



# State of Afterschool and Summer Learning in Florida

2nd Edition





The State of Afterschool and Summer Learning in Florida is an essential read for anyone invested in the future of Florida's youth. With data-driven insights and compelling stories, this report sheds light on the persistent gaps in afterschool program availability across the state, despite efforts to grow programs post-pandemic. It highlights how afterschool deserts continue to limit the potential of many children and youth. The report also explores the critical role high-quality programs play in boosting school attendance, reducing risky behaviors, and promoting academic progression—issues that are even more urgent today.

Florida After School, Inc. brings together a powerful network of advocates, educators, and professionals to tackle these challenges head-on. This edition offers readers a comprehensive overview of the state's afterschool landscape, pairing data analysis with real-world success stories from communities that have made intentional investments in high-quality afterschool programs. These examples showcase what is possible when we prioritize and invest in the future of our children, and they offer a blueprint for other communities to follow. Now more than ever, it's time to deepen our commitment to expanding and improving out-of-school time opportunities across Florida.

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***“The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled.”***  
**— Plutarch**

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# Who is Florida After School

All children and youth deserve high-quality out-of-school time opportunities. To do this, it takes programs and professionals in our local communities working together and supported by a strong network of advocates across the state. Florida After School provides that support.

As a highly valuable, credible, and visible leader supporting the out-of-school time field at the national and state level, Florida After School Florida After School, Inc. advocates for and equips out-of-school time stakeholders with resources to build the profession and support high-quality programs for all children and youth.

## Florida After School

### PROMOTES

quality standards and best practices for out-of-school time programs that inform program decisions through training and technical assistance.

### COLLABORATES

with public and private partners to share high-quality and innovative resources with programs to accelerate learning and youth development.

### ADVOCATES

for policies and funding to expand the availability and accessibility of out-of-school time programs and elevate public awareness on program benefits.

### ENGAGES

direct service providers to ensure efforts are representative and effective for those serving children, youth, and families every day.

Florida After School is part of the 50 State Network funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to galvanize a diverse group of organizations and champions to build public will and systems for afterschool and summer learning. It also serves as the State Affiliate to the National AfterSchool Association.

Florida After School is the only statewide membership organization dedicated to connecting afterschool professionals who share a commitment to high-quality afterschool, before school, holiday, and summer programming.



# Why Afterschool Matters

## Why Afterschool Is Important

Afterschool programs in Florida keep kids safe, inspire learning, and give working parents peace of mind. Kids discover who they are and what they love to do, make smart choices, and avoid risky behaviors.



### Increasing School Attendance

School attendance is an important indicator of academic success. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, chronic school absence has increased. If chronic absence is evident in elementary school, it is likely to continue throughout a child's school matriculation. It is also a predictor for a student not finishing school. Chronic absenteeism is also an early warning sign that students will be off-track for reading proficiently. The national organization Attendance Works conducts research that suggests afterschool and summer learning programs can help to compensate for learning opportunities missed in the school classroom.



### Decreasing Risky Behavior

High-quality afterschool programs provide supportive, enriching environments for students to keep them safe and out of trouble. According to Strong Nation, juvenile crime in Florida "peaks from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on school days, with about 24% of all juvenile crime on those days occurring during the hours following the last school bell." Students who attend an afterschool program, however, are less likely to engage in risky behaviors. In fact, America After 3PM suggests it may be as high as 84%. In addition, many parents, especially those who live in urban communities or have lower incomes, report this finding as an important factor when choosing an afterschool program.







## Supporting Mental Health

With the increasing rigor of school requirements, students are not only accessing afterschool to support academic enrichment, but also are using this time to cultivate friendships, make connections with a caring adult, and build a sense of belonging. As Florida school districts incorporate mental health support for students into classroom instruction, afterschool and summer learning programs present opportunities to provide additional supportive climates to Florida's youth.

Afterschool programs with missions that include socialization, peer relations, and adaptive functioning are uniquely positioned to support and promote children's healthy development. In 2022, the U.S. Congress provided an additional \$50 million to the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program for middle and high school students. In Florida, much of these funds are being used to support youth mental health and wellness.



## Preventing the Summer Slide

Recent studies published in Boston University Journal of Graduate Studies in Education (2022) report summer break can create negative outcomes for learners in the form of academic learning loss. This is more prevalent in students from lower-income families and has a compounding effect year after year. The result is an achievement gap that widens with each year. Summer learning loss is a critical problem that has long-term consequences. It impacts graduation rates, postsecondary enrollment and attainment, and individual earning potential.

However, there are solutions. The same BU studies also report that summer learning programs "have potential to limit summer learning loss, and hence decrease the achievement gap." This is especially true if these programs provide literacy and numeracy instruction, as well as project-based learning opportunities to meet the needs of students.





## Creating Tomorrow's Workforce

"Data spanning more than a decade indicate that there are sets of foundational skills and competencies that are strongly desired among employers, but challenging to find among potential employees" (Afterschool Alliance, 2017). More recently, CareerSource Florida confirmed these findings in a survey of Florida-based employers, citing specifically skill gaps in communication, reliability, and time management.

Afterschool and summer learning programs can help to close the gaps. And this starts in programs serving the youngest learners. Programs serving kindergarten through 5th grade can build teamwork and communication skills; middle school programs work with youth to develop goal-setting and begin exploring their personal identities; and high school programs continue foundational skills development as they plan, manage, and lead activities on their own. These programs also connecting students to the workforce in other ways, such as helping them discover new interests and professions they may never have considered entering into and providing real-world work opportunities to help them to reach their career aspirations.



