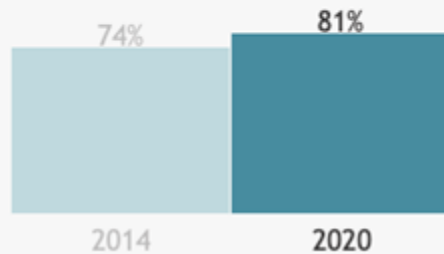
³ 50 State Afterschool Network. (n.d.). Afterschool Outcomes Research Library. <https://50stateafterschoolnetworks.org/research-library>

Working parents need school-age care

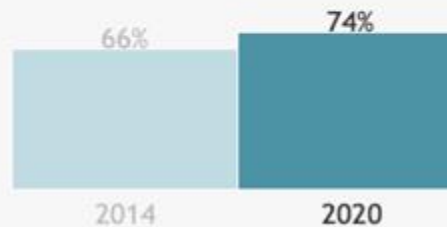
87% of voters agree that afterschool programs are an absolute necessity for communities



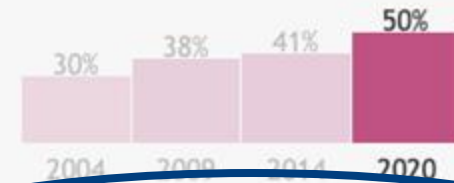
Parents agree that programs help working parents keep their jobs



Parents agree that programs keep kids safe and out of trouble



Children who would participate in an afterschool program if one were available



24,563,600 kids would participate in an afterschool program if one were available to them in 2020.

Figure 13: Summer experiences for children in low-income and in higher income families
Percentage of children participating in the following summer experiences



Provider Survey (March 2025)



53% of afterschool programs report a waitlist



82% of afterschool providers are concerned that there are children in their community who need afterschool programming but are not able to access it



81% of providers report being extremely concerned (55%) or concerned (26%) for their program's sustainability and future

A Mix of Highs and Lows for Afterschool Program Providers

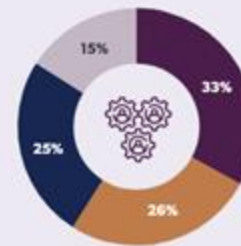
Nearly five years later, a majority of afterschool programs are able to serve as many or more students as they served before the pandemic began. Still, most providers are concerned about their programs' sustainability and staffing capabilities. Overwhelming majorities of afterschool program providers report offering their students academic enrichment, STEM learning opportunities, wellness activities, and time to develop life skills. But at the same time, concern regarding students' well-being has increased. Tracking the state of afterschool program providers, a new national online survey conducted by Edge Research between October 29 and December 10, 2024, of 1,223 afterschool program providers representing more than 9,200 programs across all 50 states and Washington, D.C., finds that the afterschool field is experiencing areas of growth, but still grappling with challenges that impact their ability to best meet the needs of their students and families.

BY THE NUMBERS Fall 2024 Program Provider Survey Highlights

Operations

Afterschool programs' capacity now compared to before the pandemic:

- Higher
- Same level
- Lower
- Unsure/not applicable



Supports

Afterschool programs are providing:

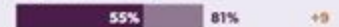
- 89% Academic enrichment
- 84% Time to connect with peers
- 74% Opportunities to build life skills
- 74% STEM learning opportunities
- 80% Physical activity
- 60% Wellness activities

Concerns

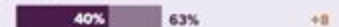
Afterschool program providers' levels of concern about their program's sustainability and future grow:

- Extremely/very concerned
- Concerned

Program sustainability and future



Losing funding



Having to permanently close the program

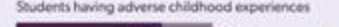


Worries about students' well-being also increase:

Students' mental and emotional health



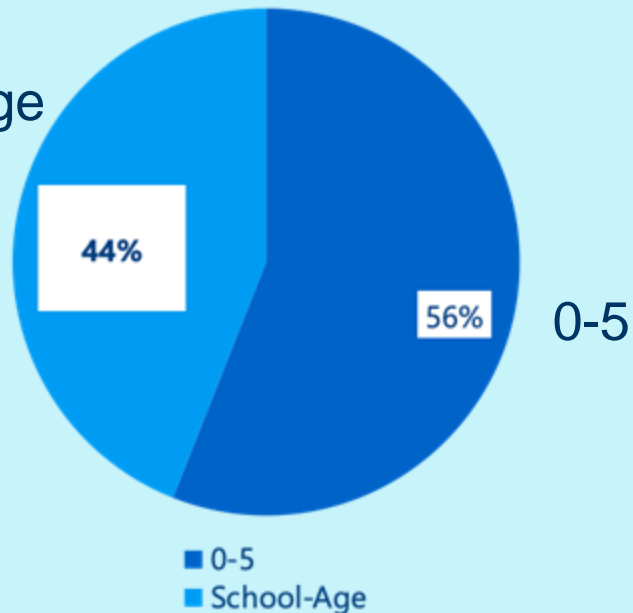
Students having adverse childhood experiences



Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG/CCDF)*

Children Served

School-Age



- \$12 billion (\$8 billion discretionary) in Federal Funds each year
- Strong bipartisan support
- Designed mainly to support working and learning parents of children ages 0-13 with child-care options
- States determine majority of policies around licensing and license exemptions, eligibility, reimbursement rates
- 9% required set aside for quality and additional 3% Set Aside for infant and toddler quality spending
- Programs can possibly benefit from free PD, credentials and degrees, quality bonuses, free child care for staff
- Most families access funds through subsidy to use in eligible child care/afterschool/summer settings
- Funds can be braided with 21st CCLC (and co-pays can be waived)
- **44 % of children served with CCDBG funds are school-age**

*Also called: Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) or other names in states (ie Oregon "Employer Related Day Care" or "Child Care Services" in Texas)
Learn more about CCDBG from a School-Age Perspective: <https://afterschoolalliance.org/Issue-School-Age-Child-Care.cfm>

2024 CCDF (CCDBG) Final Rule

“Even school-age care can amount to 8 to 11.5 percent of family income”.



Improving Child Care Access, Affordability, and Stability in the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

- Prospective pay
- Pay based on enrollment
- **Grants and Contracts**

Grants and Contracts Defined



Contracting in the Child Care System

Key Steps to Support Equity and Accountability

Danielle Ewen
EDUCATIONCOUNSEL

with Gina Adams and Grace Luetmer
URBAN INSTITUTE

June 2021

<https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/104345/contracting-in-the-child-care-system.pdf>

“In the child care financing context, a contract is an agreement between a funding entity and an individual or organization that involves a commitment of funds or resources, for a specified time period, and lays out conditions that the recipient must meet to access those funds and be in compliance.”

Benefits:

- Offer predictable and stable funding to providers
- Allow programs to have the financial stability to plan for improvements in compensation and quality
- Connect state expectations for quality and access to funding

Possible Challenges:

- Providers may need more time or support to successfully participate in a contract, including smaller providers
- State offices may wish to identify a staff person with primary responsibility for understanding and navigating the procurement process
- Establishing data systems, monitoring, and accountability
- Ensuring Stakeholder engagement

Grants and Contracts in Rule



Requires contracts for direct service slots in each of:

- Infants and Toddlers
- Children with Disabilities
- Children from Underserved Areas
 - **States will define underserved areas for themselves**

Do child care “deserts” include school-age children?

2024 CCDF Rule Explainer

CCDF Rule Explainer



2024 CCDF Rule Explainer: Building Supply with Grants and Contracts for Direct Services

The 2024 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Final Rule updates regulations to help working families afford child care and broadly support child care quality and accessibility in communities. The final rule includes required and encouraged policies. This explainer focuses on the requirement that Lead Agencies must use some grants or contracts for direct services. We refer to this as contracts for slots.

What does the rule say?

The final rule requires Lead Agencies to use some contracts for slots as one strategy to increase the supply of child care for:

- Infants and toddlers
- Children with disabilities
- Children in underserved geographic areas

- Recognition that these areas can have some overlap
- Final rule in response to comments “strongly encourages” lead agencies to use grants and contracts for other populations including rural communities, dual language learners, and out-of-school time care
- Contracts can be direct with providers or through intermediaries/partner entities

States in Compliance With Grants in New Rule (as of December 2024)

States were able to ask for waivers through August 1, 2026

States in Compliance

Are you defining underserved areas to include school-age needs?

Are School-Age Programs eligible?

What other contracts might you consider?

States with Waivers

Engage with the process

Bring data, parents and small, large, rural etc providers to the table

Ensure “underserved areas” include school-age

Discuss school-age quality and workforce needs

<https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/occ/2024-CCDF-Final-Rule-Implementation-Fact-Sheet.pdf> and [State CCDF 2025-2027 Plan \(Sec 4.5\)](#)

Grants & Contracts for Direct Services

States are required to use some grants or contracts to provide direct child care services, as one of many strategies to **increase the supply and quality of child care and increase parents’ choices in finding child care that meets their families’ needs**. At a minimum, states must use some grants or contracts to provide direct services for some children with disabilities, infants and toddlers, and children in underserved geographic areas.

