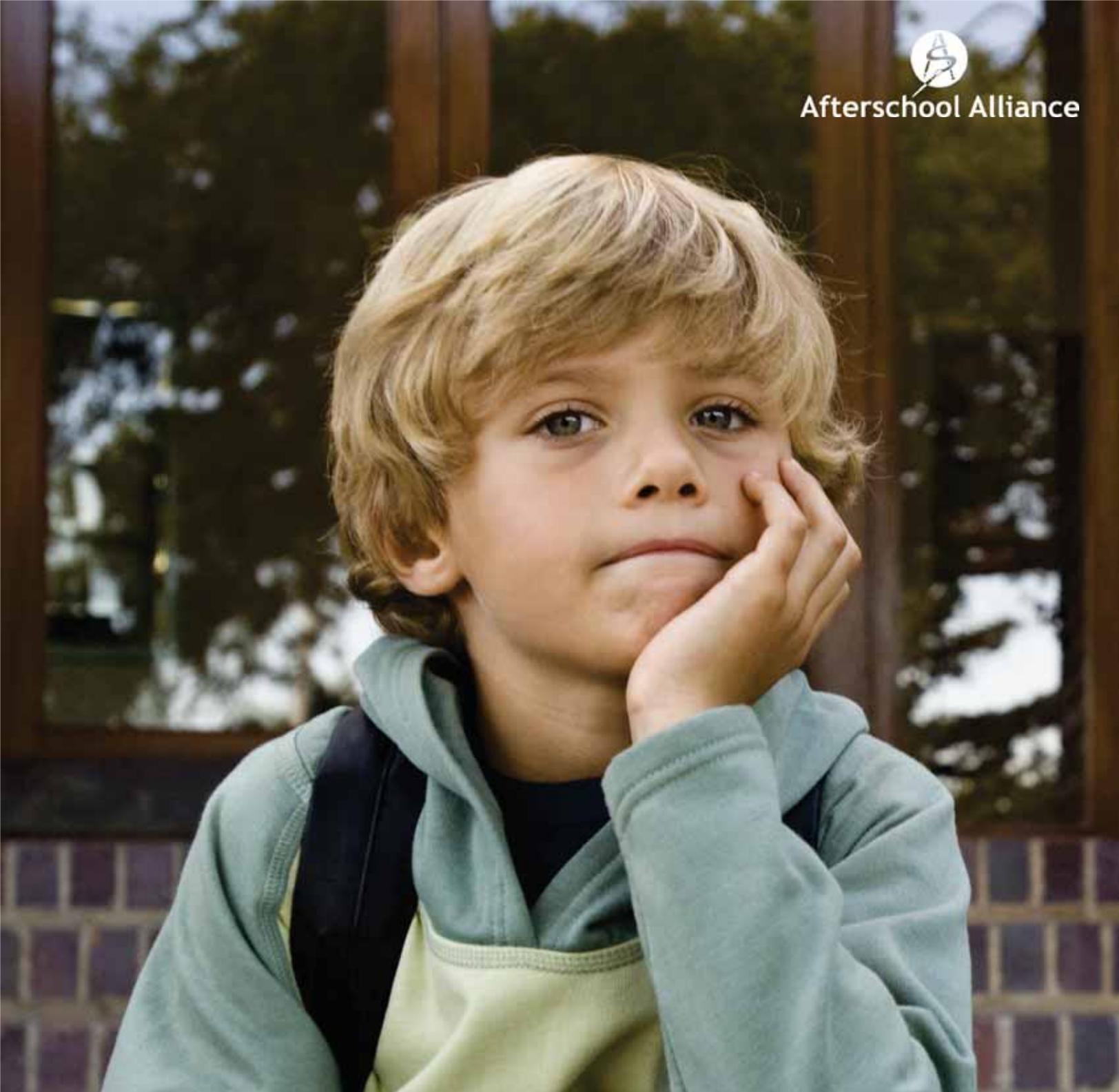




Afterschool Alliance



UNCERTAIN TIMES

2012

Afterschool Programs Still Struggling in Today's Economy





About this study: *Uncertain Times 2012*, conducted by the Afterschool Alliance between April 25 and June 8, 2012, assesses the impact of economic conditions on afterschool programs. While many studies have evaluated the impact of programs, *Uncertain Times* is the only research to examine the fiscal health of afterschool programs and their ability to meet the needs of their communities. The 2012 report, the third in the *Uncertain Times* series, finds that afterschool programs continue to grapple with diminishing budgets and are concerned about financial security. These constraints, coupled with increased demand, leave them unable to fully support the children who need their services most. The report is based on 1,012 survey responses, representing 4,947 afterschool sites serving more than 567,470 children located in urban (45 percent), suburban (30 percent) and rural (31 percent) communities across the United States.

Key Findings

Afterschool Programs Still Struggling in Today's Economy

Afterschool programs provide a lifeline for families and communities across the nation, providing a safe and supervised space for kids to engage in creative, educational activities with caring adults and mentors. But a rocky economic climate and budget tightening at the local, state and federal levels have put these programs at risk.