## Supporting Working Families

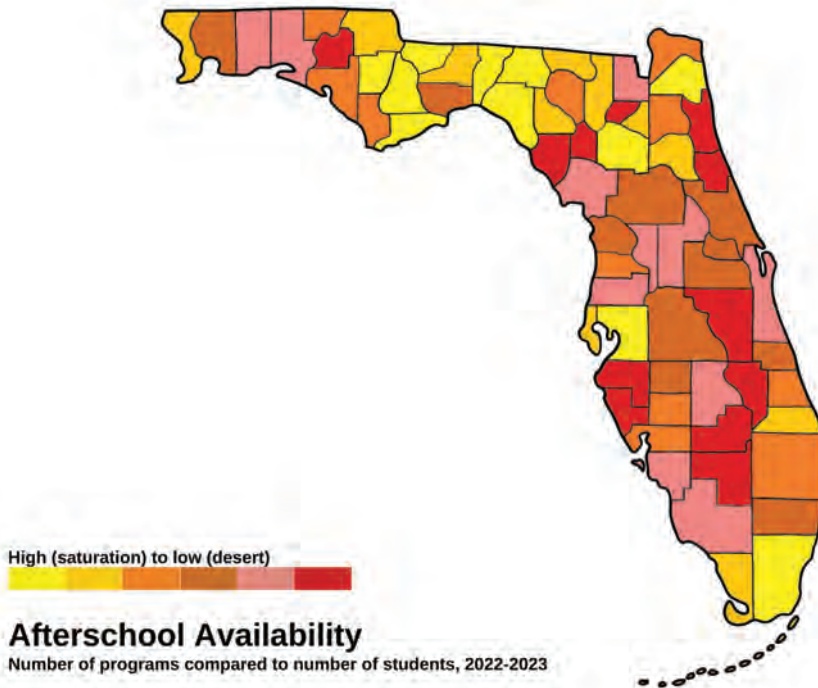
Working parents typically miss approximately eight (8) days of work every year due to childcare concerns. These absences cost businesses billions of dollars nationally in decreased worker productivity. Once again, high-quality afterschool and summer programs is the solution as they help working families by providing a safe, enriching environment for youth to participate in while parents are away at work. In a recent survey of parents, 83% of parents report having greater peace of mind because they know their children are safe and supervised. This translates into less time away from the job site and increased employee engagement.



# Availability of Afterschool and Summer Learning Across Florida

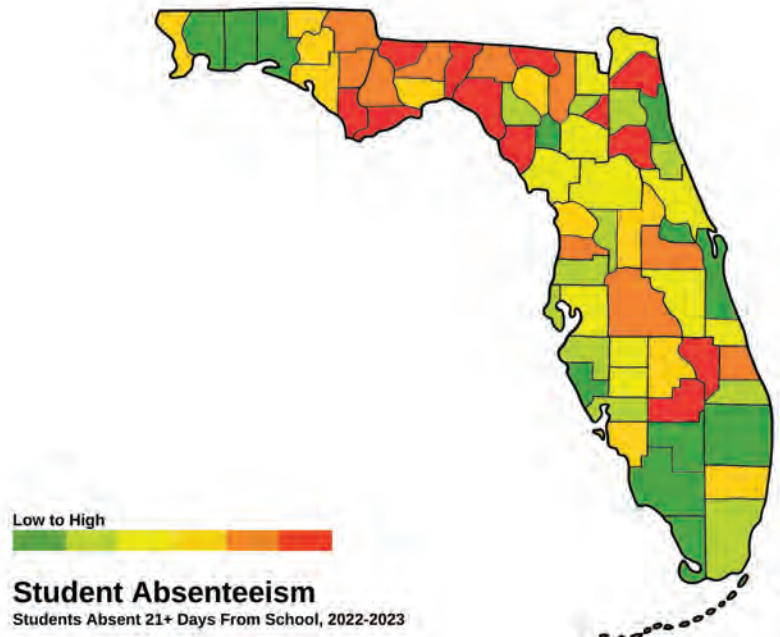
Florida After School, Inc. recently completed its statewide mapping project for the second time, continuing its commitment to investigating the availability and impact of afterschool programs across the state. Using comprehensive data from the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), the

Florida Department of Education (DOE), and key statewide partners, including the Florida Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs, the Florida State Alliance of YMCAs, the Florida Recreation & Parks Association (FRPA), and the Florida Alliance of Children's Councils and Trusts (FACCT), the organization has once again pinpointed the locations and density of afterschool programs in each county. The good news is the overall availability of afterschool programs has remained steady since the first edition of this mapping project, despite the widespread disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The bad news is the state of Florida is still not close to meeting the demand. **For every student enrolled in an afterschool program, three more are without.** Afterschool deserts persist, preventing many children and youth from realizing their full potential.



To further understand the impact of program availability, Florida After School compared locations (saturation) against crucial community indicators often linked to the effectiveness of high-quality programs, leveraging aggregated data from state partners.

Research shows that high-quality afterschool programs play a vital role in shaping positive student outcomes, particularly in areas of attendance, behavior, and academic progression. When students participate in these programs, they are more likely to attend school regularly, as the structured support and engaging activities provide a compelling reason to stay connected with their education. The moderate negative correlation between afterschool program availability and student absenteeism underscores this impact: as the rate of available afterschool programs increases, absenteeism rates decrease, reflecting the importance of these programs in keeping students engaged and motivated to attend school consistently.





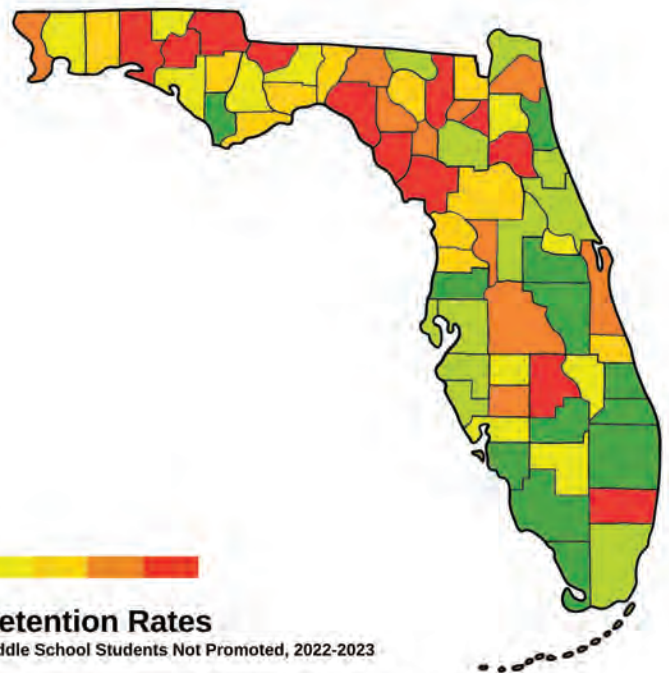
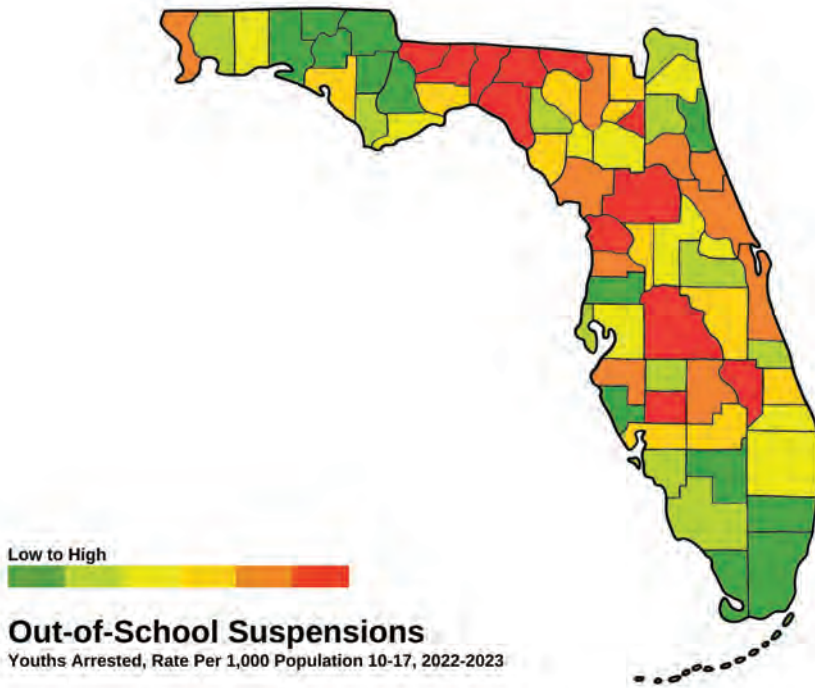
In addition to improving attendance, afterschool programs have a significant influence on student behavior. The data reveals a noticeable negative correlation between the availability of afterschool programs and out-of-school suspensions. This suggests that when students participate in afterschool

