

# Chicago Out-of-School Time Landscape Study Findings

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## Executive Summary

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In 2025, the [American Institutes for Research](#)<sup>®</sup> (AIR<sup>®</sup>) partnered with the [Steans Family Foundation](#) to conduct a landscape study of Out-of-school-time (OST) policy, funding, and system priorities in Chicago with a focus on the North Lawndale neighborhood and attention to how the city is situated within the broader Illinois context. This work aimed to inform planning considerations for a more integrated OST system that elevates the strengths of young people and families and supports strong and vibrant communities. AIR examined the following research questions:

1. What formal policies guide OST programs in Chicago?
2. What is the structure of funding available for operating OST programs in Chicago?
3. What do interest holders in the OST field believe are the needs for the OST system in Chicago?

Over a 6-month period, we engaged OST leaders, young people, families, funders, and policymakers representing 38 entities through interviews and focus groups, and we reviewed more than 250 documents and data sources related to OST policy, funding, and system priorities. We refined the initial findings through meaning-making sessions with participants and an in-person convening of field leaders to validate themes and elevate actionable solutions.

We found:

1. There are **no formal policies that specifically govern OST programs in Chicago**. Instead, most OST programs operate under varied requirements attached to individual funding opportunities.
2. **The structure and availability of funding opportunities for OST programs varies substantially**. Programs commonly use between two and 10 separate federal, state, local, and philanthropic funding sources, each with distinct rules, award mechanisms, reporting requirements, and spending restrictions.
3. Interview and focus group participants noted that **the most urgent priority for the OST system is ensuring young people have access to high-quality spaces** that promote both physical and emotional safety, particularly in communities experiencing high levels of violence.

During meaning-making sessions and the convening, participants proposed a set of actionable focus areas to strengthen the OST system, focusing on reducing burden in funding applications and award restrictions, identifying opportunities for alignment across funding entities, coordinating to encourage collective advocacy, and advocating for increased investment in the field.

## Introduction

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Out-of-school-time (OST) programs play a critical role in promoting positive youth development and strengthening communities (Afterschool Alliance, 2024; Naftzger & Newman, 2021). These programs can provide a supportive space for young people to explore areas of interest and connect with peers, mentors, and community members, fostering stronger social networks and a sense of belonging (Bocarro & Witt, 2018; Durlak et al., 2010; Jones et al., 2017).

Strengthening connections across programs and entities that support them can help families access opportunities more easily and can expand the reach of high-quality OST experiences across communities (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2025).

An opportunity exists in the city of Chicago to create a connected and cohesive OST system. Existing efforts provide a foundation that can be built upon to increase coordination and improve opportunities to support young people, families, and communities. For example, there currently is no system to track the number of young people participating in OST programs across different settings in the city. Some efforts are under way, however. A Better Chicago has gathered data from the American Community Survey and the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) in its [Youth Opportunity Dashboard](#). They estimate that 42% of CPS students participate in school-based OST programs. They found that some neighborhoods, such as Fuller Park, have high rates of participation at 77% of CPS students but other neighborhoods, such as North Lawndale, have lower participation at 36%. Although these data offer a helpful starting point for understanding OST participation, they do not account for OST programming outside of CPS. Illinois is home to several quality OST programs with external valuations documenting their success, such as [After School Matters](#) (Young et al., 2022) and [Becoming a Man](#) (Heller et al., 2013). Even so, the findings indicate significant gaps in access to OST programs. With 450,000 young people in Chicago (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023), and for every three out of four families in Illinois who would enroll their child in OST programs if space were available (Afterschool Alliance, 2025), it is imperative to continue to provide opportunities for young people.

A critical first step toward strengthening the OST system in Chicago is systematically examining the current OST landscape to provide information about strengths, opportunities, and pain points that can be addressed through policy and practice. In 2025, the [American Institutes for Research](#)® (AIR®) partnered with the [Steans Family Foundation](#) to conduct a landscape study of OST policy, funding, and system priorities in Chicago with a focus on the North Lawndale neighborhood and attention to how the city is situated within the broader Illinois context. This work aimed to provide information that could inform planning for a more integrated OST system that elevates the strengths of young people and families and supports strong and vibrant communities. In this report, we share findings from this study, including an overview of

our methods, findings on policies, funding, and needs in Chicago, and focus areas for the field moving forward.