Uncertain Times 2012 assesses the impact of economic conditions on afterschool programs and finds that programs are struggling to meet the needs of children and families in their communities, as they face shrinking resources and dismal prospects for new support. Hardest hit are programs serving disadvantaged communities—the very population that has the most to gain from afterschool and summer programs. These programs help kids stay away from risky behaviors, improve academic achievement and engage in learning.¹

Afterschool programs experiencing the greatest challenges are those serving majority African-American and Latino children and 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) grantees, which serve students from high-poverty and low-performing schools.

While all programs surveyed report economic struggles, the situation is somewhat less dire in states where the economic climate is improving; afterschool programs in these states reported that their communities and funding are faring better.² Yet, even in these states, programs have significant concerns about their financial future and their inability to reach all the children in their area who need afterschool.

¹ The Afterschool Alliance. (2012). *Afterschool Essentials: Research and Polling*. Retrieved from http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/2012/Essentials_4_20_12_FINAL.pdf

² States include Alaska, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota and West Virginia. Information based on gross domestic product growth per capita from 2007 to 2011. Retrieved from <http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2012-06-05/oregon-gdp-economy-jobs/55409766/1>

Afterschool program budgets continue to shrink.

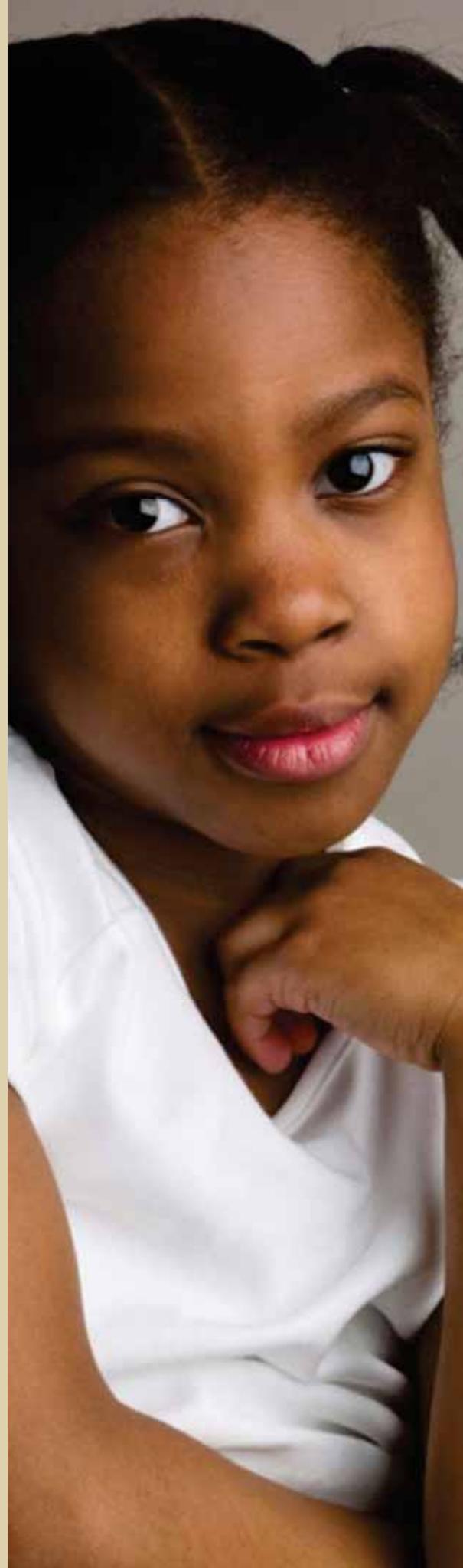
- Close to 4 in 10 programs (39 percent) report that their budget is in worse shape today than it was at the height of the recession in 2008.
- More than 3 in 5 programs (62 percent) report their funding is down a little or a lot from three years ago.

Programs are struggling to meet the needs of children in the community.

- Almost 9 in 10 programs (88 percent) say children in their community need afterschool care, but are unable to access it.
- More than half of programs (57 percent) report that their budget is inadequate to meet community needs, an increase of nearly 10 points since 2009.
- Nearly 1 in 4 programs (24 percent) say they would need to at least double their capacity to meet the demand for services.
- Close to 1 in 5 programs (16 percent) report that a loss of funding caused major cutbacks or shut down sites (up from 14 percent in 2009).
- Field trips, staff hours and the variety of activities are the top three services cut by programs reporting a loss of funding or budget stagnation.

Majority African-American and Latino afterschool programs face the most severe demand and financial strain.

- Close to 7 in 10 African-American majority programs (68 percent) and 65 percent of Latino majority programs report that their funding is down from three years ago.
- 70 percent of African-American majority programs say that their current budget cannot meet the needs of students and families in their community.
- More than 6 in 10 Latino majority programs (62 percent) say that their current budget cannot meet the needs of students and families in their community, and 92 percent report that children in their community need afterschool care, but are unable to access it.





“ This is further evidence of how our state and federal lawmakers have failed to maintain investment in our schools and programs for at-risk students.

The children served by afterschool programs are primarily from economically disadvantaged households and are a high needs population.