programs, they benefit from the additional guidance, mentorship, and opportunities to build social and emotional skills. These experiences can reduce the likelihood of behavioral issues that lead to suspensions, fostering a more positive school environment and enhancing students' overall well-being.

Finally, the relationship between afterschool program availability and school promotion is also noteworthy. A slight negative correlation with student retention rates suggests that better access to afterschool programs may contribute to lower retention rates, meaning more students are successfully promoted to the next grade level. High-quality afterschool programs often offer academic support, homework assistance, and enrichment

activities that complement the regular school day, helping students achieve academic success and progress through their educational journey with confidence. However, to truly unlock the potential of these programs, we must not only increase their number but also be intentional about investing in high-quality programs.

The data and program spotlights shared in this report showcase examples of such programs and highlight communities that have made strategic investments in this space. This offers a glimpse of the positive outcomes that other communities—and the state as a whole—could achieve by following suit. **Now is the time to expand our commitment to afterschool programs, ensuring that every child and youth in Florida has the opportunity to thrive and build a brighter future.**



# ARPA Investment in Out-of-School Time

## COVID Relief Funding

COVID-19 caused significant impacts to the state of education in Florida. To combat significant learning losses in K-12 schools, the federal government issued three notable rounds of funding. The Florida Department of Education implemented the majority of these funds through direct allocations to local education agencies (LEAs). These districts used the funds in a variety of ways, including direct investments in out-of-school time programs to accelerate learning in safe environments. Out-of-school time programs are proven to mitigate learning loss.

**ESSER I:** In March 2020, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER I) Fund was created through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Ninety (90) percent of funds were given to local education agencies and 10 percent remained within State Education Agencies.

**ESSER II:** In December 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRSSA) Act expanded direct funding to address the areas most impacted by the disruption and closure of schools due to COVID-19.

**ESSER III:** In March 2021, additional funding through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was used to safely reopen schools and support operations. LEAs received 90 percent of the state’s overall ARP allocation and were required to use 20 percent of these funds to aid learning loss recovery.

## Florida’s Investment in Out-of-School Time Programs

Afterschool	\$170,550,745
Summer Programs	\$386,716,173
ESSER III Learning Loss Recovery	\$1,267,806,627

In total, LEAs have invested approximately 43 percent of the learning loss set-aside in afterschool and summer interventions. From tutoring and “Saturday Academies” to adding extended day enrichment programs and summer camps, LEAs relied on afterschool to accelerate learning because research shows that out-of-school time programs have positive impacts on academic performance, classroom and community behavior, and student attendance.







## After School All Stars

For over thirty years, After-School All-Stars (ASAS) has been a state leader in providing comprehensive youth development programs that keep children safe and help them succeed in school and life. In partnership with public school districts, city municipalities and state universities, its year-round programs serve over 10,000 elementary, middle, and high school students annually.

ASAS's evidence-based programming centers on the core components of academic readiness, enrichment, health/wellness, and workforce development. ASAS's primary objectives are to improve academic achievement, lower juvenile crimes rates, promote healthy living, foster civic leadership, and ensure career opportunity and access for the state's most underserved youth.

ASAS has 67 chapters that serve Broward, Hillsborough, Orange, and Miami-Dade Counties. Its partners include county school districts, the City of Orlando, and Florida International University. ASAS's work is supported by 177 volunteers.

### Core Programs:

- Elementary & Middle School –
  - Year-round comprehensive OST services
  - 21st Century Community Learning Center model
  - Before school, after school & summer camps (800+ hours offered per youth)
- High School –
  - Opportunity Jobs Academy – (youth workforce training and job placement)
  - College Impact program
  - Course recovery labs & academic guidance



**10,503**

Total students served in 2022-2023



**1,459**

Elementary School (14%)



**5,463**

Middle School (52%)



**3,581**

High School (34%)



**100%**

of Academic Readiness & College/Career 12th grade students graduated high school



**83%**

of Academic Readiness & College/Career high school graduates enrolled in college, vo-tech, or military

### Government Funding

21st CCLC	\$6,279,574
State	\$1,500,000
Federal	\$621,190



## After School Programs

After School Programs, Inc. (ASP) was founded in 1991 with the explicit mission of developing and implementing national models of high-quality, academic focused, and personally enriching afterschool programming. ASP works to improve student achievement and help children reach their fullest potential by providing innovative learning programs before and after school, on school holidays, and during the summer.

ASP operates on-site afterschool programs in more than 75 Florida schools in Broward, Orange, and Collier Counties. ASP's programs serve more than 10,000 children and their families from varying socioeconomic and ethnically diverse backgrounds. ASP is proud to receive high scores on its school district and grant monitoring reports year after year and has been awarded numerous Gold Seal designations from the Florida Department of Children and Families.

ASP is the only private afterschool childcare provider in South Florida affiliated with Junior Achievement. Junior Achievement uses hands-on experiences to help young people learn about business, economics and free enterprise to improve the quality of their lives.