## Methods

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We used the following research questions to guide our research into the landscape of OST policy, funding, and system priorities in Chicago:

1. What formal policies guide OST programs in Chicago?
2. What is the structure of funding available for operating OST programs in Chicago?
3. What do interest holders in the OST field believe are the needs for the OST system in Chicago?

This study included interviews, focus groups, and a document review to generate preliminary findings. In addition, the AIR team engaged in conversations with the field through structured meaning-making sessions and a convening of field leaders to provide additional context, inform the framing of this report, and ensure that the findings resonated with experiences in the field.

**Focus groups and interviews.** AIR conducted six focus groups with 15 OST providers, four capacity builders/conveners, three funders, and three local families, including young people. We also conducted eight interviews with five policy/advocacy organizations, two OST providers, and one funder. During these conversations, we asked questions about OST system priorities, coordination, funding, supports for young people and families, and policy conditions.

**Document review.** We reviewed documents and data from federal, state, local, and philanthropic entities to learn about funding sources, data systems, and policies that support OST programs. We coded documents for funding levels, number of years active, award periods and renewal, eligible populations, usage restrictions, and expectations.

**Conversations with the field.** We conducted two meaning-making sessions with 15 study participants to share initial findings, understand how findings resonated with participants' experiences, refine framing, prioritize issues, and generate action items. Finally, we convened 31 participants across 30 entities to review interim findings, identify gaps or opportunities to extend learning, and recommend specific tasks for the field to undertake moving forward.

Through this work, we sought to understand the landscape scan of OST policy, funding, and priorities in Chicago while situating the city within the broader state context. We recognize, however, that community needs vary within the city. To this end, we explored how statewide structures impact the city, and we partnered with the funder to spotlight the North Lawndale community. This focus enabled us to identify any unique differences in this locality and where

their experiences align with others across the city, while anchoring findings in the broader state context.

Young people in North Lawndale have faced intersecting challenges, such as exposure to high rates of community violence and unemployment (Chicago Health Atlas, n.d.). North Lawndale also has a high rate of youth homelessness (18%), which is higher than the percentage of CPS students that are identified as homeless (5%; A Better Chicago, 2026). Additionally, many young people grow up in households with incomes below the city median (A Better Chicago, 2026). Given these structural barriers and the importance of OST programs in providing safety and positive youth development, we include “North Lawndale Spotlights” throughout the report to highlight neighborhood-specific insights.

In Appendix A, we present a detailed summary of our methods; in Appendix B, we include a full list of funding sources we reviewed.

## STUDY LIMITATIONS

The following limitations should be considered when interpreting the findings in this report:

- We found that reports of exact budget figures varied across sources. We often had difficulty isolating funding dedicated specifically to OST because OST investments are frequently embedded within broader initiatives. In addition, some funders did not make historical funding materials publicly accessible. As a result, the findings reflect the information available at the time of review.
- Insights from interviews, focus groups, meaning-making sessions, and convening activities represent the perspectives of the organizations that participated and therefore might not be representative of the Chicago OST system as a whole. Although we sought to engage a variety of voices, representatives from some entities chose not to participate.

## Findings

The information that follows was drawn primarily from our review of OST policies and funding. We supplement policy and funding findings with interviews and focus group thematic findings where applicable. We first present our findings on the policies that guide the OST program system in Chicago, followed by an overview of the structure of available funding for OST programs, and finally the needs that interest holders identified for the system.

### Policies for OST

We explored several different kinds of policies to understand the full scope of guidance and regulations under which OST programs operate. For example, capital “P” Policies refer to formal, authoritative policies, such as federal, state, or local regulations, that OST programs are

legally required to follow (Tefera & Vouldarides, 2016). These include laws, funding rules, and official compliance standards. In contrast, lowercase “p” policies are guidelines, practices, and procedures that individual programs or governing organizations create to shape daily operations (Tefera & Vouldarides, 2016). For the purposes of this landscape study, we include findings on both types of policies.