For Infants and Toddlers	For Children from Underserved Areas	For Children with Disabilities
States in Compliance (10)	States in Compliance (9)	States in Compliance (6)
California	California	California
Illinois	Illinois	Illinois
Kansas	Kansas	Kansas
Louisiana	Louisiana	
Massachusetts	Massachusetts	Massachusetts
Nevada		
New Jersey	New Jersey	
New York	New York	New York
Oregon	Oregon	Oregon
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	

*As of December 6, 2024. Data based on the FFY 2025-2027 CCDF Plan approval decisions.

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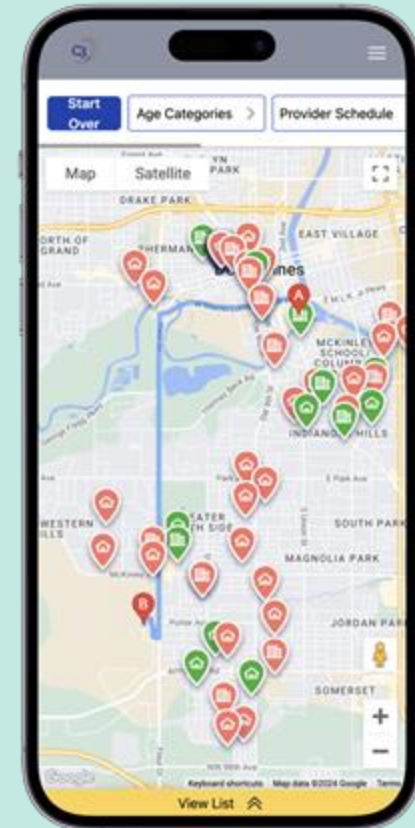
- Developed in response to recommendations in Governor Reynolds' 2021 Child Care Task Force Report
- Integrates data from multiple sources in near real-time data from child care providers, state agency systems, and supporting organizations (ex., CCR&R, etc.)
- Provides online visualization tools to support decision-making for families, child care businesses, and communities
 - Child Care Search
 - Child Care Data Dashboard

Child Care Search Tool

Linking Families to Quality Care, One Connection at a Time

Filter results to meet each family's needs

- Ages of children
- Days and hours
- Home or Center
- Providers accepting Child Care Assistance
- Provider participation in Iowa's voluntary quality rating and improvement system (IQ4K)



Data Dashboards

Leverages state data to estimate child care needs versus availability

Current Vacancies

- Number of vacancies by age or program type
- Percentage of providers reporting timely vacancy data
- Trends in vacancies and reporting over time

Supply and Demand

- Available child care supply relative to potential supply
- Gaps between child care supply and demand
- Demand level using different assumptions

Supply**Demand Level**

- 100% All Iowa Births
- 76% Estimate Considering Work Status
- 67% Estimate Considering Work Status and Family Choices

Supply Level

- Operational Capacity

Demand**County**

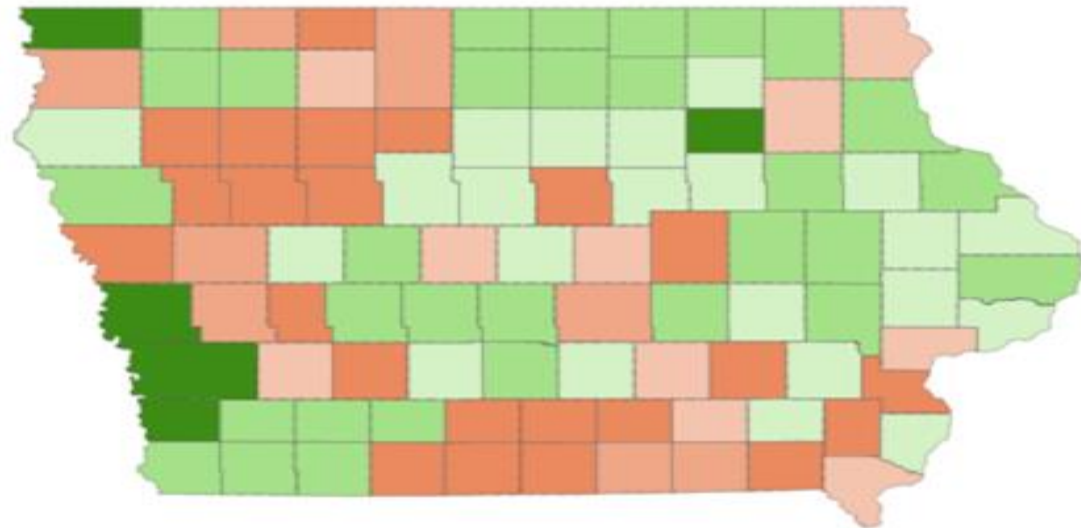
All

Age Group

School Age (5+ yrs.)

