

Summer without Fun(ding)



In both 2021 and 2022, the Oregon Legislature allocated one-time funding to support summer learning opportunities for Oregon’s children and youth. In 2022, \$50 million was allocated for community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide summer learning opportunities, administered through the Oregon Community Summer Grants (OCSG) Initiative. Grant funds enabled community-based organizations to offer 6,133 individual summer program opportunities, reaching into every county and serving nearly 240,000 youth. These programs gave youth access to enrichment activities and new experiences, helped them build skills in career development and social emotional learning, reduced food insecurity, and supported academic learning. Grant funds also made summer programs more accessible to families by removing barriers like transportation, cost, and language. [Read more about the impact from these grants.](#)

In 2023, Senate Bill 531 proposed to continue this summer funding over the next biennium. Despite broad support, the bill is stalled in the House’s Joint Ways and Means Committee.

To understand the impact on Oregon’s youth and families if this funding disappeared, a brief survey was distributed to last year’s OSCG recipients. 192 organizations responded, accounting for half of all grantees from 2022. Their responses are summarized below.

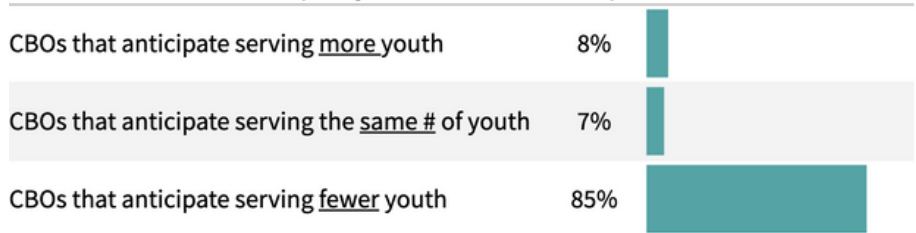
According to previous grantees, if there are no Oregon Community Summer Grants available this year:

Tens of thousands of Oregon youth will lose access to summer learning opportunities

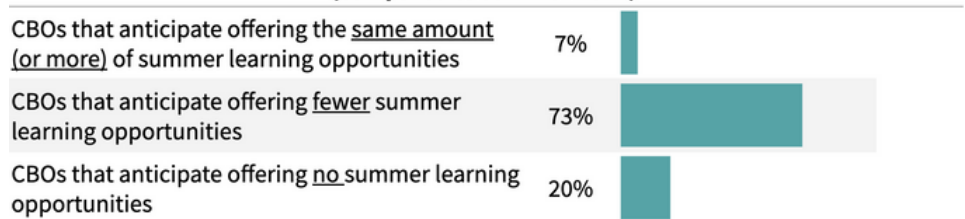
Without access to OSCG funds, 85% of the 192 responding CBOs will serve fewer youth than they did last summer. In fact, on average, these organizations anticipate serving half the youth that they served last summer. If that average holds true for all grantees, **up to 120,000 Oregon youth who participated in summer learning opportunities last year may not have access this year.**

73% of responding CBOs will offer fewer summer programs than they did last year. A full 20% will not be able to offer any kind of summer learning programming at all.

Anticipated youth served by CBOs without OSCG grants (compared to summer 2022)



Anticipated summer learning opportunities offered by CBOs without OSCG grants (compared to summer 2022)



Families will lose access to child care and face increased costs for summer learning programs

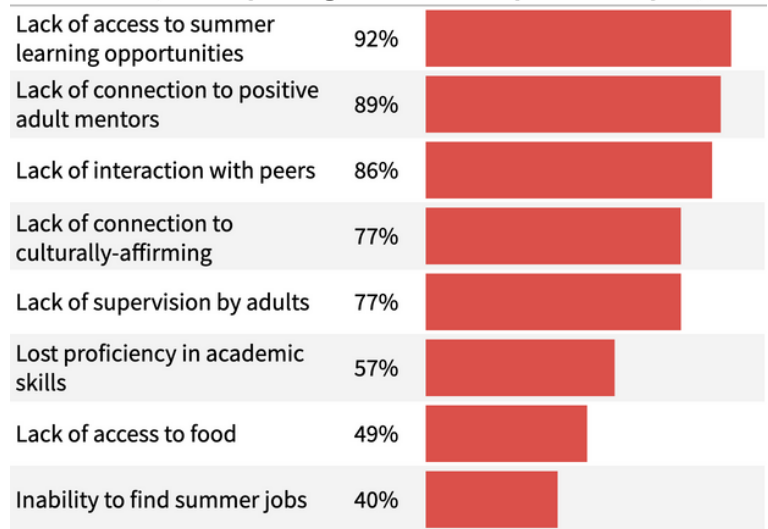
Without OSCG funding, 91% of responding CBOs anticipate increased costs to families for summer programming, and 71% will be unable to offer scholarship to families. As a result, the vast majority of organizations anticipate **reduced access to child care and increased financial stress for parents and families** in their communities.

Youth will lose access to meaningful learning, enrichment, and social and emotional development opportunities

Without access to OSCG-funded summer programs, responding CBOs anticipate that youth will lose access to positive adult mentors, interaction with peers, connections to culturally-affirming opportunities, proficiency in academic skills, and access to food and physical activity.

