

Afterschool / Summer Programs & Funding Sources August 2023

Previous Programs:

- **Summer Matters, AOE/VAS:** \$4m in federal funding to support expanded learning for Vermont youth during summer 2021. Vermont Afterschool worked closely with the AOE & the Governor's office to establish and administer the grant program, which prioritized summer learning sites that reached students with disabilities or unique needs; provided transportation; and offered low- or no-cost programs for eligible students. The goal was for all youth to have access to a summer camp to be able reengage post-pandemic and remote learning.

Impact by the numbers.

- **92** subrecipients across the state
 - **12,877** youth served
 - **5,528** new slots created
 - **1,313** youth with special needs served
 - **492** high school & college-aged young people were able to work in summer programs, gaining valuable skills.
- **Expanding Access Grants, AOE/VAS:** In late winter 2022, the Agency of Education leveraged an additional \$4.23M in ESSER II funds, and the Task Force identified Vermont Afterschool to administer the Afterschool and Summer Expanding Access Grant for summer 2022, afterschool 2022-2023, and part of summer 2023. The Agency of Education recently awarded us additional funds bringing the total investment for this grant program to \$4.7M and 50 grantees.

Summer 2022 Impact.

- **6,468** unique youth served
- **1,234** new program slots created
- **81** additional weeks of programming

Grantees are wrapping up their final expenses and narrative reports. VTA will create a report later this fall for AOE with final impact data.

Current Programs:

- **Room for Me Grant Opportunity, DCF/VAS:** <https://vermontafterschool.org/room/>. Deadline to apply for this round of funding was August 8th. Vermont Afterschool bid for the Child Development Division's project to increase school-age child care capacity by:
 - Expanding the amount of child care capacity throughout Vermont;
 - Increasing school-age slots in year-round child care programs;
 - Increasing the number of programs that accept CCFAP thereby expanding opportunities for Vermont children and youth; and
 - Supporting the child care needs of families, especially in underserved communities.

Over the last two years, 260 new spaces have been created with this funding. The current grantees (funded in January) have largely received extensions to November to finish their projects, mostly due to challenges with timing with contractors. The next round should be awarded by September 8th.

- **Summer of STEM/STEAM, AOE:** With \$700,000, AOE is working to support several summer STEM offerings, camps and programs for K-12 students. In-person projects in the works include summer programming through UVM 4-H, FIRST Robotics, and The Generator. AOE is also engaged in discussions to support virtual STEM camps for students that teach Computer Science, particularly in the coding areas, for students ages 7-17.
 - *Data snap shot: Any data updates yet on total youth served, tuition reduced (all free, correct?) slot expansion, etc?*
- **21C, AOE:** [21C Funded Sites 2022-23 \(vermont.gov\)](https://www.vermont.gov). Annually, more than 10,000 youth and 5000 regular attendees are served in 95 high needs communities across the state. Programs are expected to complement, but not duplicate the school day. Annual or semi-annual grant competitions are held to support this vision.
 - *Data Snapshot + AOE – didn't we receive additional 21C money within the past year?*
- **Career Foundations Pilot, VAS:** Career Foundations is a career exploration program for middle school youth that includes community involvement, through field trips and guest speakers, and a curriculum that leads youth through career exploration, financial literacy, and skill development. The pilot is running this summer with 4 sites across Vermont and the Youth Employment/Career Exploration subcommittee has been working with VAS to execute.
 - *Data snapshot*
- **Summer Career Exploration Program, DAIL:** Sustainable model for both students and staff. Provide high school youth with disabilities with summer work experience and training that will facilitate success in life after school. The goal is to connect youth with an exciting summer career opportunity based on their interests, strengths and skills— all meant to create a meaningful experience for both youth and employers.
 - All programs typically run 5 weeks, and serve approx. 130 youth
- **Northern Lights:** CDD supports Northern Lights at the Community College of Vermont to serve as the hub of professional development system for the early childhood and afterschool professionals in Vermont. This includes setting the standards for afterschool program staff and relevant training and credentials. The National Afterschool Associations Core Competencies and Knowledge were recently adopted as the basis of Vermont' professional development for afterschool programs. All staff in any licensed programs must maintain an Individualized Professional Development Plan (IPDP) in order to verify their required 15 hours of training per year. Northern Lights also offers targeted

training for afterschool professionals, as well as an “Afterschool Pathways” which can provide a recognized credential as an afterschool professional.

- **Quality Recognition and Improvement:** All licensed Afterschool programs are included in the STARS program. Program that increase STARS earn bonuses and are eligible for additional programs and grants from CDD. Beginning in Fall 2023, afterschool programs can benefit from a new System for Program Access to Resources and Quality Supports (SPARQS) funded by CDD and run by the Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VTAEYC) with collaboration from Vermont Afterschool. SPARQS will offer program assessments and quality improvement supports – including coaching and mentoring – for afterschool programs.
 - **Various Other State Programs:**
 - National Summer Transportation Institute, AOT
 - Green Mountain Conservation Camps, ANR
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Upcoming:

- **Cannabis Funds:** \$4m in Cannabis Funds
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Support Work/Background:

- **Afterschool and Summer Program Map Survey:** <https://www.cognitofrms.com/VermontAfterschool/AfterschoolAndSummerProgramMapData>. This initiative is meant to support the Committee's understanding of the landscape (at least on an interim basis) and is supported by interns with the Governor's Office and Vermont Afterschool.
- **Afterschool Programming Quality Guidelines:** Planned roll out for October, alongside the NAA Core Competencies and Knowledge areas that have just been adopted by CDD for individual professionals.
- **CDD Licensing:** The Child Development Division licenses 703 child care program sites serving school-age children during the summer, afterschool, or at other times when school is not open. These sites are licensed to serve 13,000 children, though the combined desired capacity is closer to 11,000. This includes:
 - 144 Afterschool Programs
 - 154 Center-Based Child Care Programs
 - 17 Licensed Family Child Care Homes, and
 - 388 Registered Family Child Care Homes.

38 of these programs operate only during the school year; 7 operate only during the summer; the remainder are open year-round. (Detailed spreadsheet available.)

Programs that are licensed by the Child Development Division are eligible to receive Child Care Financial Assistance Program payments on behalf of eligible families. As on May 2023, approximately 2,000 children (~18% of children served) received CCFAP benefits.

- **Child Care Financial Assistance and Specialized Child Care:** There are currently 111 afterschool providers across the state who have completed the training to provide Specialized Child Care. These programs receive an increased CCFAP reimbursement for child in their care who are eligible for Specialized Child Care.
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