



# Afterschool and Summer Learning: A City Strategy for Public Safety

**Public safety**  
**remains a top concern among city officials.<sup>i</sup>**

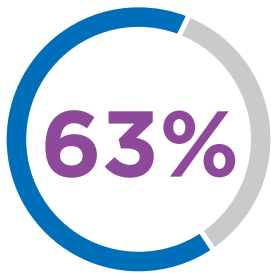
While intervention and law enforcement strategies are necessary to keep cities safe, mayors, city councilmembers, and other local elected officials can use afterschool and summer programs as a cost-effective prevention and youth development strategy, providing positive supervised learning opportunities for youth of all ages. Research shows that afterschool programs can keep children safe, reduce behaviors that might jeopardize public safety, and keep young people on track for a successful adulthood.

## CITY CHALLENGE:

Despite recent drops in juvenile involvement in crime, lack of supervision and enrichment opportunities for children and youth after school can still undermine public safety.

**\$112,555**

Annual cost to **taxpayers** of incarcerating a single youth.<sup>ii</sup>



of **VIOLENT CRIMES** by juveniles occur on school days; nearly one-fifth occur between **3 p.m. and 7 p.m.**<sup>iii</sup>

**5x** Incidents of violence by juveniles are more likely to occur during the afterschool hours than at night (after 10pm) or during school hours.<sup>v</sup>

## CITY SOLUTION:

High-quality afterschool programs help to prevent violence and reduce the likelihood that young people will engage in risk-taking or criminal behaviors.

**\$4,000 to \$5,000**

Average annual cost to serve one child in a high-quality afterschool program.<sup>iv</sup>



- Afterschool programs can provide a **return of \$3 to \$13 for every \$1 invested** by generating higher incomes, higher tax payments and lower crime rates.<sup>vi</sup>
- Comprehensive afterschool programs with mentoring and group counseling can **decrease violent crime arrests by 44%** and **vandalism and weapons crime by 36%** among youth.<sup>vii</sup>
- **69% of police chiefs** agree that afterschool programs are **the most effective strategies for reducing juvenile crime**.<sup>viii</sup>

## CITY PROGRAM EXAMPLES:

### LA's BEST Los Angeles, CA

Launched in 1988 by Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, LA's BEST was created to address a rising trend of low adult supervision of children between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. For 30 years, this program – a partnership between the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), and the private sector – has provided safe, supervised afterschool learning, enrichment, and recreation programs for children ages 5 to 12.

Serving over 25,000 children at 193 elementary schools in at-risk communities, all sites feature a variety of activities – spanning literacy, math, science, athletic, arts, health, and fitness – as well as opportunities to take special field trips and attend citywide events throughout the year.

Evaluations<sup>ix</sup> of LA's BEST found that students with **medium involvement** were **30 percent less likely to commit a crime** than peers who did not attend the program. Students with high involvement were **50 percent less likely to commit a crime**.

**Dropout rates among participants were 20 percent lower** than the overall district dropout rate. **Nearly three-fourths** of LA's BEST students reported higher academic achievement when they received help with homework. LA's BEST students exhibit greater middle school gains in math, language arts, science, and history the longer they attend the program in elementary school. Advantages also include better attendance, improved grades, and higher state test scores in math and algebra.

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**“Every child deserves a safe and welcoming place to learn and play after the bell rings. LA's BEST is America's finest after school program – and I'm proud that my office is giving our kids the academic, enrichment and recreational resources they need to succeed in and out of the classroom, all at no cost to parents. The enrichment provided by LA's BEST supports healthy families and neighborhoods all over the city.”**

*— The Honorable Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles, CA*

### Expanded Learning Opportunities Network Grand Rapids, MI

Serving 21,000 children across 180 sites in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Network is a community collaboration of over 60 organizations dedicated to quality afterschool programs. Created by Mayor John Logie in 2001, championed by Mayor George Heartwell throughout

his 12-year mayoral tenure, and supported by current Mayor Rosalynn Bliss, this city-school district partnership has established afterschool programs at each of the 37 elementary, middle, and high schools in the Grand Rapids school district.

Recognized as a Model Collaborative by the Michigan Afterschool Partnership (MASP), the ELO Network has affected positive change in youth throughout the Grand Rapids area.

