

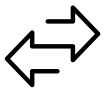


## Invest in our state's future *Fund youth development now*

### Youth development supports workforce development

High-quality, positive youth programming invests in young people by offering essential support in workforce development. These programs equip youth with valuable soft and technical skills, provide opportunities for career exploration, and deliver hands-on work experience to prepare them for future success.

#### Youth development programs provide:



##### **Transferable soft skill development**

like teamwork, problem solving, leadership, and motivation



##### **Exposure and access to broader career opportunities**

from on-site visits and mentorship to hands-on training and learning from experts in the field



**Working experience** through paid and unpaid internships and apprenticeships



##### **Introduction to youth development as a viable career**

choice—many young people who go through a youth program become employed by the same or a similar youth program and remain in youth development spaces throughout their career

#### Every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by:

Increasing a young person's future earning potential

Improving academic performance

Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

#### High-quality afterschool programs can improve young people's social and emotional competencies, which have been shown to:

Reduce poverty

Improve economic mobility

Reduce reliance on public assistance

All youth deserve access to high-quality youth development programming that encourages their social and emotional growth and gives them the tools they need to learn, grow, and thrive. And we have the power to help make that happen by investing in youth development programs.



Youth Development Strategy Table

Powered by School's Out Washington

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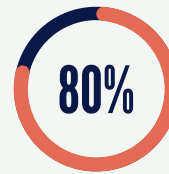
## It's time to invest in youth development

Investing in afterschool, summer, and mentoring programs means investing in Washington's future. Young people spend most of their time outside school, yet access to high-quality youth programs remains limited, especially in BIPOC and rural communities. It's about time for Washington legislators to prioritize youth development and ensure resources reach all young people. Funding youth development means providing equitable opportunities for our youth to reach the future they envision. **The time to act and invest in our youth is now.**

## Help young people thrive

Youth development opportunities such as mentorship, tutoring, arts, physical activity, social interaction, and so much more meet young people where they are—physically, academically, social-emotionally—to help them thrive.

Research shows that, through a central focus on youth engagement and empowerment, youth development **creates positive outcomes** such as improving academic success, building healthy relationships, and increasing positive social behavior.



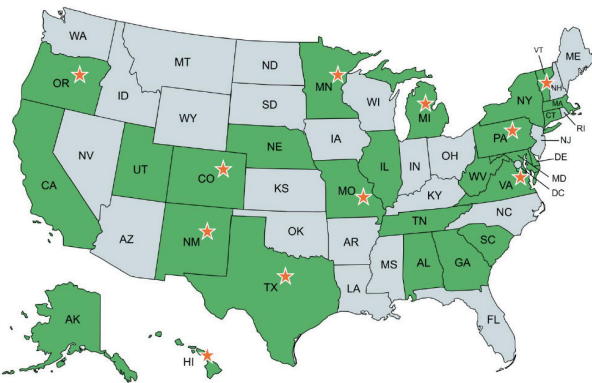
**80%** of young people's time is spent outside the classroom



**For every student in an afterschool program in Washington, there are 5 waiting to get into one.**

AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE, 2022

## 2024 Afterschool & Summer Funding



- States with afterschool funding
- New state funding to sustain pandemic relief funding

## Invest in youth program providers

Youth program providers are powerful, yet under-leveraged, advocates that can help transform young people's lives. Afterschool, summer, wraparound, and mentoring programs collectively **serve millions of Washington youth each year.** Yet Washington's funding for youth development programs lags significantly behind other states.

Providers face rising costs for everything from facilities to employees to resources while their funding remains out of step with national norms. Shoring up the youth development program network would **give youth programs the resources and support they need** to deliver transformative experiences to young people across our state.