

# MAKING THE CASE FOR Afterschool Programs

High-quality afterschool programs are essential for city leaders to prioritize. Programs support working families by offering supervised care, and investing in afterschool initiatives can contribute to reduced youth crime, improved academic outcomes and school day attendance, and overall community well-being, making it a strategic investment for the future of the city.

## Afterschool programs support community well-being



It is estimated that the economy is losing an estimated

**\$122 billion** a year because parents can't find quality afterschool programs for their children.



Juvenile crime and victimization is most likely to occur **during the after school hours**.



The average cost for the incarceration of a young person is **\$214,620 per year**; the average cost for one youth to attend an afterschool program for a year is **\$4500**.

## Demand for afterschool programs today is higher than ever



For every **1 youth** in a program, **3 more** are waiting for a spot.

Support for afterschool funding is **consistent across the political spectrum**



**91%**  
DEMOCRATS



**85%**  
REPUBLICANS



**8 in 10 voters** say afterschool programs are an absolute necessity, **significantly higher** than previous polling (81% in 2022 vs 73% in 2018)

**8 in 10 voters** voters want newly elected federal, state, and local leaders to **provide more funding** for afterschool programs

**67%**

of voters who said “yes” [to providing more funding] are willing to do so **even if it means they would pay more in taxes**

Investing in high-quality afterschool programs not only provides vital support for working families but also serves as a strategy to decrease youth crime, improve graduation rates, and support the workforce of today and tomorrow, ultimately fostering community well-being. With overwhelming public support and compelling economic benefits, prioritizing afterschool initiatives is a strategic and necessary investment for the future prosperity of America's cities, towns, and villages.