Based on a 2016 analysis, children in grades K-12 who participated in ELO Network programs attended school at significantly higher rates. **ELO African-American youth were 1.5 times as likely to meet or exceed expectations in math than non-participants. 99 percent of all ELO participants did not appear on the Grand Rapids juvenile offense police reports.**



# CITY CHALLENGE:

Children and youth are at greater risk of becoming victims of violence during afterschool hours, especially if they are alone.



**11.3 million**

school-age children are alone **20-25 hours per week** after school.<sup>x</sup>

Of these children, **800,000** are in grades **K-5** and **2.2 million** are in middle school.<sup>xi</sup>

The risk that juveniles will be victims of violence is **60% greater in the four hours after school** than in the period from 8 p.m. to midnight on non-school days.<sup>xii</sup>

**66% of young people nationwide** wish there were more safe places they could hang out and have fun.<sup>xiii</sup>

# CITY SOLUTION:

Afterschool programs can keep children and youth safe, limiting their exposure to violence and bullying while their parents are at work.



- In 2014, nearly **25 percent of families and 18 percent of children** relied on afterschool programs to fill the gap between the end of the school day and when parents return home from work.<sup>xiv</sup>
- **1.8 million students** in high-poverty and high-crime neighborhoods across 54 states and U.S. territories participated in federal 21st Century Community Learning Center grant funded afterschool programs in 2017, keeping these children and youth safer and more engaged during these critical hours.<sup>xv</sup>

**84%** of parents surveyed nationwide support public funding for afterschool programs.<sup>xvi</sup>

## CITY PROGRAM EXAMPLES:

### Fort Worth After School and Intersections Fort Worth, TX

Founded in 2000, the Fort Worth After School (FWAS) program provides approximately 9,500 daily participants with high quality, structured afterschool enrichment programs across 79 sites. The initiative is funded through partial proceeds from a **five-time voter-approved half-cent city sales tax for crime prevention** combined with Fort Worth Independent School District's federal 21st Century Community Learning Center grants. Annual

commitments of \$1.3 million from the City of Fort Worth and \$1.75 million from the Fort Worth School District has kept FWAS programs free to all students for 17 years.

FWAS boasts a proven track record of success. According to a report on the 2016–2017 school year, **69 percent of students say the program keeps them out of trouble**, with 74 percent reporting that it is the best possible thing they could be doing after school. More than 80 percent of parents state their children are getting in less trouble in school and behaving better at home.

A new strategy to enhance the program provides individualized access to social and emotional support. Championed by Mayor Betsy Price, a partnership with Fort Worth SPARC (Strengthening afterschool Programs through Advocacy, Resources and Collaboration) provides 140 FWAS students access to the Intersections program, where in-school teachers regularly communicate student needs with afterschool faculty, improving school attendance, grades, behavior, self-esteem, and parent engagement. The Fort Worth Police Department also sponsors 50 Intersections students to play football in a new league to keep them safe and engaged three evenings a week.

### Promise South Salt Lake South Salt Lake, Utah

Promise South Salt Lake (SSL) is a city initiative created by Mayor Cherie Wood that works in partnership with United Way of Salt Lake and many other organizations to implement specialized programs and services that support academic, physical, civic, social, and emotional youth success. SSL has a citywide system that offers afterschool programs to more than 2800 youth in the city's 14 neighborhood centers. Daily activities include homework help/tutoring, dinner, recreation/sports, break dancing, boxing, clubs, STEM, model prevention curriculums and much more. The meaningful relationships that

youth develop with their group leaders, college-age mentors, nonprofit partners and community leaders help build resiliency to counter the multiple risk factors they face including academic risk, struggling families, neighborhood attachment and gang involvement. **Since launching the afterschool programs in 2007 and adopting a citywide system in 2011, South Salt Lake City has seen the risk of gang involvement among eighth-graders dramatically drop from 25.6 percent in 2007 to 7.2 percent in 2015.** South Salt Lake's youth crime rate between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m. has **decreased 64 percent** from 2007 to 2015. The number of **youth on track for high school graduation has increased 50 percent** since 2012.