**No capital “P” Policies at the federal, state, or local level specifically govern OST programs in Chicago**, aside from licensing and safety regulations to protect young people. This is in contrast to K-12 public schools, which operate under capital “P” policies that guarantee access to instruction, services, and supports. For example, Illinois school code requires students to attend at least 176 days of school (Illinois General Assembly, n.d.), and the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires schools to provide students with disabilities access to specific supports and resources (U.S. Department of Education, n.d.).

Rather, OST programs operate within lowercase “p” policy guidelines tied to individual funding opportunities. While federal and state funding opportunities often originate from authorizing legislation focused on supporting specific young people or achieving specific goals (capital “P” policies), they do not regulate OST programs directly or guarantee specific supports. These types of funding opportunities often come with lowercase “p” policies, or guidelines to which OST programs must adhere to remain in compliance.



#### Examples of lowercase “p” policies

- The Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP) reimburses programs for nutritious meals they serve before and after school to young people primarily in low-income communities. This opportunity requires programs to obtain specific licenses and to serve specific groups of young people for eligibility.
- The Restore, Reinvest, Renew (R3) program in Illinois funds youth development programming, alongside other initiatives, in communities disproportionately affected by violence and poverty. Within R3, programs follow expectations around embedding equity and community leadership into the program design as guiding norms rather than prescriptive requirements.

In addition, our review found that some city and state initiatives signal movement toward more formal policies to support OST.



#### Examples of city and state OST initiatives

- The Chicago Mayor’s Office launched [My CHI. My Future.](#) in 2020 to increase OST opportunities for young people.

- The Chicago Mayor's [Executive Order 2023-15](#) focuses on addressing youth unemployment.
  - [Illinois House Bill 3081](#) aims to create an OST advisory council that will inform the state government on funding and policy issues affecting OST program and recommend legislative action. The bill is currently pending in the Senate Assignments Committee.
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## Funding for OST Programs

**The structure and availability of funding opportunities for OST programs in Chicago varies substantially.** As part of the process of mapping OST funding streams, AIR first sought to categorize funding opportunities by their point of origin, specifically noting whether the opportunity originates from federal, state, local, or philanthropic entities. We reviewed:

- Federal sources, identifying OST-related opportunities from the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Labor, and nondepartmental agencies.
- State sources, identifying OST-related opportunities from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Department of Human Services, Criminal Justice Information Authority, Department of Natural Resources, and others.
- Local sources at the county and city levels, including from Cook County, Chicago Public Schools, and Chicago's Department of Family Support Services.
- Philanthropic sources, including Chicago-based family foundations (e.g., the Lefkowsky Family Foundation), corporate philanthropy (e.g., Nike), and national and global philanthropic organizations (e.g., the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation).

Within and across awarding entities, however, funding opportunities vary. It is especially important to understand this variation when mapping the landscape across the city because OST program providers typically are encouraged to combine multiple sources of funding to operate (Afterschool Alliance, n.d.; National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2025) and, therefore, must navigate these variations to sustain daily operations. In our study, interview and focus group participants reported making use of between two and 10 different funding opportunities.

Below, we summarize several types of variations that we uncovered, including how money is awarded to eligible entities, how money flows from awarding agencies to eligible entities, the level of investment over time, the duration of the award period and renewal, and how money can and cannot be spent.



*How money is awarded to eligible entities.* Funding at the federal, state, and local levels is often available as a result of legislation mandating support for specific populations of people.



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**Example of funding legislation for OST.** OST programs can use Title III funding for Immigrant Education Programs to provide program support services that improve the English language proficiency and academic achievement of English learners and immigrant children and youth, as well as activities that increase the knowledge and skills of staff working with students. This funding resulted from the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, which states that language instruction must be provided for children and youth with limited English proficiency (U.S. Congress, 2002).