Demand**23,828****Supply****37,581****Supply and Demand by County**

	Demand	Supply	Children per slot
Adair County	68	35	1.94
Adams County	21	44	0.48
Allamakee County	106	90	1.18
Appanoose County	83	51	1.63
Audubon County	36	9	4.00
Benton County	194	307	0.63
Black Hawk County	1,085	1,437	0.76
Boone County	189	187	1.01
Bremer County	183	588	0.31
Buchanan County	208	426	0.49
Total	23,828	37,581	

Demand by Children per Slot

> 1.66

Supply**Demand****Supply and Demand**[Reset Filters](#)**Demand Level**

- 100% All Iowa Births
- 76% Estimate Considering Work Status
- 67% Estimate Considering Work Status and Family Choices

Supply Level

- Operational Capacity

County

All

Age Group

School Age (5+ yrs.)

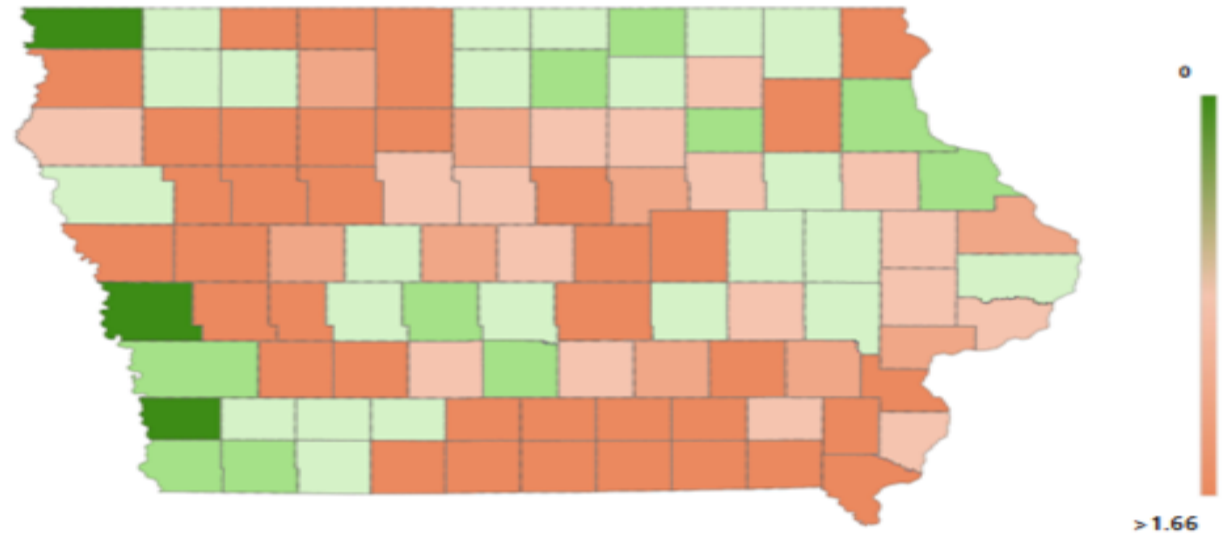
Demand

35,565

Supply

37,581

Demand by Children per Slot



Supply and Demand by County

	Demand	Supply	Children per slot
Adair County	101	35	2.89
Adams County	31	44	0.70
Allamakee County	158	90	1.76
Appanoose County	124	51	2.43
Audubon County	53	9	5.89
Benton County	290	307	0.94
Black Hawk County	1,620	1,437	1.13
Boone County	282	187	1.51
Bremer County	273	588	0.46
Buchanan County	311	426	0.73
Total	35,565	37,581	



Mapping Kentucky's School-Age Child Care Landscape

Stephanie Barker, Interim Director
sbarker@kyoutofschoolalliance.org



Affordable, quality child care, beginning at birth and extending through early adolescence, is **not just a convenience, but an absolute necessity.**

School-age children spend **80%** of their waking hours outside school.

In Kentucky, for every child in an
afterschool program, **4 more** are waiting.



KY's Child Care Crisis in the News

Currently, **more than 50% of Kentucky counties** are classified as “**child care deserts**,” with rural counties most likely to receive this designation.



Recent Headlines

- **"Kentucky Faces Worsening Child Care Shortage Amid Rising Demand"** – Lexington Herald-Leader (March 2025)
- **"Rural Kentucky Struggles to Provide Affordable Child Care Services"** – The Courier-Journal (February 2025)
- **"More Kentucky Families Cannot Afford Child Care As Costs Skyrocket"** – WFPL News (January 2025)
- **"State Leaders Call for Increased Investment in Kentucky's Child Care System"** – Kentucky Public Radio (December 2024)
- **"Child Care Providers in Kentucky Overwhelmed as Demand Surges"** – Bowling Green Daily News (November 2024)

For years, stories and anecdotal data from parents and providers across Kentucky told us things were just as bad, and **possibly worse**, for families seeking quality school-age child care.

