

Idaho Status Report



2024 Facts about youth opportunities

A few years ago, only 9% of Idaho students regularly attended an afterschool or summer youth program. That number roughly doubled after 2021 because of federal ARPA funds. More than \$10 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds flowed through state and local agencies to bolster Idaho afterschool and summer youth programs.

The importance of afterschool and summer youth programs has never been higher. There is now a track record of success and momentum to expand these services. However, special one-time federal funds for will be finished in September, 2024.

National research shows that these programs help kids succeed and are valued by parents. A 2021 Boise State University study found that youth in these programs outperformed their peers in reading, homework completion, class participation and improved behavior.

The Idaho Out-of-School Network is now working with the Utha Educational Policy Center (UEPC) to evaluate how federal funds were spent in Idaho from 2022 through 2024 for out-of-school time youth programs.



Successful programs look to the future

The Idaho Out-of-School Network is part of a multi-year effort to increase youth programming in Idaho using funds from the America Rescue Plan Act. Partners include the Idaho Commission for Libraries, the STEM Action Center, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, and many Idaho school districts.



During the last two years, approximately 200 afterschool and summer programs received grants from ARPA Covid relief funds. These grants served at least 30,000 youth across Idaho and helped rural libraries, Boys and Girls clubs, 4-H clubs, schools and community groups. This grant program expires in September 2024. Future funding for many afterschool programs is uncertain.

Idaho's 21st Century Learning Center Youth Programs

Idaho has many affordable high-quality afterschool programs known as the 21st Century Learning Centers. Across the state, 5,964 children in 99 communities attend these learning centers. This funding stream continues but sites regularly compete for those limited 21st Century funds.



Focus on Fridays

Idaho youth programs must stretch to meet growing needs with smaller budgets. Idaho Education News reports that, as of March 2024, 50% of Idaho school districts and charters run on four-day weeks, impacting about 34% of the school population. Dozens of youth programs in rural communities including 21st Century Learning Centers, 4-H, libraries, Boys and Girls Clubs and YMCA's are focusing more of their programming on Fridays.

Utah Educational Policy Center Reviews Idaho out-of-school programs

Social-Emotional Learning Outcomes

Among staff survey respondents...



An external evaluation by the UEPC, found that 94% of Idaho educators surveyed believed youth attending afterschool programs had better class attendance and in-class behavior throughout the year.

The UEPC report shows how libraries, 4-H clubs, & Boys and Girls clubs, and other afterschool programs have blossomed. Idaho's youth programs used the federal funds to address unfinished learning and provided safe places for kids to thrive.



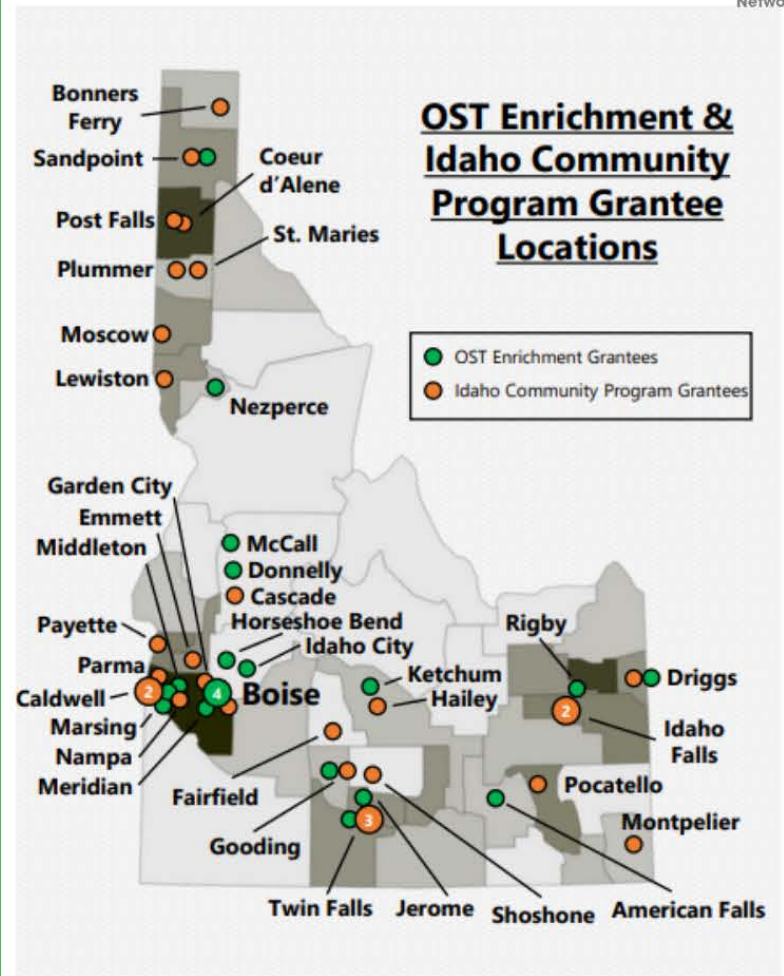
Afterschool and summer programs have grown across Idaho including Emmett, Payette, Rigby, Nampa, and several tribal communities. Federal set-aside funds for afterschool programs expire in September 2024. Many of these programs now face a funding cliff. Many Idaho programs now face tough decisions about cutting back services, reducing staff, and potentially closing their doors.

