

The Need for Increased Funding for Afterschool Programming

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS EMPOWER FAMILIES AND BOOST THE BOTTOM LINE



9 IN 10 VOTERS THINK PROGRAMS:

- Strengthen families' economic well-being
- Help parents work
- Allow parents to provide for their families



85%
of Utah parents support public funding for afterschool programs

LACK OF AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMMING COST U.S. BUSINESSES



\$300 BILLION

Annually due to lack of productivity

GROWING DEMAND, DECLINING RESOURCES

Afterschool programming plays a critical role in supporting children, families, and communities across Utah. **These programs help parents remain in the workforce, reduce strain on employers, keep children safe during out-of-school hours, and provide meaningful, real-world learning opportunities** that build life skills and prepare youth for future careers.

Despite increasing demand statewide, funding cuts have significantly reduced access to afterschool programs. Throughout the state, programs have faced closures and reduced capacity, limiting the number of available spots for kids, leaving families who utilize these programs without safe options after school. In Southern Utah, the transition to a four-day school week in Iron County has created a crisis for working parents, escalating the need for flexibility and more afterschool options. Statewide, **an estimated 300,000 children would participate in afterschool programs** if they were available and accessible. However, due to current funding limitations, these children are unable to receive the support they need.

OUR ASK & THE SOLUTION

Afterschool programs play a critical role in supporting children, families, and communities across Utah. **Utah Afterschool Network (UAN) has identified a statewide need for a \$10 million ongoing investment** in afterschool programming to fill a large gap in programmatic need and acting as critical funding for communities. Programs support:

- Workforce development, college preparedness and career readiness programs
- Substance use and teenage pregnancy prevention
- Reduced school absenteeism
- Mental health and overall wellbeing, Academic support and enrichment, Physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

