



Requester Information

Legislator Name: Romero, Angela

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Section 1: Requester Details

Description:

Utah's afterschool and summer programs are facing reduced capacity and closures due to rising operating costs, declining state support, and an increasingly competitive federal funding landscape, leaving working families without safe, affordable care. Recent grant competitions for CCDF, TANF, and 21st Century Community Learning Center funds revealed a \$28.9 million funding gap, resulting in 50 afterschool programs that were unable to receive public support for essential operations. Public investment is critical to keeping programs affordable and high quality, with 9 in 10 voters recognizing their role in supporting working families and 85 percent of Utah parents supporting public funding. Demand far exceeds supply, as an estimated 300,000 Utah children would participate in afterschool programs if access were available. The Utah Afterschool Network requests a \$10,000,000 appropriation to fund up to 40 afterschool and summer program sites through a competitive grant process, supporting high-quality programs that improve academic outcomes, workforce readiness, mental health, and overall youth well-being.

Legislative designee contact information:

Name: Ben Trentelman

Organization: The Utah Afterschool Network

Position: Executive Director

Section 2: Funding Information

How will the appropriation be used?



Afterschool and Summer Program Gap Fund

Economic and Community Development

Category	One-time	Ongoing
Personnel Services	2026: \$0.00 2027: \$0.00	\$120,000.00
In-State Travel	2026: \$0.00 2027: \$0.00	\$15,000.00
Out-of-State Travel	2026: \$0.00 2027: \$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Equipment	2026: \$0.00 2027: \$0.00	\$5,000.00
Technology Purchases	2026: \$0.00 2027: \$0.00	\$2,000.00
Infrastructure/Capital Investments	2026: \$0.00 2027: \$0.00	\$0.00
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2026: \$0.00 2027: \$0.00	\$9,800,000.00

Expenditure Total

One-time 2026	One-time 2027	Ongoing 2027
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,942,000.00

Funding Sources:

Income Tax Fund

Amount Requested:

2026 (One-time)	\$0.00
2027 (One-time)	\$0.00
2027 (Ongoing)	\$9,942,000.00

Revenue Total



One-time 2026	One-time 2027	Ongoing 2027
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,942,000.00

Is this a multi-year project?

Yes

Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?

Yes

A short explanation describing how the project might be scaled?

If the project does not receive the full requested amount, it will be scaled to serve fewer program sites and youth while prioritizing communities with the highest demonstrated need. Afterschool and summer providers rely on public funds for nearly 60 percent of their budgets and have historically leveraged partnerships with municipalities, local businesses, philanthropic organizations, and private donors to close funding gaps. However, tightening municipal budgets, declining charitable giving, and limited family ability to absorb higher fees constrain providers' capacity to backfill reduced state support. While the project would not be fully scalable without full funding, any state investment will ease pressure on the broader childcare system and expand access to high-quality programs. The Utah Afterschool Network will continue supporting providers in securing supplemental private and local funding to maximize impact.

Section 3: Agency Information

Subjects:

Economy

00790

Agency:

600 / Workforce Services

Type of entity to receive pass-through funding:

Private Not for Profit



Grant recipient

Yes

Requested Direct Award Grant Recipient

The Utah Afterschool Network

Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement

Who would benefit the most from this request (who is the target audience)?

This request would directly benefit Utah youth, working families, and the state's economy by expanding access to high-quality afterschool and summer programs. Parents of more than 348,000 Utah children want afterschool options, and nearly 290,000 kids would participate if a program were available, gaining safe environments that build social skills, leadership, critical thinking, and overall well-being while reducing screen time. Families benefit through increased stability, with 70 percent of parents reporting programs help them keep their job or work more hours and 92 percent experiencing reduced stress knowing their children are safe. Employers and the broader economy also benefit, as reliable afterschool care improves worker productivity and helps mitigate the estimated \$300 billion nationwide in annual business losses linked to inadequate childcare access.

What is this project or program intended to accomplish?

The project is intended to expand access to high-quality afterschool and summer programs for Utah youth by stabilizing and strengthening program operations statewide. It will help close critical funding gaps so programs can remain affordable, retain qualified staff, and serve more children in communities with the greatest need. Funded sites will implement evidence-based practices that support academic achievement, social and emotional development, workforce readiness, and overall youth well-being. By increasing program availability and quality, the project will also support working families and reduce strain on Utah's broader childcare system.

How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?

The Legislature will know the project is successful through measurable participation, outcome, and quality indicators reported by funded programs and compiled by the Utah Afterschool Network. In addition to tracking the number of sites funded, youth served, and communities reached, program quality will be assessed using UAN's suite of internal and external assessment tools, on-site observations, and continuous improvement supports. The Utah Education Policy Center will partner with UAN to administer program surveys, assessments, and evaluations that measure academic, social-emotional, and workforce-related outcomes. Annual reports will provide transparent data on program quality, family and workforce impacts, fiscal accountability, and overall return on investment.

Section 5: Other Supporting Documents

Intent Language Documents

Previous Funding Documents

Full Time Employees

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