



# Denver Families Need Afterschool and Summer Programs

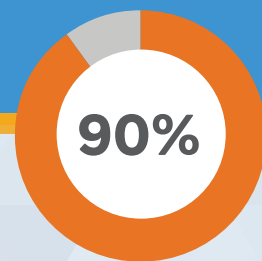
▶ We surveyed **1,311 Denver residents\*** spanning every City Council district about the importance of afterschool and summer programs. Here is what they had to say.

*“Denver needs programs in every community where there is a concentration of children. Most importantly where BIPOC kids reside.”*

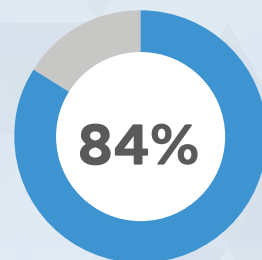
*Denver parent*

*“Safe, fun, flexible programs available to all children that need it is so important to a healthy family and community.”*

*Denver parent*



believe afterschool and summer programs are necessary services for working families.



believe they are vital to the local economy.

Parents and caregivers need more programs that have...

- Operating hours and weeks that match work schedules
- Greater flexibility
- Affordable costs
- Availability and open slots
- Locations in their neighborhoods and schools

In addition to safety and supervision, parents and caregivers value...

- Engaged and well-trained staff who are fairly compensated
- Enrichment opportunities that interest their children
- Social and emotional learning opportunities
- Academic assistance
- Positive peer and adult relationships
- Other support such as meals, transportation, and wrap-around services



*“For me, this is a critical service that allows me to work and provide economically to my family. Denver is extremely expensive and we need two incomes in order to live here.”*

*Denver parent*

**DENVER  
AFTERSCHOOL  
ALLIANCE**

▶ [www.denvergov.org/afterschoolalliance](http://www.denvergov.org/afterschoolalliance)

\* Respondents included parents and caregivers who are using and not using programs, residents without children, and residents with younger and/or older children.

## Afterschool and summer programs support family economic stability and workforce participation.

**77%** of parents and caregivers said that without their **afterschool** programs, they would have to cut back on work hours or stop working.

Without their **summer** programs, **71%** of parents and caregivers said they would have to make those choices.

Right now, in Denver:

The majority of respondents who reported using programs were using **both afterschool and summer programs** and could be **paying more than \$6,000 for the year.**

Families whose children participate in grant-funded programs are experiencing a lot of **uncertainty around potential closures and increased costs.**

**Demand far exceeds supply** with parents and caregivers describing it as a “race,” a “lottery,” a “competition” to get into the programs.

**Some families face more barriers to afterschool and summer programming** than others. Access to these programs depends on their:

- Financial means to pay for programs
- Neighborhood
- Time to find information about programs
- Capacity to navigate the enrollment process
- Transportation to and from programs

**essential**  
**crucial** **VITAL**  
**desperately needed**  
**critically important**  
**extremely**  
**necessary**

The majority of parents and caregivers believe affordable, high-quality daily programs with flexibility would help them keep working first and foremost, while also providing stability for their children and helping them build positive relationships with peers and adult role models.



### In their own words...

*“As a working mother, having my children in after school and summer program is a great help knowing they are keeping busy and taken care of while I’m at work [until] I can pick them up.”*

*Denver parent*

*“[Afterschool and summer programs] expand the supportive relationships that young people have. They are our ‘village’ in a world where we are more separated and parents and families feel alone.”*

*Denver parent*