But we couldn't prove it.

Mapping KY's School-Age Child Care Landscape



Overview

- Launched in early 2020 to elevate school-age issues
- Utilizes existing data gathered through open records requests from the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS)
- New data gathered and mapped annually

Limitations to Existing Data

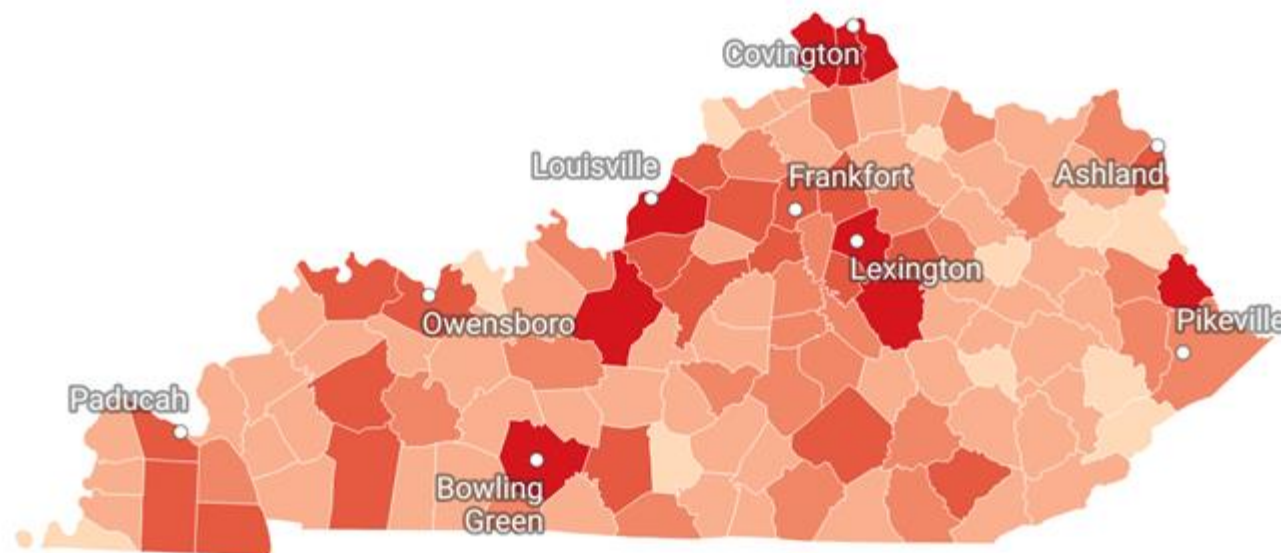
- No slot data - just provider maximum capacity
- Maximum capacity not broken down by age group
- No data on which age groups providers are currently serving - just who they are licensed to serve

Why? Because a picture is worth a thousand words.

Number of Child Care Providers *Licensed* to Serve School-Age Youth in Kentucky

of providers by county

0 1-5 5-10 10-25 25 or more



As of August 23, 2024, a total of **11 out of 120 counties** in Kentucky had no child care providers licensed to serve school-age youth.

The issuance of licensure does not guarantee that school-age services are being provided.

Map: Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance | Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS)