**"I support our afterschool programs because I believe they are the heart of tremendous innovation, success and momentum that have driven our community toward success. What I want for myself and my family, I want for every person in our community."**

— *The Honorable Cherie Wood,  
Mayor, City of South Salt Lake, Utah*





## CITY CHALLENGE:

Lack of adult role models, inadequate social and emotional support, and boredom also contribute to self-destructive behaviors among children and youth.

- In high-poverty communities, **more than half of all students require extra social and emotional support**, but schools can only provide this support to an estimated 15 percent of students.<sup>xvii</sup>
- **Students without positive role models** are 11 percent more likely to use drugs and 27 percent more likely to start drinking alcohol.<sup>xviii</sup>

Self-care and boredom increase drug and alcohol use as much as **50 percent** among youth between the ages of 12 and 15.<sup>xix</sup>

## CITY PROGRAM EXAMPLE:

### New York City Mentoring Program (NYCMP) New York, NY

Founded in 1983 and coordinated by the New York City Department of Education's Office of Strategic Partnerships, the New York City Mentoring Program (NYCMP) serves more than 1,200 participants in over 25 high schools across all five boroughs of the city each year. Mentor volunteers provide one-on-one, afterschool mentoring to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

During the 2012-13 academic year, 97 percent of NYCMP seniors graduated from high school, 97 percent of NYCMP graduates enrolled in college, 89 percent of NYCMP mentees learned about different career options from their mentors, 96 percent of mentees said they were glad they became a mentee, and 94 percent of mentors said they benefited from participating in the program.

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# CITY SOLUTION:

**Afterschool programs help build trusting bonds with caring adults, mentors, and role models, thereby supporting positive life choices by young people.**

- A national survey<sup>xx</sup> of 1,000 youth demonstrated that those with a close role model **skipped 52 percent fewer days of school, missed 37 percent fewer classes**, and were:
  - **85 percent** less likely to hit someone;
  - **46 percent** less likely to start using drugs; and
  - **27 percent** less likely to start drinking alcohol.
- Youth report that **emotional support from adult staff is the most significant factor** leading to positive assessments, including improved work habits, stronger task persistence, and pro-social behavior with peers.<sup>xxi</sup>
- **83 percent** of parents with a child in an afterschool program say programs can help reduce suicide risk, drug use, and teen pregnancy.<sup>xxii</sup>

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**“I’m one of more than 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs and prosecutors who are urging federal lawmakers to maintain funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program administered through the U.S. Department of Education.** We do so based on our belief in afterschool programs and on the research, which shows high-quality programs can provide a return of \$3 to \$13 for every dollar that’s invested. That’s yet another reason why expanding ...funding for afterschool programs is a smart choice for kids today and for public safety in the years to come.” <sup>xxiii</sup>

— **Keith Humphrey, Police Chief, Norman, OK**

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## ABOUT THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES:

NLC is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. NLC serves as a resource and advocate for more than 19,000 cities and towns and more than 218 million Americans. The NLC Institute for Youth, Education, and Families helps municipal leaders act on behalf of the children, youth and families in their communities. NLC launched the YEF Institute in January 2000 in recognition of the unique and influential roles that mayors, city councilmembers and other local leaders play in strengthening families and improving outcomes for children and youth.

## THE 50-STATE AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK

Thanks to the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, every state has an organization dedicated to broadening afterschool and summer learning opportunities for youth. Find your state network below. Tap them as an expert resource to support children in your city and join their efforts to improve programs, policies, and expand local, state, and federal funding.

