



SURVEY RESULTS

Michigan Public Act (P.A.) 3 of 2021, Section 23e

December 2021



Public Policy Associates, Incorporated is a public policy research, development, and evaluation firm headquartered in Lansing, Michigan. We serve clients in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors at the national, state, and local levels by conducting research, analysis, and evaluation that supports informed strategic decision-making.



Prepared for

Michigan Afterschool Partnership
Lansing, Michigan
www.miafterschool.org

With funding provided by

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Skillman Foundation
Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation

Prepared by

Public Policy Associates
Lansing, Michigan
www.publicpolicy.com

Authors

Nathan A. Burroughs, Ph.D.
Daniel J. Quinn, Ph.D.
Craig Van Vliet

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Section 23e Grant Funding..... 1**
 - Background..... 1*
 - Methods.....2*
- Survey Results3**
- Technical Notes..... 7**
 - Limitations7*
 - Recommendations7*

SECTION 23E GRANT FUNDING

Background

In March 2021, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed into law Public Act 3 of 2021 (P.A. 3), which provided federal funding for summer programming, credit recovery, and before- and after-school programming. Section 23e of P.A. 3 allocated \$5 million statewide to nonprofit community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide out-of-school time programming (including before- and after- school and/or summer learning opportunities) to youth in kindergarten through grade 8. CBOs receiving funds provided in-person educational programming in core subject areas (e.g., mathematics, reading, and science).

CBOs, through a competitive grant process, applied for the grant funding from the Michigan Department of Education’s (MDE) Office of Great Start, Preschool and Out-of-School Time Learning. With the funding MDE approved 49 grants, which included 152 sites/centers with a proposed reach of 14,295 youth to be served across 42 Michigan counties. Table 1 summarizes the estimated number of youths served by grade span and program type as reported by grantees.

Table 1. Number of Youths Served¹

Grade Level	Total
Early Elementary (≤ Grade 3)	12,115
Upper Elementary (Grades 4-5)	7,558
Middle School (Grades 6-8)	4,175
Total Number of Youths Served	23,848

The Michigan Afterschool Partnership (MASP) in coordination with MDE selected Public Policy Associates, Inc. (PPA) to complete a survey and report on 23e grantees. As part of the project, PPA also collected qualitative data—including interviews and program documents—from four distinct programs/sites across the state. Using the qualitative data, PPA created four two-page vignette reports for MASP. No state or federal funding was provided for an evaluation of the grant program. The survey and accompanying reports were funded in part by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Skillman Foundation, and the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.

¹ In addition to reporting by grade span, program coordinators reported total program participation, which resulted in a total of 26,046. PPA only reported on the total for youth reported in grades K-8. The difference could be due to an error in self-reporting these data. Program coordinators were not required to track attendance by grade span. In one case, a program reported totals but did not do so by grade span.

Methods

With feedback from MASP and MDE, PPA developed a survey to gather information not available in the grant applications. Participants were asked to report on program specifics as well as basic demographic information for funding received under 23e. The type of information gathered includes program data variables, such as service provider type and socioeconomic information of youth served.

The goal of the evaluation survey was to gain additional information on recipients of the 23e grant funding and to develop a better understanding of the type of before- and after-school and/or summer learning programming that was provided by the funding. Each entity receiving funds was asked to report on the number of youths served, the types of services, and the outcome of those services.

The survey was programmed in SurveyMonkey and an electronic link to it was distributed via email by MDE's Office of Great Start, Preschool and Out-of-School Time Learning. Consortia of CBOs (those that served multiple sites/centers) were eligible to apply for funding as well. Because there were over 60 sites that utilized funding under one application under the State Alliance of Michigan YMCAs, a supplemental survey was provided to those programs.

Because there were only 48 recipients outside of the State Alliance of Michigan YMCAs, the results from the State Alliance of YMCAs were combined into a single "typical" YMCA program when compared to the other programs. This was done to reduce bias and the possibility that YMCA programs would have a disproportionate weight in the survey.

The survey was launched in September 2021 and closed in November 2021. Follow-up reminders were sent to recipients who had not completed the survey until all programs had completed the survey.

These data were analyzed on an aggregate level using descriptive statistics. The respondents were not limited to one entry. In cases of multiple entries, the first entry was selected, and all others were deleted. In cases where later cases provided more information, that information was retained and added to the record.

SURVEY RESULTS

The total sample size for the general program survey was 48 grantees who participated.²

Programs awarded funding by MDE were required to be CBOs exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code, 26 USC 501.

Program Components

As a condition of receiving the 23e grant funding, CBOs were expected to offer math, reading, and/or science educational programming in an in-person format. As presented in Table 2, nearly all survey respondents indicated that they did so, with 96% supporting reading and 93% helping youth with math and science. Arts and Crafts were also nearly universal among grant recipients (93% each). Sports (76%), social-emotional learning (71%), academic enrichment (64%), life skills (60%), and health and nutrition (60%) were also quite common.

Table 2. Program Components*

Program Component	N	%
Reading	43	96
Math	42	93
Science	42	93
Arts and crafts	42	93
Recreation/sports	34	76
Social-emotional well-being/counseling	32	71
Academic enrichment (curriculum-driven)	29	64
Life skills	27	60
Health/nutrition education	27	60
Leadership skills	23	51
Music	21	47
Cultural enrichment	19	42
Parental involvement	17	38
Dance	15	33
Tutoring	11	24
Homework help	10	22
Theater/drama	10	22
Mentoring	9	20
Community service	8	18
Career	8	18

**Respondents could select more than one category*

² Only 46 grantees completed all or most of the questions; one provider offered only partial responses.