In addition to academic enrichment activities, ASP offers Social Skills Development and Service Learning through activities such as:

- Community Service Projects
- Toys for Tots
- Food Drives
- Letters to Troops
- Disaster Relief
- Musicians, Magicians and More
- Special Talents Programs
- Field Trips on All No-School Days
- Charity for Change Character Education







4-H first began as a way to extend agricultural education to rural youth through afterschool clubs and summer programs. Levering the expertise and resources of the University of Florida and a nationwide network of Cooperative Extension Service faculty and staff, Florida 4-H uses a learn-by-doing approach and caring adults to help youth gain the knowledge and life skills they need to be productive, responsible citizens.

The program resides in all 67 counties throughout Florida, including the Seminole Tribe, and is open to youth ages 5-18. According to the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development conducted by Tufts University, young people in 4-H:

- Report better grades, higher levels of academic competence, and an elevated level of engagement at school.
- Are nearly two times more likely to plan to go to college
- Are more likely to pursue future courses in a career in science, engineering, or computer technology.



**151,000**

students participated in  
academic support and  
enrichment programming



**7,000**

adult and youth volunteers  
engaged





**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
FLORIDA ALLIANCE

## Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs

The Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs works to secure statewide funding and resources for local Clubs to help them enable all young people, especially those who need the Clubs most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Collectively, local Clubs are focused on influencing academic achievement, life aspirations and juvenile crime reduction. Across 243 sites in 46 counties, Clubs in the Alliance's membership provide a fun, safe and constructive environment for over 214,000 kids and teens during out-of-school time. Led by professional staff, including many certified teachers and mentors, Clubs offer programs and services that help young people succeed in school, develop leadership skills, and maintain healthy lifestyles.



**95,700**

students participated in  
academic support and  
enrichment programming



**117,600**

students participated in club  
hosted community outreach  
programming



**5,832**

volunteers engaged



**7,030**

monthly mentoring sessions

### BRAG MOMENT

The Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs was selected as one of the partner agencies by Coca Cola Beverages Florida to help distribute \$2.8 million in scholarships over the course of ten years.

Coke Florida's donation will be matched dollar for dollar by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation to fund the dreams of 250 economically disadvantaged students.

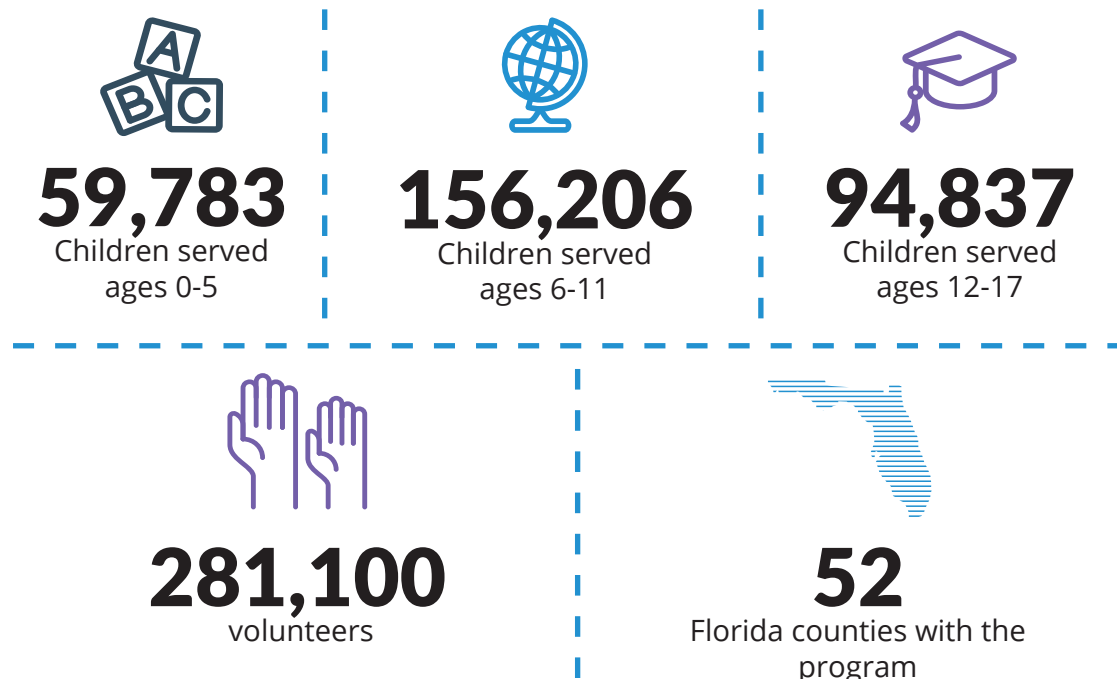




## Florida State Alliance of YMCAs

The Florida State Alliance of YMCAs, Inc. provides a single, unified voice for the 16 YMCA Associations serving 40 counties in Florida. The Alliance was established in 2004 as a 501c3 organization located in St. Petersburg, Florida, although the first Florida YMCA was first established in 1908. The mission statement of the YMCA is "To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all." The vision of the Alliance is, "To leverage the collective strengths to enrich the quality of life for all Floridians."

Number of Children and youth served across YMCA programs 831,533. This is with duplications



### State Funding Received in 22-23

- 2 million for Drowning Prevention
- 1.264 million for YReads program
- Local Florida YMCAs and partners – 11 million
- More than \$33 million in financial assistance provided
- 36.7 million from grants.



# Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Established in 1998 through No Child Left Behind and reauthorized under the Every Student Succeeds Act, the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative provides federal funding for before school, afterschool, and summer learning programs. 21st CCLC is the only federally funded initiative that provides access to out-of-school time programs across the nation. This initiative provides states with supplemental funding to support academic and enrichment opportunities for children during non-school hours.

- The purpose of 21st CCLC programs are to:
- Provide opportunities during non-school hours for academic enrichment;
  - Offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities; and
  - Offer families of students served by the community learning centers opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their child’s education.

Florida receives the fourth largest award of the 50 states. Over the last three years Florida has received over \$146,087,265 in funding for out-of-school time programing.

	2021	2022	2023
Florida’s 21st CCLC Funding Amount	\$69,342,117	\$71,393,341	\$74,693,924

Funding is distributed to programs through a competitive grant process. The most recent funding cycle collected 133 applications of which 89 were successfully funded. Approximately \$31,849,499 was awarded during the most recent grant competition.

21-22 School Year:



Funding for the Florida’s 21st CCLC initiative is administered through the Florida Department of Education’s Bureau of Family and Community Outreach. This information shared in this document was compiled in collaboration with our national partners.



