



Investing in OST. Investing in our Youth. FY21 OST Budget Advocacy Agenda

The ask:

- Support children, youth and families: Keep the lights on after school, and during the summer months.
- Support strong and stable local funding for Learn 24 (the Office of Youth Grants and Youth Outcomes) in FY21.
- Invest an additional **\$5,174,000** in Learn 24 in FY21 and **provide 18,000 DC Children and Youth with quality OST and summer programming opportunities**. That's 5,000 more students than were served this year.

The impact and importance of OST programming:

Education Outcomes

- After school and summer programs are linked to increased engagement in class, socio-emotional skills, and self-esteem--all factors that drive improved academic performance.
- A lack of summer enrichment during elementary school years can account for about [two-thirds of the achievement gap](#) between lower and higher income students.
- Early summer education loss results in [consequences later in life](#), such as whether students drop-out of high school, and whether they attend college.
- [Disadvantaged youth fall significantly behind](#) in reading during the summer, in comparison to their growth during the school year.
- Parents concerned about their children's after-school care miss an average of [eight days of work per year](#).

Safety and Criminal Justice Impacts

- For every dollar invested in OST programs, [the city saves \\$2.50 in crime-related costs](#). In DC, that equals \$50,625,000 in savings annually.¹
- The rate of violent crimes committed by youth is highest during the hours right after school, with close to 1 in 5 juvenile violent crimes taking place [between 3 and 7 p.m.](#)

¹ This estimate is based on all local OST funding (Learn 24 school and summer programming as well as DPR funded programs).



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Healthy habits and lifestyles

- [Participation in sports](#) focused OST programming has been shown to reduce body mass and increase fitness levels; and significantly reduce obesity rates.
- Multiple studies have shown that students in [expanded learning benefit significantly from a range of “prevention”](#) outcomes over time, including reductions in teen pregnancies, risky sexual behavior, incidences of juvenile crime, and drug/alcohol use and exposure.

Diverse program offerings from diverse partners and adults

- Programs provided by community based organizations blend a diverse array of resources to provide unique program offerings at a variety of community sites); meaning they can meet kids “where they’re at”.
- Teachers have already worked a full day. Adding 3 more hours to their work day can be challenging. School partnerships with community based programs can bring in fresh adults who can develop different relationships with children, youth and their families.
- These programs are best equipped to provide services and programming during non-traditional hours, including early morning and later into the evening.

Why your investment matters:

- The increase in funding since FY19, has been tremendous. In Learn 24 alone, We’re serving nearly [2x as many kids this year](#) as we were in [2017-2018](#)
- The investment in Learn 24 and the work of this office, Commission and community has enabled DC to better balance our OST investment [across all 8 wards](#).
- \$5,174,000 in funding this year, could serve as many as 5,000 additional students; reaching a total of 18,000 DC children and youth.

We have opportunities to strengthen quality and maximize Impact:

- We are not reaching all of our kids, and we have a serious gap in



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summer programs for younger children. This is particularly true when we look at [access to free and reduced cost programs](#). Families who need these programs the most, are struggling to access them.

- Research from the Afterschool Alliance shows that as many as [19,000 DC children](#) and youth are unsupervised during non-school hours.
- Kids with special needs also struggle to gain full and equal access to after school and summer programming; programs are not always equipped to serve these young people appropriately.
- We continue to have opportunities to strengthen the quality of programming. Investing in a smart OST system also requires investing in the training and capacity building needed to ensure quality services.

Questions? Want more information?

Reach out to Maggie Riden, maggie@dc-aya.org or (202)-350-1773 for more information on this ask and the importance of OST in DC.