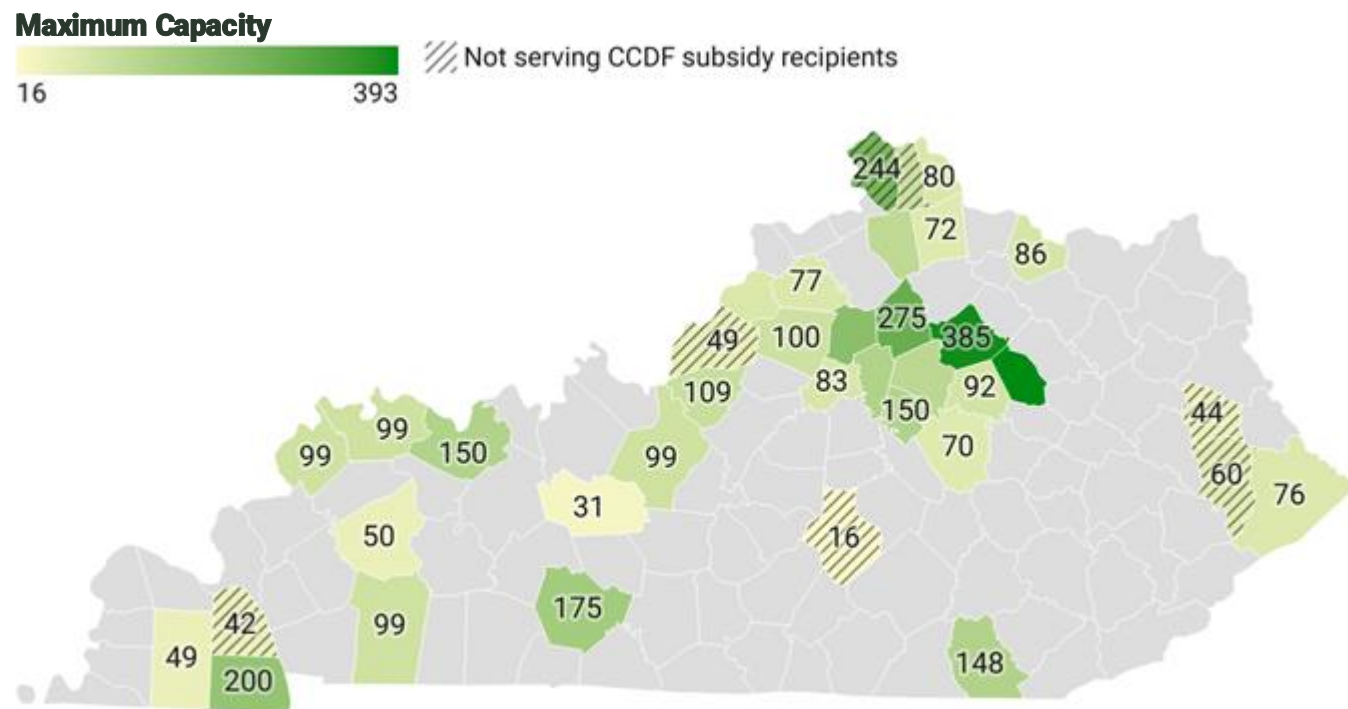
If all providers shown on the map were currently serving school-age youth, Kentucky would only have **2 providers per 1,000 children** aged 5-14.

Child Population in Kentucky

Age Range	Number	% of Total KY Population
Under 5 years	265,901	6.6
5 to 9 years	279,258	6.9
10 to 14 years	279,481	6.9
15 to 19 years	289,004	7.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1

Maximum Capacity by County Among Licensed “School-Age Only” Programs in Kentucky



As of August 2024, just **37 out of 120 counties** in Kentucky had at least one licensed, stand-alone afterschool or summer program.

Total maximum capacity of licensed, stand-alone school-age programs was **24,513**.

Map: Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance | Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS)

Impacts

KYOSA
Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance

Kentucky's Roadmap to Quality School-Age Child Care for All (2023-2025)

A robust child care system that provides a continuum of high-quality care from infancy through school-age is essential for meeting the needs of kids and families today.

That system includes afterschool, summer, and other school-age child care programs that serve children ages 5-12 when school is out.

These programs are a lifeline to Kentucky families and are proven to keep kids safe, engage young learners in enriching activities, and help working parents keep their jobs. Yet our state has never had enough programs to serve the families who need them.

The Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance (KYOSA) is working with a diverse group of stakeholders across all regions of the state to provide a clear path for building a robust school-age child care system that will benefit generations to come, strengthen our workforce, and boost our economic growth.

THE CHALLENGE

The lack of affordable, quality school-age child care programs in Kentucky means thousands of children are missing out on life-changing learning experiences, some parents are working less, and businesses see the cost in lost productivity.

Unmet demand for these programs across our urban and rural communities is greater than ever. Many school-age care providers rely on short term, patchwork funding streams; lack resources to attract and retain staff, and face challenges obtaining licensure and access to existing resources.

IN KENTUCKY!
More than **280,000** children are waiting for an available afterschool program. Cost and lack of programs prevent families from participating.

ENROLLED **WAITING**

For every child enrolled in afterschool, **4 MORE** are waiting to get in.

Families value and rely on afterschool programs

94% of parents are satisfied with their child's program.

80% of parents report their program helps them keep their job or work more hours.

There is strong, bipartisan support for greater investment in afterschool

87% of parents support public funding for afterschool programs.

88% Democrats **91%** Independents **81%** Republicans

What We Do with the Data

1. Advocate for allocating state and federal resources to school-age care and areas where they'll have the most impact.
2. Collaborate with local communities to find innovative solutions.
3. Advocate for better data.
4. Elevate school-age needs and **make afterschool more than just an afterthought** when it comes addressing Kentucky's current child care crisis.