# Children's Services Councils and Trusts

Florida is one of only two states in the nation with statutes that allow local county leaders and the residents of those counties to levy local funding to address the needs of the community through a special government entity known as Children's Services Councils (CSC). The purpose of CSCs is to invest in evidence-based programs, innovative services, and community resources that improve the lives of children and families. Florida's CSC communities represent over 51% of the state's child population birth to 18 years old.

CSCs are required to:

- Ensure the best use of taxpayer dollars
- Determine the unique needs of children, youth and families in their service area
- Coordinate with other agencies, public/private funders, and stakeholders dedicated to the welfare of children to reduce duplication of services and leverage CSC funding

Each CSC is unique to its community. All CSCs address health and wellbeing, safety, early learning, and academic success, but individual CSCs determine their priorities based on the most significant needs of the community, considering local demographics and community resources.



*Florida After School provides valuable resources such as training and technical assistance to many of the afterschool and summer camp providers the CSCs fund. Florida After School aims to partner with all CSCs across the state to promote quality standards and best practices for out-of-school time programs.*

Even though they all have different priorities, every CSC recognizes the importance of high quality out-of-school time programming and invests a significant amount of funding in afterschool and summer learning programs. As a matter of fact, CSCs are among the largest investors in out-of-school time programming in the state of Florida. Their funding makes afterschool and summer programs available to nearly 100,000 youth each year (approximately 99,651 in 2022-2023) who otherwise may not have access to high quality out-of-school opportunities.

CSCs fund a variety of services, including but not limited to program quality improvement initiatives, professional learning for afterschool professionals, summer camp scholarships for high need youth, supplemental expanded learning opportunities for youth, and more.



**\$715 Million**

invested by 11 CSCs to support for Florida's children and families in fiscal year 2022-2023.



**26.5%**

of the total funding was in invested in out-of-school time programming.

## CSCs' Investments in Out-of-School Time Programs – FY 2022-23

Children's Services Councils	Total Budget FY 2022-2023	Dedicated OST Funding	Add'l Funding Specific to Summer Programming
Children's Board of Hillsborough County	\$68,306,304	\$5,351,933	\$229,493
Children's Services Council of Broward County	\$127,865,270	\$52,316,315	--
Children's Services Council of Leon County	\$12,588,227	\$294,736	\$1,497,427
Children's Services Council of Martin County	\$7,739,858	\$1,641,876	--
Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County	\$148,584,356	\$8,076,893	\$3,750,000
Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County	\$13,726,200	\$2,728,875	\$400,000
Children's Trust of Alachua County	\$7,773,302	\$876,511	\$1,630,331
Escambia Children's Trust	\$10,133,447	\$5,104,482	--
Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County	\$78,542,461	\$25,631,833	--
Kids Hope Alliance (Jacksonville)	\$49,198,538	\$13,852,347	\$3,916,206
The Children's Trust of Miami	\$190,774,930	\$62,179,817	--
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$715,232,893</b>	<b>\$178,124,618</b>	<b>\$11,423,457</b>





Children's Board  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

## Children's Board of Hillsborough County

The Children's Board of Hillsborough County funded 16 afterschool programs serving more than 2,000 children ages 6-14 in 2022-2023. As a result of participation in these afterschool programs, historically, over 96% of youth increase their educational aspirations and over 80% increase their motivation to learn.

The Children's Board Summer Passport program offers summer camp scholarships to children ages 6 to 14. These passports enable youngsters to engage in top-notch Hillsborough County camps without any expense to their families. In 2023, a total of 417 children enjoyed one to two weeks of exciting summer camps at seven locations including: Tampa Theatre, Straz Center for the Performing Arts, Zoo Tampa at Lowry Park, Glazer Children's Museum, Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI), the Lightning Foundation, and the Tampa Museum of Art.

In addition, the Children's Board partnered with the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners to provide grants to increase families' access to high-quality summer programming. The summer grants provided enriching activities at three existing summer programs for 151 youth ages 6-14.





## Children's Services Council of Broward County

The CSC of Broward County funds Out-of-School Time programs for elementary through high school children and youth throughout the county, where children enjoy fun and academically enriching and engaging activities. These programs are at nearly all schools where a large percentage of the students are on free or reduced lunch, including those with special needs. Homework assistance, physical fitness, project-based, and social-emotional learning activities are at the core of these programs which run throughout the school year and summer. All middle and high school programs also include case management for the youth and family.

The programs were contracted to serve 10,470 children at 163 sites with the following outcomes in 2022-2023:



**5,328**

Elementary/Inclusion  
Students at **61** sites  
(Ages 5-12)



**1,589**

Middle School  
Students at **33** sites



**609**

High School Students  
at **15** sites



**767**

Special Needs  
Students at **54** sites  
(Ages 3-22)



### Maximizing Out of School Time

**92%**

of elementary school  
children improved reading  
and language development.  
(inclusive of Special Needs)

### Youth FORCE

**97%**

of middle school youth  
demonstrated gains or low  
risk in Youth Development  
Competencies.

### LEAP High

**92%**

of high school youth improved  
Language Arts/Reading grades.





## Children's Services Council of Leon County

The Children's Services Council of Leon County (CSC Leon) was approved by the voters in 2020 and issued its first competitive procurement during the summer of 2022, specifically to fill any gaps created by the Covid-19 pandemic. Not surprisingly, of the 29 programs funded, 19 were for summer learning opportunities and/or enhancements, serving more than 2,000 children.

In FY2022-2023, CSC Leon repeated the summer bridge funding cycle but chose to focus on summer learning and expanding feeding opportunities only. During their second summer, CSC Leon wholly funded 16 summer enrichment programs that met minimum criteria as established by the Quality Standards for Florida After School. CSC Leon served 1,040 children and their families. Ninety per cent of families reported these programs supported their child's learning and well prepared them for school. In addition, nearly 65% of families also reported a cost savings by participating in the CSC Leon funded programs of greater than \$600 per summer month.

Also during FY2022-2023, CSC Leon made investments in four youth mentoring programs. While the goals of this funding were primarily focused on juvenile crime prevention, many of the programs selected (3 out of 4) operate as out-of-school time programs. The funding included the creation of a Boys and Girls Club in the Ft. Braden Community in west Leon County (an under-resourced neighborhood with significant transportation barriers), Leon County's first "First Tee" program at Sabal Palm Community Partnership School, and expansion of the Omega Lamplighters program, exclusively serving boys at risk for poor educational outcomes. These three programs are on target to serve more than 400 children and youth year round.