- **Alabama Afterschool Community Network**  
[alacn.org](http://alacn.org)
- **Alaska Afterschool Network**  
[akafterschool.org](http://akafterschool.org)
- **Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence**  
[azafterschool.org](http://azafterschool.org)
- **Arkansas Out of School Network**  
[www.aosn.org](http://www.aosn.org)
- **California AfterSchool Network**  
[afterschoolnetwork.org](http://afterschoolnetwork.org)
- **Colorado Afterschool Partnership**  
[coloradoafterschoolpartnership.org](http://coloradoafterschoolpartnership.org)
- **Connecticut After School Network**  
[ctafterschoolnetwork.org](http://ctafterschoolnetwork.org)
- **Delaware Afterschool Network**
- **Florida Afterschool Network**  
[myfan.org](http://myfan.org)
- **Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network**  
[afterschoolga.org](http://afterschoolga.org)
- **Hawaii Afterschool Alliance**  
[hawaiiatafterschoolalliance.org](http://hawaiiatafterschoolalliance.org)
- **Idaho Afterschool Network**  
[idahoatafterschool.org](http://idahoatafterschool.org)
- **Illinois-ACT NOW: Afterschool for Children and Teens**  
[actnowillinois.org](http://actnowillinois.org)
- **Indiana Afterschool Network**  
[indianaafterschool.org](http://indianaafterschool.org)
- **Iowa Afterschool Alliance**  
[iowaatafterschoolalliance.org](http://iowaatafterschoolalliance.org)
- **Kansas Enrichment Network**  
[kansasenrichment.net](http://kansasenrichment.net)
- **Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance**  
[kyoutofschoolalliance.org](http://kyoutofschoolalliance.org)
- **Louisiana Center for Afterschool Learning**  
[laafterschool.weebly.com](http://laafterschool.weebly.com)
- **Maine AfterSchool Network**  
[maineatafterschool.org](http://maineatafterschool.org)
- **Maryland Out of School Time Network**  
[mdoutofschooltime.org](http://mdoutofschooltime.org)
- **Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership**  
[massafterschool.org](http://massafterschool.org)
- **Michigan After-School Partnership**  
[miafterschool.org](http://miafterschool.org)
- **Minnesota - Ignite Afterschool**  
[igniteafterschool.org](http://igniteafterschool.org)
- **Mississippi Statewide Afterschool Partnership**
- **Missouri AfterSchool Network**  
[moafterschool.org](http://moafterschool.org)
- **Montana Afterschool Alliance**  
[mtafterschoolalliance.org](http://mtafterschoolalliance.org)
- **Nebraska - Beyond School Bells**  
[beyondschoolbells.org](http://beyondschoolbells.org)
- **Nevada Afterschool Network**  
<http://www.nvafterschool.org>
- **New Hampshire Afterschool Network**  
<https://www.nhafterschool.org>
- **New Jersey School-Age Care Coalition**  
[njacc.org](http://njacc.org)
- **New Mexico Out of School Time Network**  
[nmost.org](http://nmost.org)
- **New York - Network for Youth Success**  
[networkforyouthsuccess.org](http://networkforyouthsuccess.org)
- **North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs**  
[ncafterschool.org](http://ncafterschool.org)
- **North Dakota Afterschool Network**  
[ndafterschoolnetwork.com](http://ndafterschoolnetwork.com)
- **Ohio Afterschool Network**  
[ohioafterschoolnetwork.org](http://ohioafterschoolnetwork.org)
- **Oklahoma Partnership for Expanded Learning Opportunities**  
[opelok.org](http://opelok.org)
- **Oregon ASK**  
[oregonask.org](http://oregonask.org)
- **Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network**  
[psaydn.org](http://psaydn.org)
- **Rhode Island - Afterschool Leadership Circle (ALC)**  
[uwrri.org/take-action/join-us/afterschool-leadership-circle/](http://uwrri.org/take-action/join-us/afterschool-leadership-circle/)
- **South Carolina Afterschool Alliance**  
[scafterschool.com](http://scafterschool.com)
- **South Dakota Afterschool Partnership**
- **Tennessee Afterschool Network**  
[tnafterschool.org](http://tnafterschool.org)
- **Texas Partnership for Out of School Time**  
[txpost.org](http://txpost.org)
- **Utah Afterschool Network**  
[utahafterschool.org](http://utahafterschool.org)
- **Vermont Afterschool Inc.**  
[vermontafterschool.org](http://vermontafterschool.org)
- **Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time**  
[v-post.org](http://v-post.org)
- **Washington Expanded Learning Opportunities Network**  
[schoolsoutwashington.org/pages/waelonetwork](http://schoolsoutwashington.org/pages/waelonetwork)
- **West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network**
- **Wisconsin Afterschool Network**  
[wiafterschoolnetwork.org](http://wiafterschoolnetwork.org)
- **Wyoming Afterschool Alliance**  
[wyatafterschoolalliance.org](http://wyatafterschoolalliance.org)

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