- On average, 68 percent of youth participating in afterschool programs qualify for free or reduced price lunch, 16 percent have special needs or a learning difference, and 14 percent are Limited English Proficient (LEP).
- On average, close to 9 in 10 kids (88 percent) at majority African-American programs and 86 percent of kids at majority Latino programs qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program. More than one-third of program participants (35 percent) at majority Latino programs are LEP.

21st CCLC grant funded programs face severe financial strain and high demand while operating in communities deeply affected by the recession.

- 21st CCLC funded programs are more likely than non-21st CCLC funded programs to say the economy is “very much” affecting their community (71 percent vs. 59 percent).
- 21st CCLC funded programs are more likely to report that their current budget is in worse shape than at the height of the recession (41 percent vs. 38 percent) and more likely to operate at or above maximum capacity than non-21st CCLC funded programs (67 percent vs. 52 percent).

Afterschool programs see little relief in sight, and expect economic strain to continue into the future.

- More than 8 in 10 programs (85 percent) anticipate the challenging economic climate will affect their program during the 2012-2013 school year.
- More than half of programs (55 percent) report that their community is showing very little signs of recovering from the economic recession.

- Most programs report their funding is less than secure for the next one to two years; an overwhelming majority are uncertain about the next three to five years. Programs that receive federal 21st CCLC funding—grants that last three to five years and serve low income communities—are slightly more optimistic about funding in the immediate future than non-21st CCLC grantees, but are significantly less confident about their financial security in the next three to five years:
 - Fifty-eight percent of 21st CCLC funded programs report their funding is less than secure in the next one to two years, compared to 62 percent of non-21st CCLC funded programs.
 - Nine in ten 21st CCLC grantees report their funding in the next three to five years is less than secure, 14 points higher than programs that did not receive 21st CCLC grant funding (89 percent vs. 75 percent).

Survey Highlights

Afterschool programs provide a safe, fun learning environment for youth who stand to benefit most.

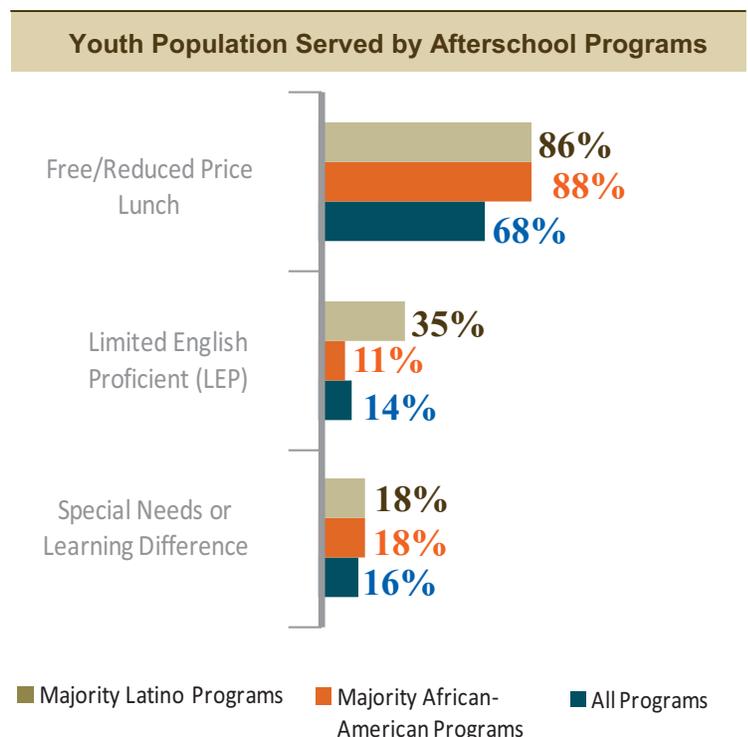
Families and communities across the nation have come to rely on afterschool programs to provide valuable learning and enrichment opportunities to high-needs youth after school, before school, during summer and winter school breaks, and on weekends.

More than two-thirds (68 percent) of afterschool programs surveyed have been in operation for at least six years. Forty-four percent of afterschool programs offer their services and provide a safe environment during holidays or intersession, 35 percent provide services before school, and 19 percent open their doors to children during weekends.

On average, 68 percent of youth participating in afterschool programs qualify for free or reduced price lunch, 16 percent have special needs or a learning difference, and 14 percent are Limited English Proficient (LEP).

The needs of children in afterschool programs are particularly striking among programs whose participants are predominantly African-American and Latino children. On average, 88 percent of kids at majority African-American programs and 86

percent of kids at majority Latino programs qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program. Eighteen percent of youth at both majority African-American and majority Latino programs have special needs or a learning difference, and 11 percent of kids at majority African-American programs are LEP. More than one-third (35 percent) of program participants in majority Latino programs are LEP.



Program Spotlight

The LOOP

Grand Rapids, MI

The LOOP—an afterschool program offering academic support, arts and crafts, field trips, and cultural activities to elementary- and middle-school youth—was denied a 21st CCLC grant in 2012, leaving 9 of their 35 sites without funding and affecting more than 500 students.

John Helmholdt, director of communications and external affairs for the Grand Rapids Public School District, stated in response to the lack of federal funding, “This is further evidence of how our state and federal lawmakers have failed to maintain investment in our schools and programs for at-risk students.”