Meals

Many OST programs offer meals or snacks to youth in their care, and the 23e grant recipients were no different (see Table 3). The vast majority (89%) provided their clients with food, but the funding mechanism varied. A little over a third (36%) used the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), a federal program administered by states which reimburses youth services and educational providers for meals to lower-income children.³

Children in families of up to 130% of the federal poverty line (currently \$26,500 for a family of four) are eligible for free meals, while reduced-price meals are available for families at up to 185% of poverty. A comparable proportion (29%) participated in the Summer Food Service program, which supports meals to children outside of the traditional school year.

Smaller numbers of 23e recipients relied on grant funds (13%) or other donations (11%). Outside financial support therefore plays a critical role in helping OSTs offer meals, which likely plays an important role in bolstering the financial viability of these organizations.

Table 3. Programs that Provided Meals or Snacks

Funding Mechanism	N	%
Yes, CACFP	16	36
Yes, Summer Food Service	13	29
Other, paid with grant funds	6	13
Other donations	5	11
No	5	11

Staffing

Survey respondents were also asked about the number and training of staff working in their program. An average of 5 full-time staff and 10 part-time staff were reported working in these programs, but there was considerable variability across grant recipients. There were between zero and 15 full-time staff reported statewide, and between zero and 62 part-time staff. Only about a third of recipients indicated that their staff had at least an associate’s degree or other credential relevant to programming.

³ Federal law and regulations governing CACFP require OST programs to be licensed in order to participate in meal programs. CBOs receiving funding under 23e were not required to be licensed.

Program Participants

The average number of youths served by grant recipients was 180, ranging from as low as 10 and as many 1,782 youths enrolled (see Table 4 for a summary). The average number of youths served tended to decline by age, with a mean of 62 lower elementary aged youths (3rd grade and under), compared with 47 upper elementary (grades 4-5), and 28 middle-school aged youths (grades 6-8).

As might be expected, the variation in part-time staff is highly correlated with the number of youths served ($r = .80$), but only weakly related to the number of full-time staff ($r = .28$), which suggests that the CBOs surveyed rely more on part-time staff as they scale up.

African-American youth represented the largest percentage of youth served by grant recipients, with an average of 45% of all clients. White youth made up a little over a third of youth served (35%). There were only small numbers of Latinx (5%) and Asian-American (3%) youths, or those reported in multiple categories (5%). Programs were sometimes quite differentiated by race. Roughly half of programs had fewer than 25% African-American youth served, while almost a quarter served no White youth.

Table 4. Program Characteristics⁴

Program Characteristics	Average Across Programs
# Youths Enrolled	180
# Lower Elementary	62
# Upper Elementary	47
# Middle School	28
% Black/African American	45%
% White/Caucasian	35%
% Asian/Asian American	3%
% Arab American/Middle Eastern	2%
% Hispanic/Latinx	5%
% Multiple/Multi-racial	4%
% Native American/American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian	0%
% Other	1%

⁴ Percentages do not total 100 percent because of differences in reporting and non-responses.

Grant recipients were also very likely to serve lower-income youth. As indicated in, 44% of respondents said that youth from low-income families made up over three quarters of their total client list. Three-fifths of respondents (60%) said that youth from low-income families made up at least half of their enrolled roster.

Table 5. Percentage of Programs Serving Youth from Low-Income Families

Programs Serving Youth from Low-Income Families	N	%
0-25%	13	28
26-50%	4	9
51-75%	8	17
76-100%	20	43
NA/not sure	1	2

TECHNICAL NOTES

Limitations

All information provided in the survey was self-reported and has not been confirmed by analysis of administrative data or other records. Self-reported data regarding educational programming always carries the risk of unintentional errors and bias, and numbers and characteristics of youth served should be treated as rough estimates.

In addition, there can be differences in sensemaking of survey questions (i.e., response interpretation of questions can have subtle differences from the intentions of the survey designer). In particular, the interpretation of the term “low income” can vary widely across respondents.

Further, the results of this survey should not be treated as representative of all OST programs in Michigan. Successful applicants could have quite different organizational and programmatic features compared with other CBOs or OST providers across the state. Finally, the information provided by the survey should be understood as a snapshot in time. The 23e grant was issued during unique circumstances, and thus the operation and services of these and other OST programs could have been quite different before the pandemic.

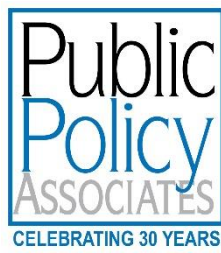
Recommendations

In September 2021, an additional \$5 million (\$1 million in state funding combined with \$4 million from the American Rescue Plan Act) was made available through competitive grants similar to the 23e funding. However, like the 23e funding, no allocation was made available for an evaluation. PPA recommends, for grants made to CBOs in Michigan with the additional funding, more extensive piloting (including follow-up interviews with staff) should be considered in order to confirm the results of the survey, as well as to provide additional insights.

More detailed questions regarding staffing and program characteristics should be incorporated in order to better understand differences across programs. For example, respondents could be asked to estimate the proportion of time dedicated to each component, or average attendance and dropout rates for program participants.

Follow-up research on the impact of the 23e program (and subsequent funding) should also consider the following additional data collection and analysis:

- Evaluation of services offered through analysis of curricular materials and observation
- Feedback from older OST youth participants and/or parents of younger clients (i.e., satisfaction surveys)
- Collection and analysis of detailed administrative data, including enrollment, attendance, curriculum, etc.



119 Pere Marquette Drive, Suite 1C | Lansing, MI 48912-1231