To learn more about our current school-age child care policy priorities, visit:

www.kyoutofschoolliaance.org/school-age-child-care-policy-priorities



**Visit us on the web at
www.kyoutofschoolalliance.org.**

ROOM FOR ME GRANTS: Expanding Afterschool & School-Age Child Care Capacity In Vermont



Nicole Miller, Executive Director
nicole@vermontafterschool.org



IDENTIFIED NEED

Prior to the pandemic, the state of Vermont identified several ‘deserts’ across the state where families did not have access to afterschool programs that met the needs for working families—an issue only made worse by the pandemic and the increase in child care workforce capacity challenges across the system. Expanding access and increasing spots for school-age children served by early childhood and afterschool programs in Vermont was identified as an urgent need to help support Vermont families.

Moreover, many child care programs are at risk of closing, sometimes due to necessary repairs and upgrades to maintain their capacity, further impacting the landscape.

To address capacity in the school-age child care system, the Department for Children and Families Child Development Division provided a grant to Vermont Afterschool to create and administer a subgranting program.

IMPACT (2022-2024)



1288 NEW
SLOTS
CREATED



\$2 MILLION
TO
PROGRAMS



66 GRANT
AWARDS



7 NEW
PROGRAMS

The grant has allowed me to **double the slots available to families**, which has been a huge support to the working families in our community, given that we have no recreation center and limited childcare options.”

—Room for Me grantee

PURPOSE & ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

To maintain and/or expand existing school-age (ages 5-12 years) afterschool and summer programs of any size AND start new ones so that any youth in need of an afterschool or summer spot can say, “there’s room for me.”

Reimbursable for up to eight consecutive weeks only:

- Salaries and fringe benefits; to provide additional hours or days of service that otherwise go unprovided.
 - i.e., employer paid taxes, company paid benefits to employees, etc.
 - Once enrollment and Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) reimbursements support this cost, it is no longer reimbursable.
- Healthy snacks and meals that comply with the USDA Afterschool Program and Summer Food Service Program Nutrition Meal Pattern.
 - Once enrollment funds support this cost, it is no longer reimbursable.



Reimbursable for the full length of the grant period:

- Costs linked with expansion and/ or maintenance of an existing program: number of days, hours, weeks, number of children served, staff, activities, adding a site, etc.
- Costs linked with creating a new program in a community where few or no options currently exist
- Accounting or consulting services directly related to the financial operations of the grant
- Consultants, subcontractors, and evaluators
- Program materials and supplies related to expanding the number of school-age child care slots
- Equipment related to expanding and/ or maintaining the number of schoolage child care slots
- Costs linked with developing and/ or creating new partnerships with community-based organizations, municipalities, higher education, businesses, and/ or schools

Reimbursable for the full length of the grant period:

- Advertisements, promotional, and marketing items for community outreach tied with the expansion and/ or availability of program slots and opportunities
- Capital improvements and permanent renovations
 - Use this guidance on allowable construction as outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title45/subtitle-A/subchapter-A/part-98/subpart-F/section-98.56>
 - Allowable funding can include minor renovations and projects to nonstructural walls, new flooring, plumbing, etc., and outdoor structures, sitework, survey feels, permitting, design, and initiative funding

Grant Amounts:

- 2023-2024: \$20,000 - \$50,000
- 2025: \$5,000 - \$20,000

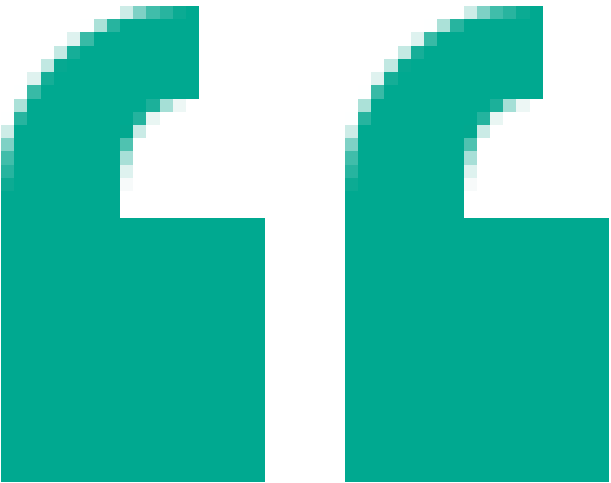
ELIGIBILITY

- Be a new or existing regulated, center-based childcare or afterschool program or family childcare home in good regulatory standing with Vermont Child Care Licensing regulations specific to the type of program being operated;
- Enroll children/families eligible for and participating in CDD's Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP);
- Provide child care for school age children (5-18);
- Propose a type of project that results in a higher number of school-age slots available or builds on the program's capacity to preserve these slots. Projects may include capital investments, equipment, materials, or increased levels of staffing (e.g., hiring, training, or increased or extended staffing hours).