The Grand Rapids Public School District learned at the end of July that they have been tentatively awarded funding for 4 of the 9 unfunded afterschool program sites.

In addition to providing a safe and nurturing environment, afterschool programs allow children to express their creativity, stay active, develop healthy behaviors and attitudes, and make academic gains through activities such as: homework assistance, sports, arts and music lessons, nutrition and wellness classes, bullying prevention, and services for parents and families.

Afterschool programs receive funding from very diverse sources. Although 40 percent of afterschool programs report receiving federal funding from 21st CCLC grants, 27 percent of programs report receiving no federal funding—the second most common answer. Looking at sources of state funding, more than 4 in 10 programs (44 percent) report not receiving state funding, and just 1 in 5 programs report receiving funding from the state’s department

of education. In regard to local funding, the top three sources are private donations and fundraisers (43 percent), parent fees (43 percent) and foundations or philanthropic organizations (34 percent). (See Appendix A for program specifics)

Top Ten Activities Offered by Afterschool Programs

1. Homework Help	92%
2. Sports / Physical Activity	85%
3. Arts / Music / Cultural Activities	84%
4. Reading	80%
5. Nutrition / Wellness	74%
6. Community Service	64%
7. STEM	60%
8. Mentoring	58%
9. Bullying Prevention	58%
10. Parental / Family Services	46%

Today, afterschool providers juggle shrinking budgets and meeting the needs of children in their communities.

Afterschool programs continue to experience financial difficulties similar to those uncovered in previous *Uncertain Times* surveys. Program budgets continue to shrink, with 62 percent of afterschool programs reporting in 2012 that their funding is down from three years ago. In 2009, the same percentage of afterschool programs said their funding was down from two years before and in 2006, half of afterschool programs (48 per-

cent) reported their funding had gone down in the past two years. Just 21 percent of afterschool programs in 2012 say their program’s budget is in better shape than it was at the height of the recession in 2008.

These budget difficulties are significantly impacting the ability of afterschool programs to meet the needs of their communities. Overall, 57 percent of afterschool



programs report that their budget is inadequate to meet the needs of their community, and an overwhelming majority of programs (88 percent) report that children in their community need afterschool care, but are unable to access it.

Financial struggles are even more pronounced among afterschool programs serving predominantly African-American and Latino children. Close to 7 in 10 African-American majority programs (68 percent) and 65 percent of Latino majority programs report that their funding is down from three years ago. Just 17 percent of these programs say their budget is in better shape than it was at the height of the recession in 2008.

In addition, 7 in 10 African American majority programs say that their current budget cannot meet the needs of students and families in their community, and 87 percent report that children in their community need afterschool care, but are unable to access it.

Among Latino majority programs, 62 percent say that their current

Programs Reporting a Decrease in Their Budget Compared to Three Years Prior



budget cannot meet the needs of students and families in their community, and 92 percent report that children in their community need afterschool care, but are unable to access it.

Programs report a slightly more positive financial outlook in states where the economy seems to be stronger.³ Programs in these states are more likely to say that their budget is in better shape today than in 2008 (27 percent vs. 21 percent) and are more likely to say that their budget is adequate to meet the needs of the community (51 percent vs. 43 percent). However, an overwhelming majority of programs in these states still report that children in their community need afterschool care, but are unable to access it (88 percent).

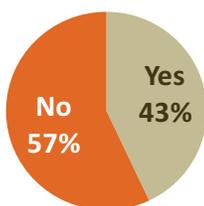
Program Spotlight

The Pittsburgh Project Pittsburgh, PA

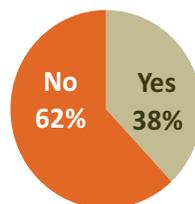
In 2012, the Pittsburgh Project's budget was down 40 percent from 2008, dropping from \$3.2 million to \$1.9 million. Since it was founded in 1985, the program has offered service learning, summer camps and youth development programs focused on building healthy relationships and self-confidence to more than 1,000 youth in the Pittsburgh area.

But recently, the Pittsburgh Project has had to let go of staff, cut back staff hours, reduce activities and serve fewer children. Ten staff members have been let go and seven more layoffs are planned for the remainder of 2012, three staff members are on furlough, the high school afterschool program has been eliminated, the number of children served by their summer camp program has been cut almost in half—from 250 to 135—and activities such as field trips and basketball have been eliminated.

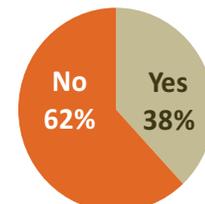
Is your program's budget adequate to meet the needs of students and families in your community?



