Summer programming is essential in ensuring youth have a safe, supportive and enriching place to be while caregivers work. Summer programming also helps to mitigate the effects of summer slide and the loss of academic skills. Furthermore, summer programming builds a variety of youth skills, including social emotional learning and provides access to unique experiences, healthy meals and mental health services.

During the summer of 2023, the Denver Afterschool Alliance (DAA) worked with 21 city and district affiliated organizations to measure the impacts of their programs. These OST organizations provided a variety of summer programming options, models and dosage levels to meet the needs of young people, families and communities around Denver. Providers served a range of youth from ECE to 12th grade.

Types of activities
Providers had many areas of focus including Social Emotional Learning, Health and Fitness, Equity and Inclusivity, Leadership Development, Artistic Exploration, Academics and more. Summer programs provided healthy meals and snacks to young people, wraparound services to families, took kids to fun off-site locations and worked collaboratively with other partners to deliver unique and engaging experiences for youth and families.

“I hope that summer camp will be available next summer. My kiddo enjoy's camp & it's such a big help to me as I work night shift.”
Denver parent

NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED

6,159 unduplicated youth attended in-person summer programs

21 youth service providers operated summer programs

63 locations across the City

These programs operated in a variety of settings, community-based organizations, schools and parks
DENVER'S OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME (OST) PROGRAMS:
A SAMPLE OF SUMMER 2023 SERVICES AND OUTCOMES

Results
Youth Perception about their summer program:

9 in 10 youth reported that they had adults in the program that got to know them and helped them when they had a problem

8 in 10 youth reported they learned new skills that would help them in school

9 in 10 youth reported they made new friends

9 in 10 youth reported they enjoyed the activities

8 in 10 youth reported they worked on making good choices in summer programs

Family Perception about their summer program:

8 in 10 caregivers reported that summer programming made it possible for them to go to work or school

9 in 10 caregivers reported that their child(ren) had enough time to interact with other kids and made friends

9 in 10 caregivers reported that their child(ren) felt like they belonged in the program

9 in 10 caregivers reported that their child(ren) had fun and were engaged in the program activities

Summary of Key Findings
- OST Summer programming continues to provide a critical service for working families
- Summer programs in Denver are vehicles for friendship and belonging
- Summer programs in Denver are fun, engaging places of learning and skill development
- Summer programs in Denver are safe places with supportive adults
- A variety of summer programming models are needed to meet the diverse needs of Denver’s youth and families.

* There are hundreds of providers serving thousands of Denver youth over the summer. This report represents a subset of that much larger cadre of summer offerings available

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver
Colorado Dream Foundation
DPS Extended Learning and Community Schools
Generation Teach
Girls Inc. of Metro Denver
Heart & Hand
In Lak’ech Denver Arts
Mile High 360
MSU Center for Urban Education
Museo de las Americas
New Cottage Arts
PlatteForum
Scholars Unlimited
Sims-Fayola Foundation
Struggle of Love Foundation
Sun Valley Youth Center
The Art Garage
The Consumption Literacy Project
The GrowHaus
Vive Wellness
YMCA of Metro Denver

Learn more about DAA at www.denvergov.org/afterschoolalliance