Where Funds Were Used:

Idaho Out-of-School Network and partner distributed federal funds to 50 Idaho organizations for quality afterschool youth programs for the 2022-2023 school year.

Youth received a variety of services including homework assistance, tutoring, language immersion, STEM activities, and other enrichment opportunities.

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare awarded approximately \$12,780,000 in federal grant funds to 29 youth programs across the state. ION awarded \$1,529,000 to an additional 21 youth programs. All 50 grantees received ION technical assistance to assure quality programming.



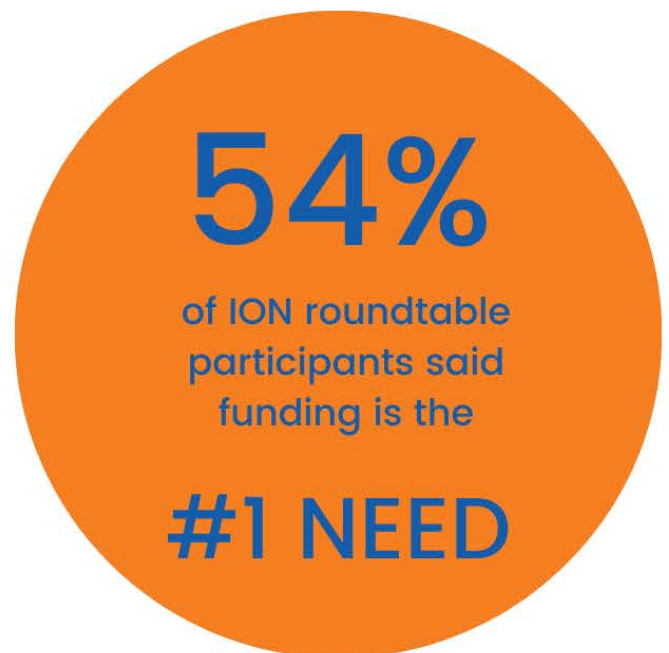
Challenges Ahead

Funding Alert:

One-time federal funds for afterschool expire in September 2024.

At this time, at least 21 other states have taken action and established dedicated funding for youth programs.

There is no dedicated state fund for afterschool or summer youth programs.



Our Impact

The Idaho Out-of-School Network supports a future where all youth in Idaho have equal access to quality afterschool and summer youth programs.



A Center for Excellence

The Idaho Out-of-School Network serves more than 4,000 educators: Providing training professional development, STEM education and benchmarks of quality .

ION helps families connect with over 500 afterschool and summer youth programs.

These programs and educators including librarians, youth program staff, and teachers serve 100,000 students each year.

ION has provided grants and other resources totaling more than \$5 million from 2022 through 2024.

Future for youth programs in Idaho

The Idaho Out-of-School Network believes that too many Idaho kids are missing out. The most recent America After 3PM Survey of families estimated that 49,044 Idaho kids were alone and unsupervised after school. Families and school districts need help to fill this gap. Idaho needs a strategy to support out-of-school time youth programs after special one-time ARPA funds are gone.



HOW TO HELP

Sign up for ION's newsletter: Join this community of advocates for out-of-school time programming. Go to: www.Idahooutofschool.org.

Share information: The Utah Educational Policy Center will release it's final evaluation of Idaho's out-of-school programming in the fall of 2024. Further research is needed to quantify needs and funding for these programs.

Become a champion supporting youth programs. Contact: Anna Almerico, director, Idaho Out-of-School Network, aalmerico@jannus.org