All Programs



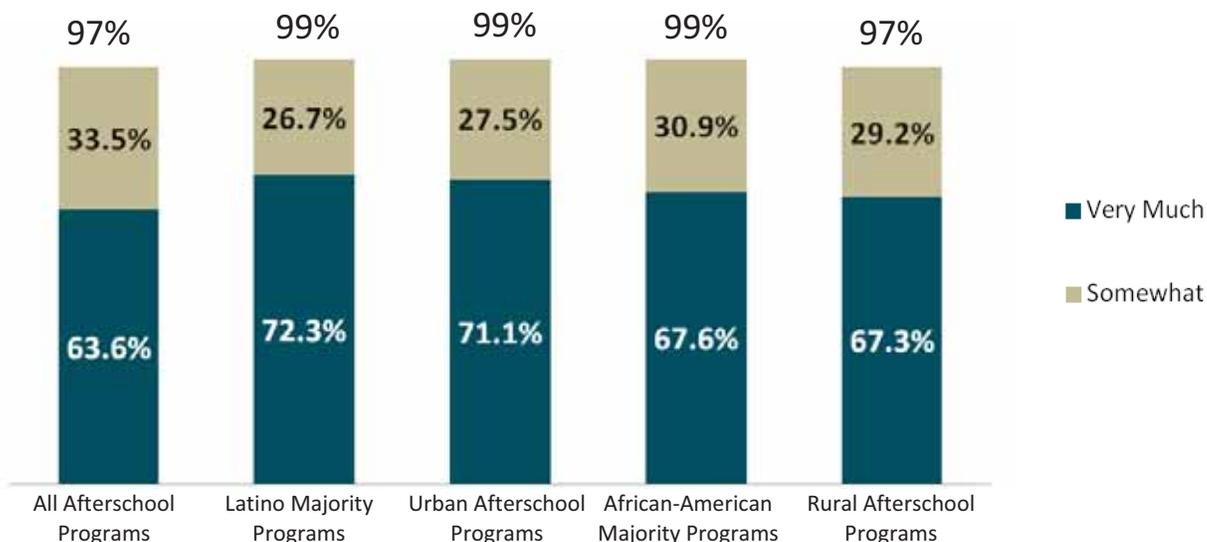
African-American Majority Programs



Latino Majority Programs

³ States include Alaska, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota and West Virginia. Information based on gross domestic product growth per capita from 2007 to 2011. Retrieved from <http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2012-06-05/oregon-gdp-economy-jobs/55409766/1>

How much is the economic climate affecting your community?



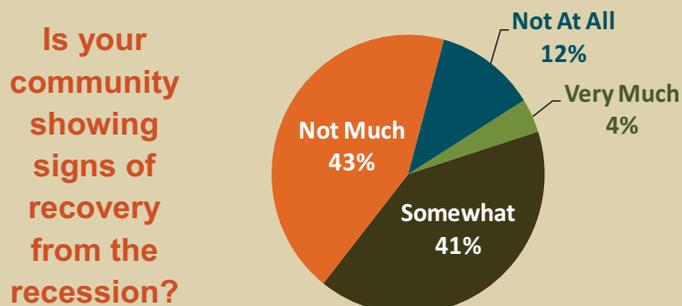
Afterschool programs are not alone struggling in a tough economy; they see their communities struggling as well.

Despite the country’s recent modest economic gains, afterschool programs report that their communities are significantly affected by the challenging economic climate and are seeing very little economic improvement. Overall, 97 percent of afterschool programs say that the “challenging economic climate seem[s] to be affecting [their] community,” including 64 percent who say it is affecting their community “very much.” And, a majority of afterschool programs (55 percent) report that their community is showing very little signs of recovering from the economic recession.

In urban afterschool programs and among programs serving predominantly African-American and Latino youth, close to 100 percent of programs say the tough economy is affecting their community (99 percent among all). Among rural afterschool programs, 97 percent report the economy is affecting their community. Looking at 21st CCLC funded programs compared to non-21st CCLC funded programs, 97 percent of each report that the economy is affecting their communities.

But among programs that receive 21st CCLC grant funding, 71 percent say it is “very much” affecting their community, versus 59 percent of programs that did not receive 21st CCLC funding.

In regard to economic improvement, afterschool programs in urban and rural communities as well as programs that serve predominantly African-American and Latino youth see even smaller economic gains in their communities. Urban and rural communities—59 percent and 63 percent, respectively—report that their communities are showing very little signs of economic recovery.



Close to two-thirds of afterschool programs (65 percent) serving majority African-American children and 6 in 10 programs serving majority Latino children report that their community is showing very little signs of recovering from the economic recession. Programs that receive 21st CCLC grant funding are also more likely to report that their community is showing very little signs of recovering from the economic recession than programs that do not receive 21st CCLC grant funding (61 percent vs. 52 percent).

In states where the economy seems to be stronger, afterschool providers are more likely to report that their community is showing signs of recovery (58 percent vs. 45 percent).

Unemployment and high gas prices top the list of issues that afterschool program leaders report are significantly affecting their communities.

Smaller budgets are forcing afterschool programs to cut back services.

As a result of budget constraints, afterschool programs are forced to institute changes that affect their ability to serve youth in their community—such as reducing or eliminating field trips, reducing or eliminating staff positions and hours, and cutting back on the variety of activities offered. Afterschool providers report making cuts to program activities and staff above cutting the accessibility and availability of the program in an effort to serve more children. Their choices come at a cost: reaching more youth, but potentially weakening the quality of the remaining programs.

