

GFE Out-of-School-Time Impact Group Covid-19 Response Series

Week 1: Meeting the Emergency Needs of the OST Sector

Watch/listen to the recording [here](#).

Speakers

- **Jodi Grant**, executive director of the Afterschool Alliance: jgrant@afterschoolalliance.org
- **Ben Paul**, president & CEO of After-School All-Stars: ben@afterschoolallstars.org
- **Elizabeth Fowlkes**, senior vice president, strategy of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America: efowlkes@bgca.org
- **Rebecca Goldberg**, senior program officer of S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, facilitator: rgoldberg@sdbjrfoundation.org

HIGHLIGHTS

Recommendations for funders

- Push money out to your grantees – the 27,000 OST programs need general operating support. No restrictions. The stock market will recover but our sector will not.
- Extend flexibility. Move to general ops. Relax reporting requirements, deadlines
- Be as transparent as possible. Grantees are worried about the impact of the stock market on philanthropy.
- Help intermediaries connect and resource the field
- Share information with your grantees
- Keep supporting coordinated communications to the field and advocacy
- Keep dialogue open – what are you hearing?
- Investments in quality, training, PD and continuous improvement, specific/intentional SEL – momentum at risk. Will need startup/seed funding to restart.
- Need to provide smaller organizations with help on HR and financial planning. Help organizations make hard decisions about essential employees and who to let go. Hold onto to the ones that have the knowledge base and experience to start up.
- Create an organized effort with tech companies and funders to accelerate delivery and improve quality of virtual programming at OST organizations.
- Help grantees with contingency plans in case summer programs are cancelled

READOUT

Jodi Grant, Afterschool Alliance

Focused on immediate, short term, and recovery. Working with all 50 states. 27,000 afterschool programs.

1. Listening, and addressing needs, sharing effective practices around:

- Virtual curriculum
- PD online
- Home check ins
- Meal deliveries
- Free internet
- Sharing state and local guidance

2. Coordinating the national providers on messaging, advocacy

3. Helping programs that are shutdown or they are expanded into first responder programs

If they are shutdown, immediate concerns are:

- feeding kids. There is a blanket waiver for USDA – meals delivered in OST can be given as takeout, pickup
- Safety of kids who may be alone
- Curriculum: mental health especially
- Family: unemployment and other services
- Staff: can we keep paying staff with fed/state \$?

If they are open (serving children of first responders), immediate concerns are:

- Hazard pay
- Make sure they have health insurance, make safety changes – change ratios for safety
- Cost more

We are seeing across the board members of Congress – even those that have not been champions in the past but they are all now realizing that everything is out of school now.

Afterschool Alliance advocacy platform:

- \$500 million immediate increase in 21st CCLC to cover programs now and address the increased need for summer learning programs this summer and afterschool programs next fall to help students at risk for learning loss
- Include financial recovery supports for non-profit organizations and small business afterschool providers in any congressional stimulus package

- Due to the uncertainty of whether it is safe to keep programs open, don't penalize afterschool programs (in particular 21st Century Community Learning Centers) that are grant funded for being unable to serve youth in-person
- Fund afterschool programs that have been able to stay open and provide extended school-age child-care services for the essential workforce
- Provide additional supports for supplies and services to keep facilities clean, safe and sanitary

Elizabeth Fowlkes BGCA

- 4700 club sites – schools, CBOs, native lands, public housing, military bases, serving 460,000 young people per day, \$4.7 million young people over the course of the year
- 3,000 are closed as of Friday March 20. 1,000 clubs running modified programs or services.
- Virtual programming: Live synchronous programmatic experiences so young people can connect with adults they trust. Levity, engagement
- 120+club staff per day participating in TA for virtual engagement
- Some clubs are serving meals, getting families connected to resources, offering academic support
- Some clubs – 6x cost per child to do the emergency response child care. Staff ratios, health screenings, many cost implications, etc.

Very concerned about revenue. Scheduled fundraising events are not happening.

Must reduce workforce, lay people off.

Long term concerns:

Investments in quality, training, PD and continuous improvement, specific/intentional SEL – momentum at risk. If we lose our workforce we will have to start from scratch. How do we provide startup/seed funding for them to do this?

We know what a high-quality program looks like. But when will we be able to get back to that? Our clubs will be in start up mode. And that will be at the time that the kids will need us most. Gaps in education for marginalized kids. The clubs are going to need to be there.

Ben Paul, After-School All-Stars

- 19 chapters, 100,000 kids, 450 schools, all closed

Now focused on

1. Food/essential supplies. Tiktok \$3 million underwriting: meals/food vouchers feeding kids in the afternoons/evenings and weekends
2. Developing virtual learning environment focused on social emotional support for kids
3. Scaling down our staff, moving to skeleton crew.

- A lot of organizations are not going to weather this storm.
- Fundraisers not happening: we are not getting general operating support.
- We were humming as an organization. Now recruitment, PD, quality efforts coming to a screeching halt. And will all have to be restarted. We are trying to remain viable as an organization so we will be here to open.
- Cutting all non-mission critical expenses.
- Right now we have to practice compassion with steadfast leadership. We need to let people go at a time when we know they can't find another job.
- We are losing a brain trust that we have been building for decades. It is very hard to recruit people to work in leadership in our sector and it is soul crushing to disband a team we have invested so much in.
- NY Life accelerated a grant that was due in October: they removed the restrictions and wired the \$ to us today

Resources

<https://afterschoolalliance.org/COVID-19.cfm>

Mac Howison, Heinz Endowments: We are transitioning all project grants to general operating at the Heinz Endowments in Pittsburgh, also developing a shorter online application for new requests

Marlyn Torres, NY Life: We are working to convert all our program focused grants for current grantees to GOS grants. We will be sending communications to our grantees either today or Monday to initiate this. We are also working on sending a brief survey to grantees to assess their short-term needs to be responsive on how best to direct resources and any new emergency requests.

Belle Cantor, Oregon Community Foundation : If there are any other community foundations on here, I'd love to hear how you are navigating the challenge of wanting to change all current grants to general operating but needing to maintain fund agreement requirements that specify donor intent.

Rachel Graham, Lefkofsky Family Foundation: In Chicago we are working on building an Education Fund focused on early childhood, k-12, OST and post-secondary to think about what the field needs in the short term and the longer term recovery. To have a pooled fund that can act flexibly across the education spectrum. We are still in the development phase there are 4 funders working on creating the fund as we speak, hoping to have it up and running by next week

Darlene Toney, The Cleveland Foundation has joined more than 18 partners to launch the Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund, which will soon distribute grants to nonprofit organizations serving on the front lines. We are also creating messaging that informs our grantees of flexibility in spending for emergency response.