Children's Services Council of Martin County  
INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE, A CHILDREN'S TRUST


## Children's Services Council of Martin County

The Children's Services Council of Martin County funds year-round out-of-school time programs, many of which focus on reducing risky behaviors that may result in involvement in the juvenile justice system. The summer components are designed to reduce summer slide in academic performance. For example, the Tykes & Teens Prevention Program funded by the CSC successfully decreased the reported use of alcohol and other substances by middle school youth within the prior 30 days from 13% in 2020 to 9.3% in 2022-2023.

Funded programs also addressed youth mental health and well-being or life skills development. Programs provided a variety of support services, including but not limited to mentoring, academic support, career readiness, and physical activity.

CSC funded programs served a total of 2,223 children in 2022-2023:

  
**21**  
Preschool

  
**1,696**  
Elementary School

  
**401**  
Middle School

  
**105**  
High School



## Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County

The Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County funds not only out-of-school time programs but also a dedicated intermediary organization, Prime Time Palm Beach County, to support them. Prime Time is recognized as a national leader in the afterschool field. With CSC dollars, Prime Time provides afterschool program quality enhancements through program development, professional learning, quality advising, a robust Quality Improvement System, expanded learning opportunities, a Teen Advisory Council, and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math (STEAM) initiatives.

In 2022-2023, the CSC of Palm Beach County invested \$15,855.250 in out-of-school time programs. They also provided slots for 10,832 children ages 5-13 to attend afterschool programs contract with the local Early Learning Coalition to serve children under School Readiness.

The CSC also funded 91 summer programs, which included Educational Enrichment Camps that have been shown to reduce summer slide. Summer programs served 3,695 children ages 5-17. Data from Summer 2022 measured the impact on summer slide from Spring 2022 to Fall 2023:



**85.9%**

of the campers (grades 3-10)  
improved or remained the same  
in **reading**



**74.4%**

of the campers (grades 3-8) improved  
or remained the same in **math**

## Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County

The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County funded 26 afterschool programs that together served 2,950 children in elementary, middle, and high school. Funded programs yielded impressive outcomes for academic year 2022-2023:



**72%**

of youth in participating programs recorded fewer than three (3) school absences each quarter



**75%**

improved or maintained academic performance



**94%**

increased judgment, decision making and social interaction skills to avoid delinquency referrals



**93%**

of youth increased their ability to identify bullying practices and learned methods to stop bullying

The CSC also funded summer programs for 792 youth. In 2023, 88% of youth participating in summer learning programs improved or maintained math and reading goals.



CHILDREN'S TRUST  
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

## Children's Trust of Alachua County

In addition to supporting students' academic achievements, afterschool programs help students build character and develop new social skills. Trust-funded afterschool programs offer Alachua County youth an endless choice of academic and social sessions, as well as creative activities that provide fun and motivating ways for youth to play, learn and develop new skills and experiences. The Children's Trust funds after-school program providers to host kindergarteners through 12th-graders from low-income families, with safe and enriching programs to support working families during out-of-school hours.

The Children's Trust recognizes that families need support year-round. Summertime offerings funded by the Trust extend youth educational opportunities, aiming to reduce the "summer slide" while also providing fun, safe activities to keep young minds active when school is out of session.

The Lights On Afterschool annual event, co-hosted in 2023 by Deeper Purpose Kids Academy, brought children of all ages to Camp Kalaqua in High Springs on October 26, 2023. The national program, a project of Afterschool Alliance, highlights the importance of after school programs for America's children, families and communities. The day was formally recognized as Lights On Afterschool Day via proclamations from both the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners and High Springs Mayor Gloria James.





## Escambia Children's Trust

Among the state's newest children's services councils, the Escambia Children's Trust (ECT) was founded in November 2020 and issued its inaugural competitive solicitation for services in 2022. Its first major funding initiative was a significant investment in out-of-school time programming totaling just over \$5 million. The ECT's goal was to enable local community-based preschool, afterschool and summer learning programs to provide foundational skills and guidance that extend beyond academics, helping develop the whole child—cognitively, socially, and emotionally. The funding targeted programs that serve students who are most in need or at-risk based on family income, neighborhood conditions, identification as a vulnerable population, age, and accessibility of programs offered in the community.

The ECT issued awards in February 2023, and was able to initiate services with more than 1,600 students across the County. By the end of its first full year cycle, the program had served nearly 2,000 children across 16 programs at 32 sites.

In 2022-2023, ECT also made the decision to invest in youth mental health supports. Specifically, ECT sought new or piloted projects from direct-service organizations that would help address the far-reaching challenge of stress, anxiety, depression or other mental health issues in children, youth, and their families. All five programs ultimately selected for implementation in FY2023-2024 utilize an out-of-school time setting for service delivery.





Kids Hope Alliance (KHA) is a funding agent for the City of Jacksonville and invests millions annually in children's and youth programs and services in Duval County.

Quality afterschool programs are one of KHA's core services and flagship programs. These programs are operated in two successful models: School-based programs and Community-Based programs, which are located throughout the city in a variety of community centers and nonprofit organizations. In 2022-2023, KHA funded 108 afterschool programs serving children aged 5-19:



**5,329**  
Elementary School



**2,349**  
Middle School



**332**  
High School



**4,464**  
Community Based  
(K-12th grade)



**54%**  
of participating 3rd grade students  
were reading at or above grade level.



**7,989**  
youth during **100** Summer programs in  
2023



**90%**  
of participating high school  
students graduated



**1.2 million**  
meals and snacks for local children and  
youth at 150 sites



# **Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County**

As the first children's services program authorized in Florida statute in 1945, the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County (JWB) has been committed to making children a priority, advocating for their best interests and investing to improve their futures for nearly eight decades. JWB recognizes that out-of-school time programs supplement learning and contribute to a child's social and emotional development, plus parent education and support services help ensure children are successful in school, and beyond.

In 2022-2023:



**10,326**

students (ages 5-18) participated



**162**

year-round out-of-school time programs



**80%**

of participants attended **70%** of program days or more



**84%**

of participants indicated program satisfaction



**39%**

of participants demonstrated learning gains on state assessments



## The Children's Trust

The largest children's services council in Florida is The Children's Trust in Miami-Dade County. The Trust makes its largest investment each year in youth development programs for school-age children and youth to have enriching afterschool and summer experiences that are accessible, affordable and inclusive. In 2022-2023, Trust programs used evidence-based practices in reading, fitness, homework completion, and social and emotional learning skills; offered enrichment activities in arts, STEM, civic engagement, sports, entrepreneurship, job training and college readiness; and provided nutritious food and family involvement activities in 474 afterschool, summer camp and youth enrichment sites.