HOW FUNDS HAVE BEEN USED

- **Supplies & Equipment:** outdoor play structures, microscopes, storage sheds, appliances
- **Capital Projects to Meet Licensing Regulations:** window replacements, fire alarm upgrades, increasing water supply to the program space
- **Start Up Staff Wages and Benefits**
(1st eight weeks until enrollment and CCFAP came in)
- **Prerequisites for the STARS** (Vermont's Quality Recognition and Improvement System)



This grant helped us provide competitive wages and benefits to employees and maintain employment throughout the grant period. Having **enough staff is critical to ensuring we are able to serve the maximum number of youth**, and we have exceeded our expectations of enrollment thanks to the assistance of this grant.”

—Room for Me grantee

We could NOT have had camp this summer without the help of this grant to support advertising and salaries for training before camp. We just **wouldn't have been able to afford the startup costs**. We also wouldn't have been able to provide as much time as we would like for quality staff training before camp started. This grant helped us get this program back up and running. These opportunities were especially helpful for our families on subsidy with limited options for aftercare and summer camp.

—Room for Me grantee





Ashlee Liska

Associate Director of Quality

Missouri AfterSchool Network

liskaa@missouri.edu

School-Age Community Grants by the Numbers:

22

Grants Awarded

38

Sites Served

2,029

Students Served



Funding – CCDF Quality Dollars

- \$2,100,000+
- To programs: Up to \$80,000/yr, single site or \$100,000 yr, multiple sites per 3-year grant cycle
- To MASN: ~\$300,000/yr for training, technical assistance, and resources and ~\$100,000/yr for data collection and reporting



Purpose – Quality Improvement

- Expand the capacity and quality of school-age child care
- Programs must provide academic support and a broad array of enrichment activities
- Continuous Quality Improvement is measured annually using the Weikart Program Quality Assessment tools and the Assess-Plan-Improve process.

“Non-grantee TA” by the Numbers:





Funding – CCDF Quality Dollars

- ~\$150,000 for training, technical assistance, and resources to all afterschool programs



Purpose – Technical Assistance

- Expand the capacity and quality of school-age child care
- Provide a “menu of services” for programs to receive customized support

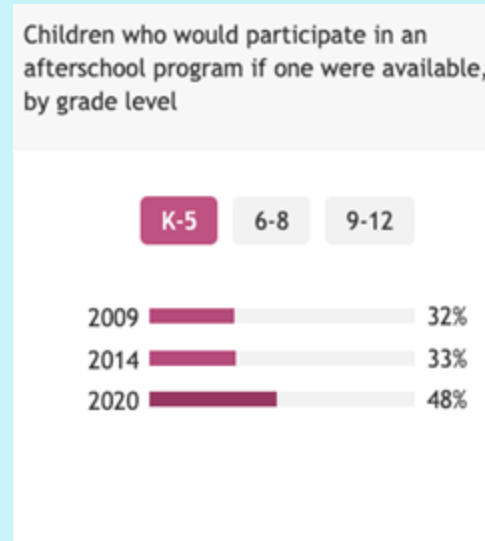


Contact me:

Ashlee Liska

liskaa@missouri.edu

Resources:



1. **Find your state agency:** <https://acf.gov/occ/contact-information/state-and-territory-child-care-and-development-fund-administrators>
2. **How much funding does my state currently get?** <https://acf.gov/occ/data/gy-2024-ccdf-allocations-based-appropriations>
3. **What is the percentage of school-age children in my state already being served?** <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/school-age-profiles>
4. **What is the level of demand in my state?** America After 3 PM – Look at what percent of kids not in a program (K-5) or (6-8) want Afterschool. <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/geo/National/demand?question=2&year=2020>
5. **How else can I engage with CCDF Funds? See the CCDF Collaboration Playbook:** <https://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/CCDF-Plan-2025-Collaboration-Playbook.pdf>

CCDBG Offers Many Avenues for Opportunity

- Connect with your [Statewide Afterschool Network](#)
- Work with your state agency to:
 - Discuss demand/underserved programs in your state or region
 - Discuss youth access to summer programs
 - Discuss any school-age program licensing/eligibility hurdles
 - Obtain eligibility for subsidy
 - Identify school-age quality and workforce support funds for your programs
 - Obtain school-age grant and contracts

Reach out to the Afterschool Alliance (jluchner@afterschoolalliance.org)

Questions and Answers!

