

USING ESSER FUNDS TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND COMPREHENSIVE AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER ENRICHMENT FOR LEARNING RECOVERY AND ACCELERATION

Compiled By Lorilei Swanson & Julia Beaty

Developed in consultation with Terry Peterson, Co-Chair, National Board, Afterschool Alliance; Board Member, SC Afterschool Alliance



WELCOME BACK TO LEARNING!

With guidance for ESSER III funds from April 2021, these are key areas of need for both summer enrichment & comprehensive afterschool programs:

- Tutoring & Homework help with a **broad array of enrichment activities**
- STEM/STEAM Activities, Career & Technical Programs, Youth Development, Physical Fitness & Health Education, and Arts Programs
- **Focus on Relationships**
- **More Inclusive & Supportive for Families**, including free transportation & meals, available to students with disabilities, English learners, & other underserved students.

THE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

Think of this as a grant to “dream big” to engage and enrich learning in summers and afterschool for those who need it most.

If you had **\$500,000 to \$800,000 for 3 years** in a higher poverty/neighborhood site, what new and better opportunities would you provide to make them more engaging and impactful?

This is what many school neighborhoods will receive from the ESSER III funds, but **without the 50-page federal grant application.**

What is needed to make these summer opportunities more enriching and/or your afterschool program more comprehensive?

- **Collaborations** with local artists/musicians to improve reading, math, SEL, and the arts [like this one in Maryland](#) or [this one in South Carolina](#).
- **Community-wide** summer initiatives bringing together parents, schools, parks, libraries, sports teams, arts organizations, and mentoring programs [like this one in Georgia](#).

RESOURCES YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS:

[THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR SUMMER ENRICHMENT & COMPREHENSIVE AFTERSCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES](#)

[AWARD-WINNING SUMMER PROGRAMS](#)

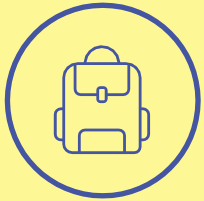
[STEM PROGRAMS & HOW-TO](#)

NATIONAL SUMMER LEARNING ASSOCIATION: <https://www.summerlearning.org/>

t

“If you don’t ask, no one else will. Our students and families are depending on you.”

-Terry Peterson



SUMMER AND AFTERSCHOOL LEARNING DEMAND IN SC

Tens of thousands of SC families without a child in a summer and/or afterschool program said they would enroll their child IF:

- Programs were accessible to neighborhood.
- Programs were not so expensive.
- Safe transportation was available to /from the program.
- Hours better matched work schedules.

Parents in SC want summer and afterschool programs that:

- Provide opportunities to build life skills.
- Get kids excited about learning.
- Reduce the likelihood that youth will use drugs or engage in other risky behaviors.
- Build positive relationships between children and adults.
- Keep kids safe and out of trouble.
- Help working parents keep their jobs.
- Provide working parents peace of mind.

Local ESSER III Funds are arriving NOW for afterschool and summer learning opportunities!

- \$380 million in SC from the ARP through a 20% set aside in the ESSER III for the purpose of addressing learning loss.
- The law calls for evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or enrichment, or extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs.
- Another \$148 million set aside at the state level in SC for afterschool enrichment and comprehensive afterschool programs.

If your dream is bigger than the 20% set aside for afterschool programs, the other 80% of ESSER monies can be used to:

- Provide mental health services and supports, including through full-service community schools and the hiring of counselors,
- Plan and implement activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, and
- Addressing learning losses.

Don't forget there may be ESSER II and new school-age childcare development funds also available for your DREAM set of afterschool and summer opportunities and partnerships.



REMINDER: Afterschool and summer opportunities have the evidence to boost reading, math, and STEM interest and success through hands-on learning, arts-integration, and real-world experiences to make them comprehensive and enriching.

Don't Wait for an Invitation: Speak to your local schools and districts now to find out more about their ESSER spending plans!