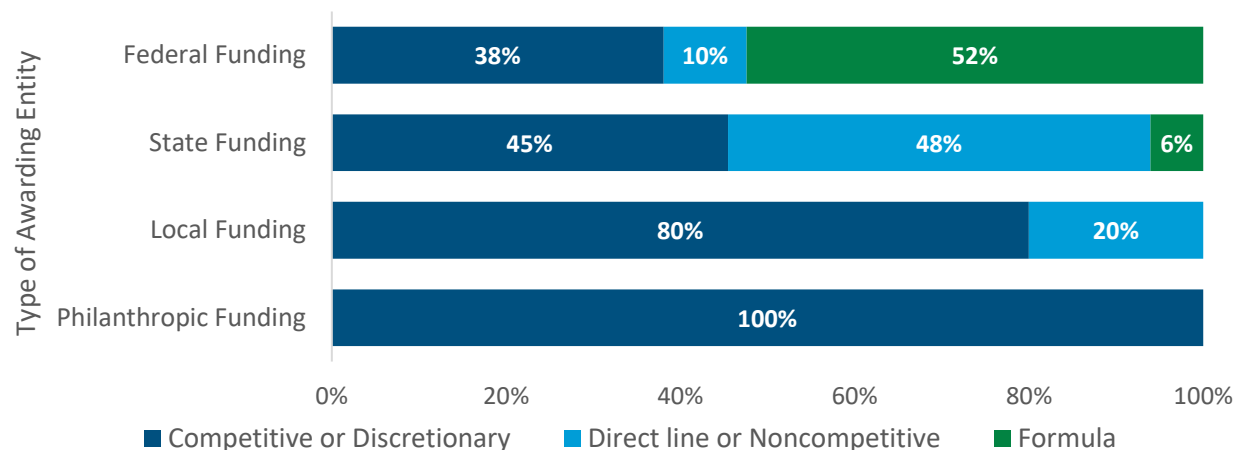
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Once awarding entities have determined that funding opportunities will be offered, they identify the process for distributing dollars to organizations that are operating OST programs based on the scope of the funding opportunity. Funding opportunities are commonly awarded as competitive or discretionary, direct line or noncompetitive, or formula based.

- **Competitive or discretionary funding** means the awarding entity distributes funding through an application process whereby the funder decides which entities receive funds based on the proposed use. For example, the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services awards funding for mentoring programs based on a completed application and a predetermined rubric.
- **Direct line or noncompetitive funding** means the funder decides which specific entities should receive funds (i.e., only specific organizations can apply). For example, Chicago Public Schools awards Student Engagement Programs funding to schools that do not already receive OST funding from another opportunity (e.g., Twenty-First Century Community Learning Center [21st CCLC]).
- **Formula funding** means the awarding entity uses a predetermined calculation to ascertain which entities are eligible (e.g., awarding the dollar amount based on the percentage of participants from low-income backgrounds and/or the percentage who live in areas with high rates of violence). For example, school districts with at least one school that has a low-income concentration of 70% or more can apply for After School Program funding from ISBE; the state then awards funding based on the concentration of low-income students in the district.

In Exhibit 1, we summarize the prevalence of different types of funding opportunities in Chicago by the type of awarding entity and the award process. In Exhibit 2, we offer more information on examples of each type of award process.

## Exhibit 1. Distribution of Award Processes by Type of Awarding Entity



## Exhibit 2. Examples of Funding Opportunities by Award Process Type

| Award Process                        | Examples                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Competitive or discretionary</b>  | <p><b>Full-Service Community Schools (Federal):</b> Funding to operate community schools that coordinate academic, social, and health services in high-poverty areas. Can be used for afterschool and summer activities that connect students with enrichment, family supports, and integrated community services.</p> <p><b>Department of Family and Support Services Mentoring Programs (Local):</b> Supports implementation of in- and out-of-school mentoring programs for youth in Chicago who are at risk of not transitioning successfully into adulthood through cohort-based, trauma-informed practices.</p> |
| <b>Direct line or noncompetitive</b> | <p><b>Violence Prevention and Reduction (State):</b> Grants to reduce and prevent the spread of community violence through services and therapy.</p> <p><b>Chicago Public Schools Student Engagement Programs (Local):</b> Funding to operate afterschool or summer programming for schools not receiving one of the opportunities mentioned above.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Formula</b>                       | <p><b>Twenty-First Century Community Learning Center (Federal):</b> Supports afterschool and summer programs that provide extended learning, enrichment activities, and family education services in high-poverty and low-performing schools. The state receives a set amount of funding through a formula calculation, and eligible entities receive funding through a competitive process.</p> <p><b>After School Programs (State):</b> Funding for school districts<sup>1</sup> to improve academic outcomes by providing safe, healthy, enrichment opportunities and partner with other organizations.</p>        |

<sup>1</sup> ISBE also awards a portion of After School Program funding to non-school district entities through a competitive process.



