



# Idaho Out-of-School Network

## Idaho Community Programs for Youth 2021-2022 Evaluation Report



### Afterschool and Summer Programs Help Youth

The Idaho Out-of-School Network (ION) provided \$1.26 million to afterschool and summer youth programs in 2021 and 2022. A study by the University of Utah Educational Policy Center (UEPC) offers strong evidence that these out-of-school youth programs helped kids both academically and socially.

ION made 33 financial awards to local youth programs across the state under a Community Programs for Youth grant from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW). Local awardees included public afterschool programs and community-based groups such as libraries, YMCAs and youth clubs. Funds were used for new and expanded youth programs and to help communities recover lost learning opportunities.

Funding for ION's grants was authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Act Plan (ARPSA) through the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.



Girl Scouts of Silver Sage

**Background:** UEPC was commissioned to evaluate the impacts of the ION granting program for families and youth.

Researchers reviewed the programs, conducted interviews, surveyed 262 parents and family members and 121 program staff.

Researchers were asked to see if afterschool and summer programs improved outcomes for Idaho kids and if those improvements would be sustainable over time.



**Finding #1:**  
Students improved academically in areas such as

class participation, homework completion and catching up on learning lost due to COVID-19 school closures. Scholarship funds and busing were especially important to their student's ability to participate.

Figure 16. Family perceptions of student academic outcomes

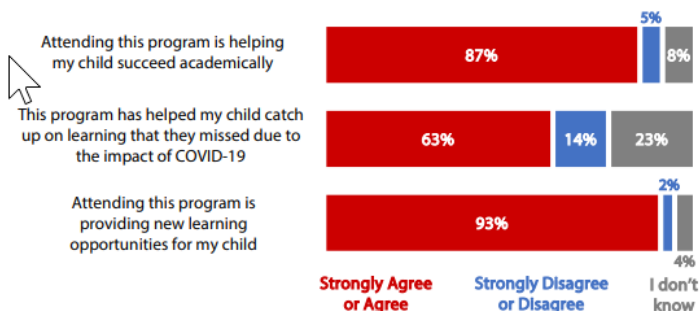


Figure 17. Percentage of staff survey respondents who observed improvement in participants' social-emotional learning competencies



**Finding #2:**  
Students in afterschool and summer programs

improved valuable social skills including self-awareness, relationship building, self-management and responsible decision-making.

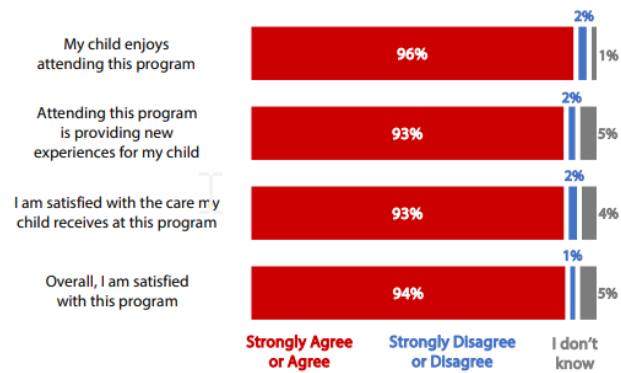


**Finding #3:**  
**Students enjoyed attending afterschool and summer programs. Many felt changed by their experience.**

According to one educator, “They’re not going to be dropouts. They’re not going to be lost in the system. They feel like they belong. They have a purpose.”

Another educator described the progress of a student this way: “He came not knowing how to interact with kids. He came not knowing how to play a game and lose with good sportsmanship. He has come so far.”

Figure 18. Family satisfaction with ICPFY program care and experiences for their children



Treasure Valley YMCA Taft Elementary



**Finding #4:**  
**Success, in part, stems from the fact that**

**afterschool and summer programs are using the professional best practices championed by ION to assure high quality programming. This includes training, technical assistance, and one-on-one coaching.**





**Finding #5: Concerns for long-term funding for afterschool and summer programs.**

UEPC found that program providers are concerned about financial sustainability. Federal one-time funds and special set-asides for afterschool and summer programs will be gone in 2024. Local schools and community partnerships can help maintain these programs.



CSI Refugee Program

Table 1. ICPFY programs' funding rounds

Program	Round I	Round II	Round III
Girl Scouts of Silver Sage (GSSS) Taft Elementary	X		
Lakeview Y Kids/Treasure Valley YMCA	X		
Marsing Academies/Marsing School District	X		X
PLCA 4 Kids/Payette Lakes Community Association	X		X
Basin School District	X*		
Emmett Middle School	X*		
Pinehurst After School Solution (PASS)/Kellogg School District	X*		
UpRiver Panther Afterschool Program	X*		
EXPLORE Afterschool Adventures/ Oneida School District	X	X*	
The Salvation Army Nampa Corps Youth Center	X	X*	
Girls on the Run Treasure Valley	X	X	X
Harwood Elementary/Jefferson School District	X	X	X
Boise Rock School/Juno Arts		X	
Club Invention/National Inventors Hall of Fame		X	
Girl Scouts of Silver Sage (GSSS) Teton Outdoor School		X	
Gooding Public Library		X	
Pirate Learning Center Afterschool Program/Notus School District		X	
Fired Up/American Falls School District		X	X
Hub City Initiative/Wendell School District		X	X
Girl Scouts of Silver Sage (GSSS) Camp Echo			X
CSI Refugee Program			X
Horseshoe Bend School District			X
Jefferson School District World Languages Program			X
Roots Forest School			X
Treasure Valley YMCA Taft Elementary			X
Treasure Valley YMCA Nampa Kids			X
Coeur d'Alene School District			X
Greater Middleton Parks and Recreation Department			X
Peaceful Belly Community Garden/Treasure Valley Food Coalition			X
Selkirk Outdoor Leadership & Education			X
Above & Beyond the Classroom			X
African Community Development			X
Donnelly Public Library			X

Note: Programs with an asterisk (\*) included a summer spending extension.



**Conclusions:**

"It is clear that these funds were used to provide

valuable program services for students and families. It is important to consider the increasing need for programs such as these throughout the state.

"As families and school personnel work to find ways to supplement instruction that has been interrupted over the past few years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, summer programs can be instrumental in the development of critical academic and social-emotional skills for youth of all ages, while supporting working families during the summer months."

[More information on local grant recipients](#)