Analysis of Organizations At Risk of Closure

PURPOSE OF COVID-19 IMPACT SURVEY

School’s Out Washington developed the COVID-19 Impact Survey to understand how school-age childcare and youth development programs in Washington State have maintained and changed since the start of the pandemic. This brief highlights providers’ ability to continue operating amid the impacts of COVID-19. We focus both on organization’s perception of their ability to continue operating and factors that are contributing to those perspectives.

SURVEY RESPONSE

- 95 total respondents
- Responses were collected between 7/1/2020—9/4/2020
- This survey was distributed via SOWA’s website, newsletter, and direct provider outreach
- This survey was completed by staff of Washington State school-age childcare and youth development programs

PERCENTAGE OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT BELIEVE THEY ARE AT RISK OF CLOSURE BECAUSE OF COVID-19

About 40% of open sites have decreased hours
Approximately 1/3 of organizations list funding as the primary concern that may lead to program closure

WHAT THIS RESEARCH TELLS US

When asked to report pressing issues facing their organization, respondents communicated that obtaining funding and uncertainty about planning for the future were top concerns. With fewer programs to take place in person and fewer youth attending, funding is a critical concern for many organizations. In addition, organizations report that they are unable to effectively plan for future programming, staffing, and organizational needs given the high degree of uncertainty about fall school and facility closures.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

School’s Out Washington has taken a multifaceted approach to serving school-age childcare and youth development programs. Our Quick Connections video series highlights specific resources, youth development strategies, and real-time stories from programs supporting youth, families, and communities in the time of COVID-19. We have also shifted our workshops to an online format and updated our content to reflect changes in programming caused by COVID-19. These online workshops remain a great option for professionals wanting to develop their own skills or for program managers wanting to train their staff without additional commitments.

Additionally, we have partnered with The Washington State Department of Commerce to implement The Washington Youth Development Nonprofit Relief Fund. This one-time investment provides $3.1 million to youth development programs/organizations that have been most impacted by the COVID-19—and which support young people who are furthest from educational justice.