*How money flows from awarding agency to eligible entities.*

We also found variations in how funding opportunities flow from their awarding agency to OST programs. At times, awarding entities distribute funds directly to eligible programs. Other times, funding opportunities flow through other intermediate agencies before reaching the OST program. These intermediate agencies hold responsibility for receiving the funds from the awarding agency and then administering the funds to organizations operating OST programs and overseeing compliance. Most federal dollars flow through state agencies such as ISBE or the Illinois Department of Human Services before reaching OST providers, whereas state, local, and philanthropic dollars typically flow directly to eligible entities. To illustrate the different ways that funding opportunities flow, we provide Twenty-First Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) funding as one example shown in Exhibit 3. One purpose of 21st CCLC funding is to support free afterschool and summer programs in high-need communities. This funding originates from the federal government, then flows to Illinois as a formula grant administered by ISBE. The board then awards the majority of funds to schools through a competitive, cohort-based grant process. In another example, the Illinois state government provides competitive state funding for the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority to award to nonprofit organizations preventing violence through legal aid, economic development, and youth development programs based on application.

### Learn More About the Flow of Public Funding in Chicago

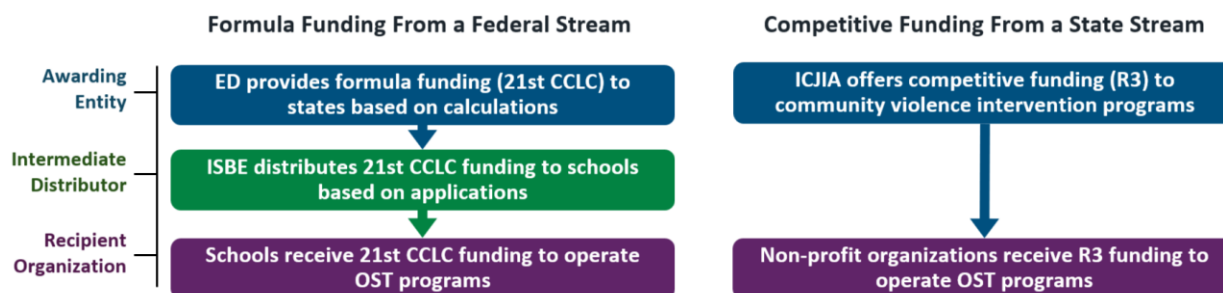
We created guides to demonstrate how select federal, state, and local funding opportunities flow from their awarding entities to Chicago OST programs. Access the guides below:

