



## Afterschool Grant Report

### Purpose

Required by 16 V.S.A. § 4018 (d), this report provides the Legislature an annual update on the State Afterschool Grant program created in Act 78, including the number of programs, participation measures (slots/weeks/hours), geographic distribution, and what is known about costs to families. The report also includes information on 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21C). To view the full report, visit the [Agency's website](#).

### Recommendations

The Agency recommends that Vermont continue scaling toward universal afterschool access by prioritizing direct support to local providers through the program and center tracks, while strengthening statewide systems that promote safety and program quality. At the same time, the Agency should prioritize maintaining expectations, so students are not excluded due to inability to pay and deepen coordination with schools and partners to connect youth to consistent, high-quality opportunities.

### Key Considerations and Next Steps

- **FY25 expansion:** The Agency expanded the State Afterschool Grant by adding 25 new projects to 16 already in progress, supporting work in 13 of Vermont's 14 counties.
- **Quality, safety, and capacity:** The Agency should continue desk monitoring and in-person site visits, connect awardees to training and support networks, and leverage the regulatory compliance position to strengthen support for programs operating outside the supervisory union/district model.
- **Affordability:** The Agency requires awardees to commit to not turning away participants due to inability to pay; most sites provide free participation, and other sites use sliding scales or fee waivers.
- **FY26–FY27 added supports:** The Agency should launch two new grant opportunities, including a professional development grant and a regional provider grant.