In addition, 16 percent of afterschool programs report that a loss of funding directly resulted in major cutbacks or forced them to shut down program sites. Among programs serving majority African-American and Latino children, this number jumped to 20 percent and 21 percent, respectively.

In states where the economy seems stronger, programs are faring slightly better, with 10 percent reporting that a loss of funding directly resulted in major cutbacks or forced them to shut down program sites.

Top Five Issues Affecting Communities	
1. Unemployment	86%
2. High Gas Prices	83%
3. Increased Demand for Social Services	79%
4. Failing / Shrinking Businesses	68%
5. High Food Prices	68%

Top Ten Services Cut	
1. Reduced / Eliminated Field Trips	45%
2. Reduced Staffing Hours	40%
3. Reduced Variety of Activities Offered	34%
4. Staff Layoffs	33%
5. Added / Increased Fees	32%
6. Reduced Staff Pay and/or Benefits	29%
7. Reduced Number of Children Served	26%
8. Reduced or Eliminated Professional Development	24%
9. Increased Staff / Student Ratio	23%
10. Reduced Number of Sites / Closed Sites	20%

Program Spotlight

Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri

In June 2012, the Boys and Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri's 21st CCLC grant ended, forcing the program to make tough decisions to offset their budget shortfall. The program cut staff, reduced staff pay and increased their summer program fee in order to maintain the hours and length of their 10-week summer program.

The 52-year-old program serves an average of 1,500 children in kindergarten through 12th grade every year, offering not only educational activities, but activities in character and leadership, health and life skills, the arts, sports and fitness. Although the Boys and Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri applied for a new 21st CCLC grant, they will not know if they are a grant recipient until September 2012.



Demand for afterschool programs is high, as budgets continue to shrink.

The survey finds that as afterschool programs look for ways to cope with smaller budgets, they are also confronted with a higher demand for their services. Close to 6 in 10 programs (58 percent) report operating at or above maximum capacity, almost one-fourth of programs (24 percent) report that they would need to at least double their capacity to meet the needs of all the kids in their community and 36 percent of programs say they have a waiting list.

Evidence of the demand for afterschool programs is even more pronounced in programs serving majority African-American and Latino children. Among programs serving a majority of African-American children, 65 percent report operating at or above maximum capacity, 31 percent report that they would need to at least double their capacity to meet the needs of all of the kids in their community and 41 percent say they have a waiting list.

Among programs serving majority Latino children, 70 percent report

Programs Operating At or Above Maximum Capacity

58%	All Programs
65%	African-American Majority Programs
70%	Latino Majority Programs

operating at or above maximum capacity, 22 percent report that they would need to at least double their capacity to meet the needs of all of the kids in their community and 48 percent say they have a waiting list.

Capacity issues are also the most significant difference between programs that received 21st CCLC grant funding and non-21st CCLC grantees. For instance, 67 percent of 21st CCLC grantees report operating at or above maximum capacity compared to 52 percent of non-21st CCLC grantees and 40 percent of 21st CCLC grantees say they have a waiting list, compared to 34 percent of non-21st CCLC grantees (a 15 and six point difference, respectively).

Afterschool programs remain less than optimistic about their future financial security.

An overwhelming majority of afterschool programs (85 percent) anticipate that the “challenging economic climate” will affect their program during the 2012-2013 school year. This number jumps

eight points among programs serving predominantly African-American kids (93 percent), but remains relatively the same among programs serving predominantly Latino children (84 percent).

KidCare

Scappoose, OR

At its peak, KidCare served 100 children in the Scappoose, Warren and Sauvie Island areas of Oregon and offered financial aid to families who needed assistance with the program's annual tuition.

However, in 2010, KidCare was operating with a \$60,000 budget—down from \$90,000 in 2008—and found itself limiting program enrollment to 30 students, significantly reducing financial aid packages and cutting staff hours.

In a 2010 article, KidCare Program Director Laura Hunsinger stated, “We’re in pretty dire straits...[but scaling back or closing] would really hurt those families who have relied on us all these years.”

Looking at 21st CCLC funded programs and non-21st CCLC funded programs, 85 percent of both types of program expect the tough economy to affect their programs during the 2012-2013 school year. 21st CCLC grantees foresee greater challenges than their peers; 37 percent of 21st CCLC grantees report that the challenging economic climate will affect their program “very much” compared to just 28 percent of non-21st CCLC grantees.

“We’re in pretty dire straits...[but scaling back or closing] would really hurt those families who have relied on us all these years.”

Afterschool programs do not expect the financial strain to dissipate in the near future; rather, the further ahead they look, the more insecure they become about their finances. When asked about the security of their program's funding in the next couple of years, a majority of programs report that their future funding is less than secure. More than 6 in 10 afterschool programs (61 percent) report that funding is less than secure in the next one to two years, slightly better than the way programs felt three years ago (in 2009, 69 percent of afterschool programs reported their funding was less than secure in the next one to two years). Afterschool programs serving predominantly African-American and Latino children report

even higher levels of financial insecurity in the near future; 69 percent of majority African-American programs and 67 percent of majority Latino programs report that their funding is less than secure in the next one to two years.

