

Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Grants Program

In 2021, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) partnered with the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) to develop the Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) grants program, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. GSAN administered BOOST over three years on behalf of GaDOE and expanded access to and strengthened the quality of summer enrichment opportunities and comprehensive afterschool programming for K-12 youth statewide.

BOOST At-a-Glance

\$82,918,714

TOTAL FUNDS AWARDED

YEAR 1	\$27,028,098	100	87	1,640	642
	FUNDS AWARDED	TOTAL GRANTEES	GEORGIA COUNTIES	ACADEMIC YEAR SITES	SUMMER SITES



72,551 Academic Year
78,831 Summer

YOUTH SERVED

YEAR 2	\$26,549,724	97	112	1,146	639
	FUNDS AWARDED	TOTAL GRANTEES	GEORGIA COUNTIES	ACADEMIC YEAR SITES	SUMMER SITES



79,911 Academic Year
86,924 Summer

YOUTH SERVED

YEAR 3	\$29,340,892	96	115	1,429	669
	FUNDS AWARDED	TOTAL GRANTEES	GEORGIA COUNTIES	ACADEMIC YEAR SITES	SUMMER SITES



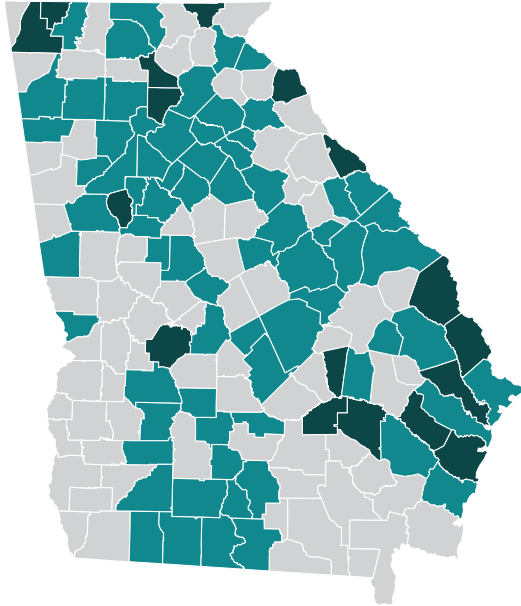
86,386 Academic Year
82,827 Summer

YOUTH SERVED

BOOST Reach

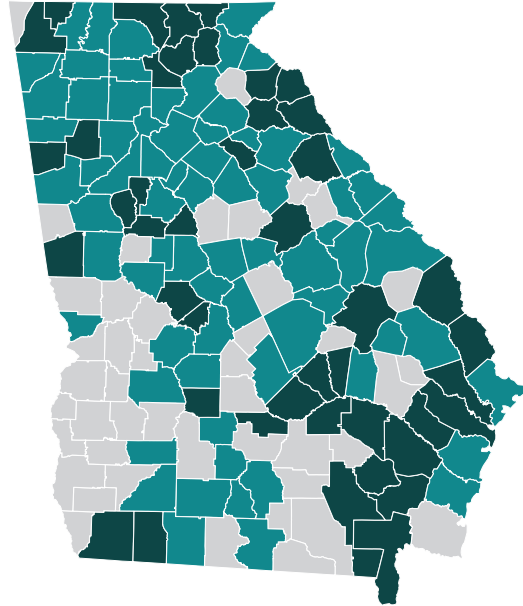
BOOST funding supported programming in 87 counties in its first year and expanded across 115 of Georgia's 159 counties in its third and final year. Of these, 45 were high-priority counties, which are those that received no state funding through the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program or the Out-of-School Services Program.

BOOST Year 1 Reach



■ Non-Priority County with a BOOST Site (N=70)
■ High-Priority County with a BOOST Site (N=17)

BOOST Year 3 Reach



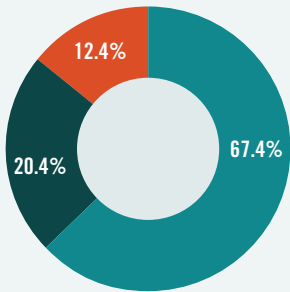
■ Non-Priority County with a BOOST Site (N=70)
■ High-Priority County with a BOOST Site (N=45)

Youth Served

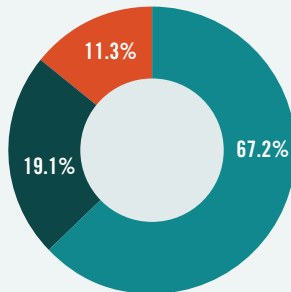
67% of youth served by BOOST-funded sites were in elementary grades K through 5 and 33% were in grades 6 through 12 during the academic year and the summer. These percentages have stayed consistent over the course of three years.

YOUTH SERVED BY GRADE LEVEL

Academic Year



Summer



■ Elementary ■ Middle ■ High

Priority Youth Populations Served

- Youth receiving free or reduced-price lunch
- Youth with disabilities
- Youth experiencing homelessness
- Youth experiencing foster care
- English language learners
- Migratory youth

Most Frequently Reported Implementation Successes



Improved academic learning and grade promotion



Improved behavioral health skills and youth-staff relationships



Exposed youth to new content or programs and developed new skills

Program Purposes: Top Strategies Utilized

Through BOOST grant awards, GSAN required all applicants to focus on at least one of the three program priorities: expanding access, reducing barriers, and strengthening program quality.



Expand Access

Served more youth (70% for the academic year; 60% for the summer) **or new youth populations** (44% for the academic year; 40% for the summer).

Conducted outreach and recruitment focused on families (57% for the academic year; 30% for the summer) **or based on communities** (51% for the academic year; 45% for the summer).

Expanded daily program hours and/or days (39% for the academic year; 36% for the summer) **or opened new sites or locations** (35% for the academic year; 30% for the summer).



Reduce Barriers

Continued to offer free programming (88% for the academic year; 75% for summer) **or waived program fees** (39% for the academic year; 48% for summer).

Provided transportation services (66% for the academic year; 55% for summer) **or offered more accessible program locations** within walking distance or at more convenient locations for families (37% for the academic year; 25% for the summer).

Provided English language support for youth (24% in the academic year; 13% in the summer).



Strengthen Program Quality

Expanded existing program services and activities (60% for the academic year; 60% for the summer) **or enhanced existing curricula**, such as math, ELA, and STEAM (59% for the academic year; 54% for the summer).

Provided youth with healthy meals or snacks on site (60% for the academic year; 57% for the summer).

Providing staff training on leadership, trauma-informed service delivery, art therapy, phonics instruction, and ASYD quality standards (52% for the academic year; 45% for the summer).

Recommendations

The Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network recommends the following:

1. Create and fund Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) 2.0 grant program, an out-of-school time (OST) grants program modeled after the Building Opportunities for Out-of-School Time (BOOST) grants program, at \$20 million and building off the existing infrastructure and partnerships of BOOST.
2. Create and fund an interagency liaison to coordinate afterschool and summer programming between the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, and Georgia Department of Education to ensure alignment and coordination of OST services provided to youth and families.