**36,055**

school-aged children and youth participated



**75%**

of participants are in elementary school



**87%**

of elementary school children improved literacy skills



**23%**

reported living with a disability



**75%**

of middle-high school youth improved their college readiness skills



**93%**

of middle-high school youth built knowledge and skills in entrepreneurship

The Summer Reading Explorers program is an example of a successful program funded by The Trust. It assessed 1,871 children during the summer before they entered kindergarten, first and second grades at 71 sites. It identified 1,188 as readers in need of small-group intervention, and over the course of the summer these children received an average of 16.6 sessions. Children demonstrated meaningful growth, with 75 percent of those post-tested demonstrating meaningful improvement (i.e., four or more-point improvement). Parents of participating children and camp program staff were highly satisfied with the services, and 99 percent of parents would recommend the program to others. In addition, 99 percent of parents reported their child increased their enthusiasm for reading.



**73%**

of middle-high School youth improved their art skills



# Deeper Purpose Community Church

Deeper Purpose Community Church, located in High Springs, Florida, operates an afterschool program for rural Alachua County. The program started in 2017 with just five students and has grown to 32 in 2023. As one of only two programs in the area, Deeper Purpose offers a valuable place for youth to get help with homework, explore their creativity with arts and crafts, take field trips, build financial literacy skills, and much more.

Deeper Purpose partners with other churches in the area, their local municipal government, schools and the Children's Trust of Alachua County to create a sustainable and much needed solution in their community. As they continue to grow, they hope to expand their space to better serve families, attract more children into their program, and grow their team dedicated to youth development and serving those in need.



## BRAG MOMENT

Deeper Purpose goes beyond just providing expanded learning opportunities. They help youth overcome major behavior issues by serving the whole child. They also recognize that to sustain behavior change, supporting the family is essential. This is why Deeper Purpose stays open later than other programs and prepares meals to send home to the working families they serve.

## R'Club

Since its founding in 1974, R'Club has been dedicated to serving the needs of youth throughout Pinellas County. With more than 48 sites across the county, R'Club responds to community needs and is a leader in the provision of youth development programs and services, serving more than 4,000 children and their families every day.

R'Club has set a standard for high-quality afterschool programs in the community. R'Club programs emphasize the importance of the Four R's: Respect, Responsibility, Resourcefulness, and Responsiveness to the needs of others. They provide quality early education, extended learning opportunities, and tutoring by certified teachers.

R'Club provides a wide variety of enrichment activities to youth participating in their programs. Activities include academic tutoring, homework help, and hands-on project-based learning experiences that are directly linked to what students are learning during the school-day. Students have the opportunity to take field trips to different areas in the community and learn from a diverse group of guest speakers.

As a staple in the Pinellas County community, R'Club works closely with local partners such as the University of South Florida's Chemistry Department, Tampa Bay Watch, Sub Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream, and more. Establishing strong partnerships allows R'Club to enrich learning opportunities for participating youth and remain connected to the communities in which students live.

Club staff believe in engaging youth in fun and exciting activities that disguise academic learning and teach valuable life skills, often through project-based learning.

In the last two years, R'Club has seen a steady increase in the number of children participating in their programs. They anticipate program enrollment will continue to increase, as the need for out-of-school time opportunities increases.

A major goal of R'Club, in partnership with Pinellas County Schools, is to expand its laptop program to ensure every child has a laptop to use for their schoolwork and projects.

*"They have fun things planned. The R'Club team members teach life lessons, independent skills, behavior management, and peer conflict. They work as a school-based liaison and help [my children] with homework and school projects. They encourage high self-esteem and many other things."*

*- quote from a parent of two children who attend an R'Club program*





# YMCA South Florida

YMCA South Florida is serving more than eight thousand youth across 80 different sites in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Their afterschool programs provide a safe place for kids to grow, learn and thrive. With the work they do, the YMCA is giving youth the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve.

The YMCA focuses on health, safety, social growth, and academic enrichment. They host afterschool programs in community centers and in schools featuring a range of activities focused on nutrition, physical education, college and career readiness, cultural arts, and daily homework help. By using methods like project-based learning, career explorations, and global learning, the YMCA afterschool programs offer youth well-rounded exciting ways to learn that are different from what students experience during the regular school day.

What makes the Y a stand out program is their focus on inclusivity and individuality. The YMCA South Florida accepts children, teens, and young adults with special needs into their program to empower them and give them a place where they feel like they belong. And by keeping their staff to student ratio low with no more than one teacher for every ten students, the Y offers unparalleled supports to the families they serve.



## BRAG MOMENT

During the summer 2023, YMCA South Florida hosted a backpack drive to prepare more than 2,000 students for the school year, providing school supplies, back to school immunizations, clothes, and more.



# Florida After School Supports the Field

Florida After School, Inc. advocates for and equips out-of-school time stakeholders with resources to build the profession and support high-quality programs for all children and youth. Its work includes a variety of initiatives focused on increasing the availability of high-quality afterschool, before school, holiday, and summer programs in Florida.



## Florida Standards for Quality Afterschool Programs

Florida After School works directly with afterschool providers to develop and keep current a set of standards that serve as the foundation for high-quality programs. The Florida Standards for Quality Afterschool Programs define the core principles and best practices that lead to the delivery of quality programming for children and youth in afterschool programs. The Standards provide a framework for the development of a caring, dynamic, stimulating and safe afterschool environment for children and youth. Implementation of the Standards is voluntary. Florida After School provides a tool to help programs self-assess their operations and offers support to programs improve their performance to align with the Standards.

## Technical Assistance & Resources

Florida After School maintains a robust library of resources for use by out-of-school time professionals. It provides access to current research on the field, leads for funding opportunities, and a weekly newsletter covering a variety of relevant topics.

In addition, it offers one-on-one technical assistance to afterschool providers through our Florida After School Membership Program. Technical assistance is available in person and virtually, and covers topics to increase organizational capacity including, but not limited to, the following topics:



- Understanding State and Local Government Funding
- Bylaws and Managing a Non-profit Board
- Grant Writing 101
- Budgeting 101
- Strategic Planning
- Contracts, Amendments and Deliverables
- Marketing and Social Media Outreach
- Deliverables and Programmatic Reporting
- Financial Reporting
- Policies and Procedures Development to Align with Quality Standards
- Advocacy and Community Engagement

## Professional Learning Options

Florida After School offers two professional learning options: the Florida After School Learning Academy Collaborative Learning Environment ® and Peer Learning Communities.

- The Florida After School Learning Academy Collaborative Learning Environment® is an interactive peer-to-peer learning environment that allows afterschool professionals to communicate, spread ideas, share resources, discuss topics and learn in a safe environment. The Academy is available online and contains hundreds of trainings to support high quality programming. The Afterschool

Certificate Series prepares out-of-school time professionals to deliver services that align with the Florida Standards for Quality Afterschool Programs. Specialized courses can also be developed for individual programs and made available only to their staff.