Programs that receive federal 21st CCLC funding—grants supporting disadvantaged students that last three to five years—are slightly more optimistic about funding in the immediate future than non 21st CCLC grantees. Fifty-eight percent of 21st CCLC funded programs report their funding is less than secure in the next one to two years, compared to 62 percent of non-21st CCLC funded programs.

Programs are less confident of their financial security when asked to look a little further into the future. Overall, 81 percent of programs report that their funding is less than secure in the next three to five years. Less than 1 in 5 programs (19 percent) report that their funding is secure or very secure in the next three to five years.



Program Spotlight

YWCA Greater Triangle Raleigh, NC

After serving their community for more than a century, the YWCA Greater Triangle closed its doors in late February 2012 due to a decrease in grants and government and corporate funding. The program served youth in kindergarten through eighth grade, offering reading and math tutoring, physical fitness activities such as dance and sports, and community service opportunities.

The YWCA worked to provide a positive learning environment where students could develop a positive self-image and a drive to succeed. In closing, the YWCA released a statement that said, “Our most immediate concern is for the future of the children in our afterschool program. We’re working to identify a partner who’ll help these students and their parents during our transition.”

“Our most immediate concern is for the future of the children in our afterschool program.”

	1-2 years	3-5 years
All Programs	61%	81%
African-American Majority Programs	69%	86%
Latino Majority Programs	67%	83%
21 st CCLC Grantees	58%	89%
Non-21 st CCLC Grantees	62%	75%

Percent of Programs That Predict Funding Will Be Less Than Secure in the Near Future

This decline in financial confidence is most evident in 21st CCLC funded programs and programs serving predominantly African-American and Latino youth. Among programs serving predominantly African-American kids, 86 percent report that their funding is less than secure in the next three to five years, and among programs serving predominantly Latino children, 83 percent report that their funding is less than secure in the next three to five years. Nine in ten 21st CCLC grantees report their funding in the next three to five years is less than secure, 14 points higher than programs that did not receive 21st CCLC grant funding (89 percent vs. 75 percent). It comes as no surprise

that 21st CCLC funded programs express higher levels of concern for their long-term financial security, given that many 21st CCLC funded programs expect their grant to expire within the next few years.

Among states where the economy is stronger, programs are slightly more optimistic, but a strong majority of programs are still concerned. Six in 10 programs report that their funding is less than secure in the next one to two years, 77 percent report that their funding is less than secure in the next three to five years and 73 percent of programs anticipate the “challenging economic climate” will affect their program during the 2012-2013 school year.

Providing more certainty for afterschool programs and the children and families who depend on them.

Given other recent reports on children and the economy, it is not a big surprise to find that afterschool programs and the kids and families they serve are still suffering. *Kids' Share 2012: Report on Federal Expenditures on Children Through 2011*⁴ looked at trends in federal spending over the last 50 years and

found that children have not been a budget priority. In 2011, for the first time since the early 1980s, federal spending on children declined. This decline is expected to continue over the next decade, in part due to the loss of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars and the looming threat of sequestration.⁵

⁴ Isaacs, J., et. al. (2012). *Kids' Share 2012: Report on Federal Expenditures on Children Through 2011*. Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute. Retrieved from <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412600-Kids-Share-2012.pdf>

Some estimate that if nothing changes, spending on children will drop by 24 percent between 2011 and 2019.

Afterschool programs are linked to improved outcomes for children and families, yet investments in afterschool are lagging. *Uncertain Times* data confirm that federal funding through 21st CCLC is

successfully reaching communities hardest hit by the economy. With increased funding, we can ensure that afterschool programs across the nation are able to support high-need communities by keeping kids safe, helping working families and inspiring learning. Below are several specific policy recommendations that could help fuel an afterschool recovery.

Policy Recommendations

1. **Increase federal funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the only federal funding stream dedicated to before-school, afterschool and summer programs.** In the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, ensure that 21st CCLC funding remains dedicated to quality before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs.
2. **Increase funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to provide child care vouchers to more eligible families.** In the reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant Act, ensure that CCDBG continues to support school-age youth, in addition to early childhood education.
3. **Allow existing funding streams to support quality afterschool programs.** Insert afterschool as an allowable use of funds in existing federal funding streams related to outcomes that afterschool programs offer, especially those that support the acquisition of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) knowledge and skills, as well as those that promote healthy, active lifestyles for young people.
4. **Include language in the Workforce Investment Act and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act to help before-school, afterschool and summer programs reach middle school and high school students.** Increase opportunities for quality before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs to meet the needs of older youth (middle and high school age) within the Workforce Investment Act and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

Uncertain Times offers research spanning more than six years that shows consistently declining budgets and worsening conditions for families and communities served by afterschool. It is promising to see—in the small number of states where the recovery is occurring more quickly—that afterschool programs report their communities and funding are faring better as well. But for children and families in the vast majority of states, and particularly in low-income communities served by 21st CCLC, one thing is certain: the recovery cannot come soon enough. Implementing the policy recommendations outlined above can help support children, families and communities as they continue to struggle in today's economy.

