

# Funding

## Funding Considerations for Afterschool Programs

Before pursuing funding opportunities, it is crucial to develop a comprehensive budget that outlines your program's projected expenses, identifies existing funding sources, and highlights any financial gaps that need to be addressed. Budgeting in advance ensures more strategic and targeted fundraising efforts.

When planning for your afterschool program, consider two primary categories of costs: Program Costs and Systemwide (Infrastructure) Costs

### Program Costs

#### Start-Up Costs (One-time expenses)

- Program Planning
- Needs Assessment
- Staff Training
- Staff Recruitment and Hiring
- Equipment and Supplies
- Facility Preparation

#### Operating Costs (Ongoing expenses)

- Salaries and Benefits for Program Director and Staff
- Administrative Support
- Food and Nutrition Services
- Program Supplies and Materials
- Facility Operations (including utilities, if applicable)
- Transportation (e.g., additional busing needs)
- Evaluation and Reporting

#### Additional Liability Insurance (if required)

#### Systemwide / Infrastructure Costs

- Strategic Planning
- Professional Development for Staff
- Technical Assistance and Support
- Licensing and Subsidy Management

#### Program Evaluation and Monitoring

#### Funding Sources

There is no universal funding model that fits every afterschool program or community. Each program must determine the right balance of funding sources based on its unique context. Potential sources include:

- Public Funding (local, state, and federal grants)
- Parent Fees (as appropriate)
- In-Kind Contributions (e.g., donated space, materials, or services)
- Private Foundations
- Business and Corporate Sponsorships
- Community-Based Contributions

Securing a diverse funding base not only enhances financial stability but also enables the program to remain accessible and sustainable over time. Leveraging local, state, and federal funding streams can be particularly helpful in offsetting parent fees and ensuring program affordability.

## Engaging Local Partners and Diversifying Funding Sources

When developing a sustainable funding strategy for your afterschool program, engaging local partners is a vital step. Local businesses, nonprofit organizations, civic groups, and educational institutions can provide valuable support—both in-kind and financial—that can significantly offset program costs and enhance service delivery. Establishing strategic partnerships strengthens community ties and broadens the base of support for your program.

## Student Fee Structures

Charging student participation fees can be an important revenue stream, but it must be balanced with a commitment to accessibility. Fees should reflect the financial realities of the families you serve and be designed to avoid excluding students who would most benefit from participation. Several flexible fee models are available:

- **Flat Fees:** A consistent rate charged on an hourly, daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or annual basis. Prepayment may be required.
- **Flat Fees with Flexibility:** Offers customized payment plans and family discounts, making participation more accessible for households with multiple children or financial hardship.
- **Sliding Scale Fees:** Fees are adjusted based on a family's income and ability to pay, often determined using free or reduced-price lunch eligibility or other financial indicators.
- **Scholarship Programs:** Scholarships are offered in addition to any fee model to ensure students from low-income households can participate. Families may apply directly, or educators may nominate students.
- **Child Care Subsidies:** Families that qualify can receive government subsidies to reduce their out-of-pocket costs. These payments are typically made directly to the program by the state, with parents responsible only for a portion based on income and household size.

**1 in 3** Students are waiting to get into an afterschool program

## **State and Federal Grant Opportunities**

The Missouri Department of Education, Office of Childhood, administers several key grant programs to support the development and operation of quality afterschool and summer learning programs:

- 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC): The largest federal funding source for afterschool programs, authorized under Title IV, Part B of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Funds are allocated to states by the U.S. Department of Education and distributed through a competitive grant process.
- School-Age Community (SAC) Grants: Funded through the Child Care Development Fund, administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These grants support child care and development services for school-aged children.
- Missouri Comprehensive Afterschool (MOCAL) Grants: Funded through Missouri's state general revenue, MOCAL grants provide additional resources for local afterschool initiatives.

## **Foundation and Community-Based Grants**

Community foundations serve as public charities that manage donor funds and issue grants to support local initiatives. These organizations often focus on education, youth development, and community enrichment—making them ideal funding partners for afterschool programs. Programs should also engage with local affiliates of United Way, which may offer grant funding, in-kind support, or partnership opportunities. Both avenues can serve as valuable sources of long-term support.