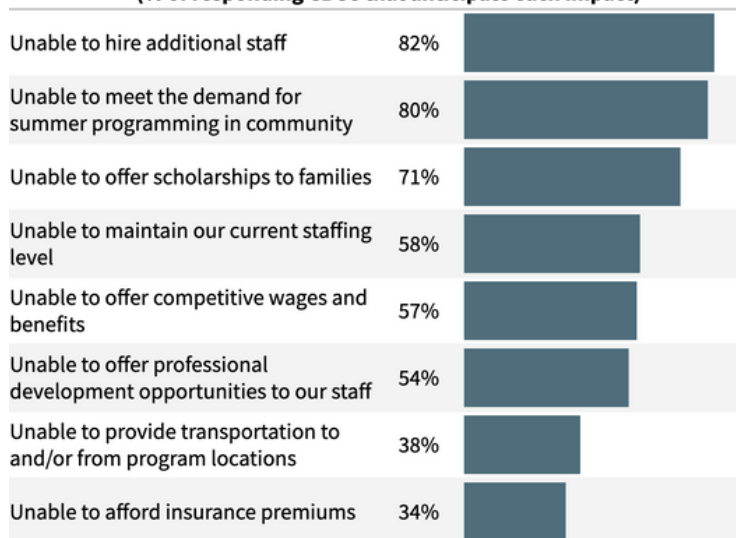
“What we know cannot be dismissed... The loss of summer learning experiences has lasting negative ramifications for the academic, mental, social, and physical health of Oregon youth... By failing to fund programs this summer, the Oregon legislature rejects the undeniable truth that summer learning programs are essential in any genuine effort to combat these crises.”

Anticipated impacts on youth if OSCG grants are not available
(% of responding CBOs that anticipate each impact)



Community-based organizations will struggle to meet the demand for summer learning in their communities

Anticipated impacts on CBOs if OSCG grants are not available
(% of responding CBOs that anticipate each impact)



80% of responding CBOs anticipate being unable to meet the demand for summer programs in their community, if there are no OSCG grants available. 82% would be unable to hire additional staff, and 58% would not be able to maintain their current staffing levels. More than half say they would be unable to offer competitive wages and benefits to their staff.

“I cannot even put into words the impact of this grant on our organization. Directly because of this grant, we were able to serve 200 more low-income youth than normal. That is 200 children who don't have to worry about what to eat for breakfasts and lunch, 200 children who have a safe place to be at all summer, and over 200 parents who can take a deep breath, and know that they have an amazing free resource to use all summer. Parents would be devastated if we weren't able to offer these programs.”

“Without [OSCG] funding, the opportunity gap will only widen. The inequities youth with less resources [face] will continue to be amplified without supplemented funding for ALL children in Oregon to have access to productive summer programs. Youth experiencing inequities and disparities will remain without resources for months at a time, while those with resources will have opportunities for enrichment, education, staying active, and preparing for a future of economic success. The gap will only continue to divide this state, our local communities, and continue to span across generations.”

Proportionally, rural counties will see the largest declines in youth served

Survey responses by county and average anticipated difference in youth served, if no OSCG funds are available (compared to summer 2022)

	Response Count	Average anticipated % difference in youth served
Baker	4	-48%
Benton	16	-60%
Clackamas	34	-55%
Clatsop	8	-27%
Columbia	6	-68%
Coos	5	-48%
Crook	8	-52%
Curry	2	-88%
Deschutes	18	-41%
Douglas	8	-53%
Gilliam	2	-100%
Grant	4	-48%
Harney	1	-99%
Hood River	8	-37%
Jackson	12	-66%
Jefferson	15	-47%
Josephine	10	-55%
Klamath	6	-73%
Lake	2	-100%
Lane	32	-51%
Lincoln	9	-44%
Linn	19	-36%
Malheur	3	-72%
Marion	18	-60%
Morrow	1	-99%
Multnomah	66	-49%
Polk	10	-46%
Sherman	2	-54%
Tillamook	7	-58%
Umatilla	7	-39%
Union	4	-51%
Wallowa	5	-57%
Wasco	6	-56%
Washington	32	-43%
Wheeler	1	-99%
Yamhill	11	-55%

Without OSCG grants, fewer youth will have access to summer learning opportunities across the state. According to survey respondents, however, rural counties will see the largest drop in youth served, as a percentage of youth reached last year. Responding CBOs in Curry county, for instance, anticipate serving 88% fewer youth than they did last summer. In some counties, the percent drop in youth served is virtually 100%, meaning that the summer learning opportunities in these counties depends almost entirely on OSCG funding.

"This funding allowed us to bring experiences to youth in rural Oregon that they might otherwise never have experienced. We gave youth a sense of belonging and promoted strong youth/adult partnerships. Our programs offered educational opportunities that helped maintain and enhance educational milestones."

"Small rural communities suffer when there are no free summer learning opportunities- we have so few options available to us."

"With the increasing costs of child care and low wage job offerings in our region, even with all adults in a household working families continue to be food and housing insecure. Relieving the cost of childcare is a huge benefit to local families which equates to them not having to choose between a safe place to care for their children versus a warm meal on the table at dinner time."

Contact Us

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