⁵ Congress passed the Budget Control Act in 2011 that mandated if no agreement was reached to further reduce the deficit, automatic cuts to defense and non-defense discretionary spending—known as sequestration—would take place on Jan. 2, 2013. It is estimated that all non-defense discretionary programs will face an 8.4 percent budget cut. National Education Association. (July 2012). *Impact of Sequestration on Federal Education Programs*. Washington, D.C.: NEA. Retrieved July 25, 2012 from http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/Impact_of_Sequestration_on_Federal_Education_Programs_Reformatted_06-26-12.pdf

The *Uncertain Times 2012* survey was designed and conducted by the Afterschool Alliance. The survey, emailed to more than 26,000 contacts in the Afterschool Alliance’s database in April 2012, was run through web-based survey software. Recipients were encouraged to forward the survey to afterschool program staff, and programs were asked that surveys be completed by only one person per program and provide responses from a site-level coordinator when possible. The survey was closed on June 8, 2012. A total of 1,124 responses were reviewed; 112 of them did not provide sufficient data to be included in the final analysis or were duplicate responses. The final sample was 1,012 responses—many of which were for multiple program sites—and represent approximately 4,947 afterschool sites serving more than 567,470 children.

Appendix A: Program Profile

Survey Responses

Grade level of students participating in afterschool programs	
Elementary	74%
Middle School	30%
High School	14%
Ethnicity of children served by afterschool programs	
Asian/Pacific Islander	7%
African American	35%
Caucasian	44%
Hispanic/Latino	23%
Native American	5%
Gender of children participating in afterschool programs	
Female	51%
Male	49%
Average percentage of program participants who ...	
Qualify for the Federal Free or Reduced Lunch Program	68%
Are Limited English Proficient	14%
Have Special Needs/Learning Differences	16%
Community type served by afterschool programs	
Rural	31%
Suburban	30%
Urban	45%
Average number of days a week afterschool programs operate during the school year	
1 Day	2%
2-3 Days	10%
4-5 Days	84%
6-7 Days	4%

Survey Responses

Number of years afterschool programs have been in operation

1 (or less)	5%
2-3	11%
4-5	15%
6-10	25%
11-15	15%
15+	28%

Afterschool programs' affiliations

Community-Based Organization / Local Nonprofit	32%
School-Based (Public and/or Private)	29%
Other	10%
YMCA	9%
BGCA	8%
Private For-Profit	4%
Faith-Based Organization	3%
Other Nationally Affiliated Nonprofit	3%
4-H	2%
College/University-Based	1%
Library/Museum	.1%

Times afterschool programs are open in addition to after school

Holidays and/or Inter-Session	44%
Before School	35%
Weekends	19%

Afterschool programs who offer a summer program

Yes	80%
No	20%

Sources of state funding

None	44%
Department of Education	20%
Other/Don't Know	18%
Department of Children and Families	14%
Department of Social/Health and Human Services	13%
Department of Justice/Juvenile Justice	5%

Survey Responses

Sources of federal funding	
21 st Century Community Learning Centers (21 st CCLC) Grant	40%
None	27%
USDA Afterschool Snack or Afterschool Meal Program	21%
Other/Don't Know	21%
AmeriCorps/Vista	8%
Mentoring Program (Department of Justice)	8%
Other Title I Education Funds not Listed	8%
Supplemental Educational Services	6%
Juvenile Justice Programs	5%
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)	5%
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	5%
Arts Education Grants (NEA)	2%
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	2%
School Improvement Grants	2%
Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP)	1%
EPA Environmental Education Grants	.1%
Sources of local or private funding	
Parent Fees	43%
Private Donations/Donation Containers/Fundraisers	43%
Foundation/Philanthropic Organization	34%
Corporation/Business	27%
City or County Funds	22%
School District	21%
None	12%
Other/Don't Know	11%
Faith-Based Organization	10%
College/University	5%

Survey Responses

Variety of activities offered	
Homework Help	92%
Sports/Physical Activity	85%
Arts/Music/Cultural Activities	84%
Reading	80%
Nutrition/Wellness	74%
Community Service	64%
Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)	60%
Bullying Prevention	58%
Mentoring	58%
Services for Parents and Families	46%
Digital Learning	37%
Drug, Alcohol or Tobacco Prevention Programs	36%
Civic Engagement	31%
College Preparation	30%
Services for Children with Special Needs/Learning Disabilities	26%
Violence/Gang Prevention	25%
Career/Internship or Workforce Development	23%
Language and/or ELL Services	20%
Pregnancy Prevention Programs	13%
Mental Health Services	11%
Other	9%
Medical and/or Dental Services	6%

The Afterschool Alliance is the nation's leading voice for afterschool programs. We are working to ensure that all children have access to affordable, quality afterschool programs. In an era of tight budgets, Afterschool Alliance advocacy efforts helped grow federal funding for before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs available to local communities through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative from \$40 million in 1998 to more than \$1.1 billion in 2012. These funds now provide quality afterschool programs to more than 1 million children during the out-of-school hours.



1616 H Street, NW Washington, DC 20006
Afterschoolalliance.org
(866) KIDS-TODAY



Follow us!
[@afterschool4all](https://twitter.com/afterschool4all)



Join us!
afterschoolalliancecd



Read us!
The Afterschool Snack Blog