- Peer Learning Communities – also known as communities of practice or professional learning networks – bring together afterschool professionals to share knowledge, resources, and skills around specific topics. Florida After School currently offers Peer Learning Communities (PLCs) focused on STEM and Career and Technical Education.

## Annual Conference

Florida After School is the only statewide organization that is committed to advancing afterschool professionals. In addition to regional workshops, it hosts an annual conference in centrally located Orlando, Florida. The three-day event offers out-of-school time professionals networking opportunities, fresh ideas for youth engagement, strategies for business and staff development, and tools for local advocacy.

*For every child in an afterschool program, three more would participate if a program were available.*

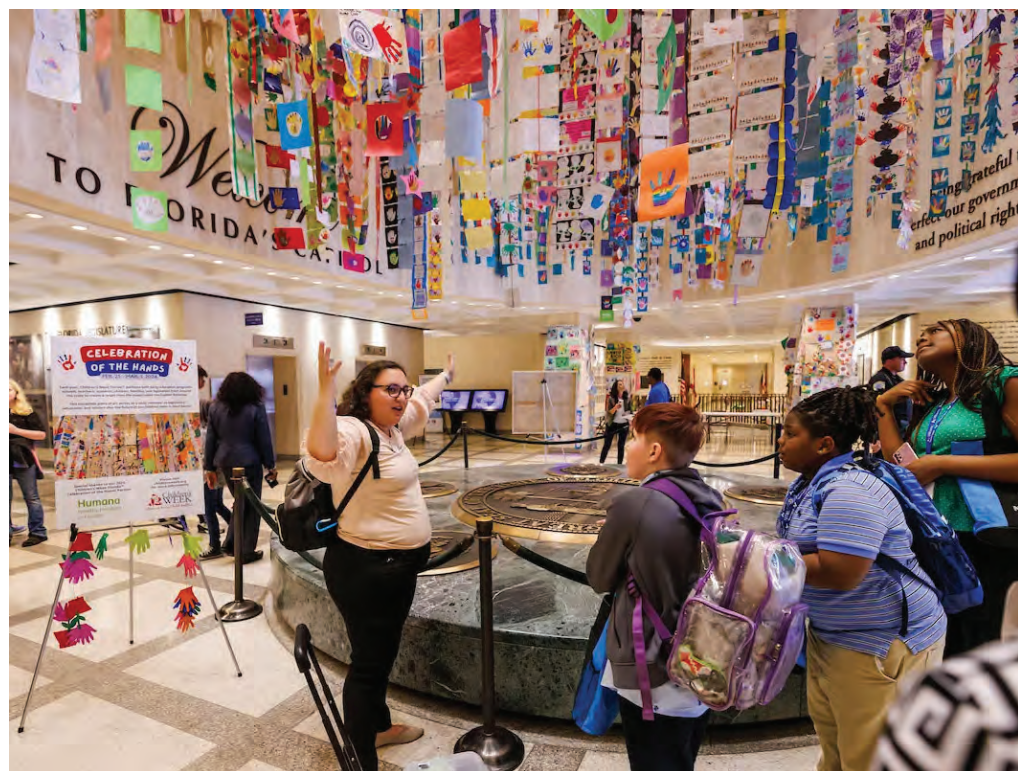
## Advocacy

Florida After School advocates for policies and sustainable funding to expand the availability and accessibility of out-of-school time programs by engaging communities and elevating public awareness on the benefits of high-quality out-of-school time programs.

Launched in October 2000, Lights On Afterschool is a nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families and communities. The effort has become a hallmark of the afterschool movement and generates media coverage across the country each year.

Every year, in collaboration with the national Afterschool Alliance, Florida After School works with local leaders across the state to “Light Up Local Landmarks,” pass local resolutions, and share on social media our commitment to shine a light on the millions more kids who need access to quality afterschool programs.

Florida After School coordinates the annual Teen Day at the Capitol, which brings more than a hundred middle and high school students from all over the state to Tallahassee. The event is a wonderful and engaging experience through which students get the opportunity to learn about the history of the legislature and the legislative process, tour the old and new state chambers, plus meet with lawmakers and lobbyists to discuss issues impacting youth in Florida.



## Moving Forward

Florida After School, Inc. has big plans for the future! Its Strategic Framework for 2023-2025 lays out ambitious but attainable goals and objectives across four categories:

### ADVOCACY



Florida After School is a highly valuable, credible, and visible leader supporting the out-of-school time field at the national and state level.

- Promote the value of out-of-school time programming.
- Develop and support statewide policies that benefit out-of-school time programs.
- Increase awareness of and promote value of the organization.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Florida After School is supported by an engaged and qualified out-of-school time workforce across the state.

- Provide regular recognition of excellence in the out-of-school time profession.
- Provide opportunities to advance the out-of-school time profession.
- Support peer learning communities among out-of-school time professionals and providers.
- Provide training and technical assistance for professional development and sustainability.

### PROGRAM QUALITY



Florida After School is a national leader in the development of innovative resources that positively impact the out-of-school time community.

- Identify and disseminate promising practices within the out-of-school time field.
- Identify, test, and replicate innovative practices in collaboration with OST partners.
- Engage in data collection and analysis to inform innovative practices in the OST field.

### SUSTAINABILITY



Florida After School is a strong and stable organization designed to lead Florida's out-of-school time community into the future.

- Recruit and retain OST advocates from various sectors to serve on the organization's various committees.
- Diversify funding to expand available services and support opportunities to the OST community.



# Our Partners

Florida After School is grateful for its many partners and agency members. These outstanding organizations continue to elevate the out-of-school time field for our state, and we are honored to work beside them in this space.



## Data Collection, Methodology and References

This report involved a multi-step approach to analyze the availability of and investment in afterschool programs and their relationship to key community indicators. We first collected data from the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Florida Department of Education (DOE), and statewide partners, including the Florida Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs, the Florida State Alliance of YMCAs, the Florida Recreation & Parks Association (FRPA), and the Florida Alliance of Children's Councils and Trusts (FACCT). We then mapped these data to identify afterschool program availability across Florida counties in comparison to the K-12 youth population. Finally, we conducted regression analysis to examine the relationships between afterschool program availability and key community indicators such as student absenteeism, youth arrests, out-of-school suspensions, school retention rates, and child welfare outcomes. The regression coefficients from this analysis highlight the strength and direction of these relationships.

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