[Federal](#) Funding Guide

[State](#) Funding Guide

[Local](#) Funding Guide

### Exhibit 3. Example Funding Flows From Federal and State Sources

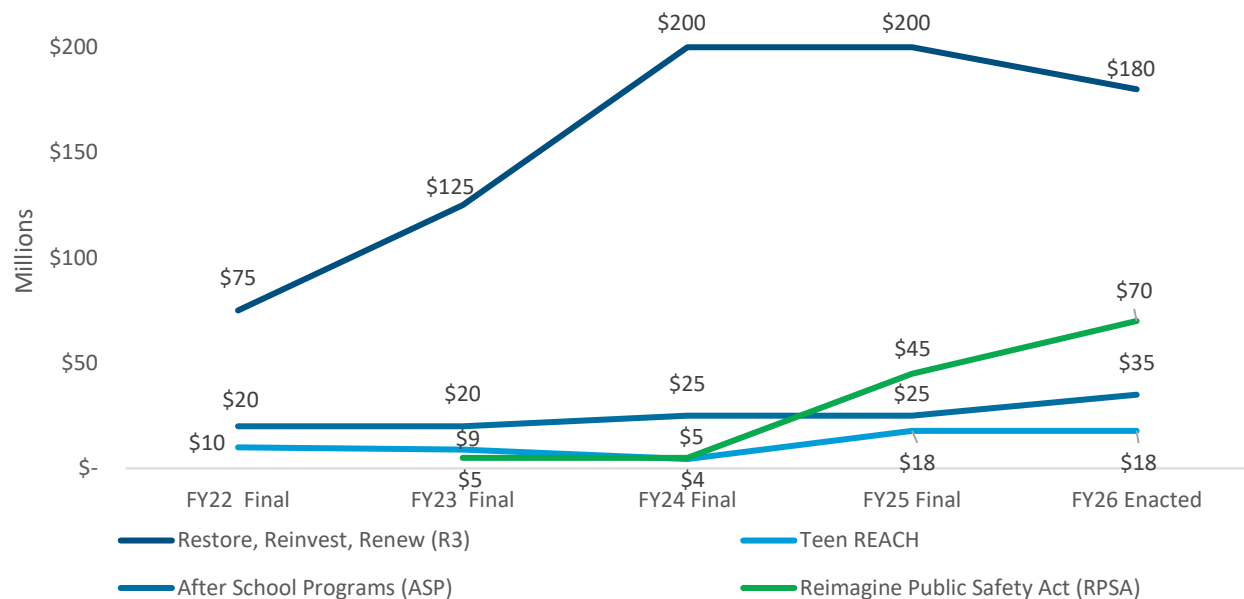


*Note.* ED = U.S. Department of Education; ICJIA = Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority; ISBE = Illinois State Board of Education; OST = out-of-school time; R3 = Restore, Reinvest, Renew.



*Level of investment over time.* Funding opportunities from federal, state, and local entities vary in their total investment in OST programs over time, with some increasing investments, others decreasing, and a few holding stable. At the state level, for example, the Illinois Department of Human Services’ Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA) funding rose substantially from \$5 million to \$70 million between fiscal years 2024 and 2026, while ISBE After School Program funding for districts and non-districts increased at a smaller rate, from \$25 million to \$35 million in the same 2 years. Some entities report spending for entire departments (such as including early childhood or truancy prevention), making it difficult to determine the portion dedicated specifically to OST. In Exhibit 3, we highlight four prominent sources of Illinois state OST funding by their investment in recent years. It is important to note, however, that R3 and RPSA funds also can be spent on non-OST initiatives.

#### Exhibit 4. Examples of Funding Investment of State-Level Opportunities Over Time



Source: [Illinois State Enacted Appropriations by Line Item 2023–2026](#)

Interview and focus group participants noted challenges in shifting investments over time, especially due to the post-COVID influx and subsequent sunset of federal relief dollars, which they referred to as the “ARPA<sup>2</sup> Cliff.” The American Rescue Plan Act required states to set aside 2% of ARP ESSER funds specifically for afterschool and summer programs (1% each), and it

<sup>2</sup> The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is a federal COVID-19 pandemic recovery law that provided funding to help students recover academically, socially, and emotionally as a result of the pandemic. States and districts were able to use ARPA resources to expand afterschool and summer learning opportunities that address learning loss and support student well-being. ARPA funds not spent by the required deadlines cannot be kept by the program and must be returned by the state or local government to the federal government. These funds were intended as one-time COVID-19 relief and do not carry over beyond the allowed time period (U.S. Department of Treasury, 2023).

required districts to reserve a minimum of 20% for learning recovery activities, including OST programming (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2025). Participants shared that the federal COVID-era investments represented the largest infusion of OST funding in history in Illinois, with mandated allocations for afterschool and summer programming and some funding available for OST through other focus areas, such as public safety and health. Because dollars were split across different initiatives and integrated with state sources of funding, it is difficult to specify the exact investment from federal COVID funding into OST programs in Chicago. We do know, however, that at minimum, ISBE reports directing \$340 million of federal dollars into after-school programs, learning loss, and summer enrichment (Illinois State Board of Education, n.d.).

These funds were temporary, however, and participants noted that the January 2025 deadline<sup>3</sup> for spending most funds created major gaps in programming, staffing, and operations. Participants reported that programs still face challenges to replace these dollars, especially as other federal funding opportunities (e.g., components of the Full-Service Community Schools funding) recently have been discontinued.



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**North Lawndale Spotlight:** Families in North Lawndale noticed a decrease in program offerings after the COVID-19 pandemic because of funding cuts and grant limitations. This aligns with findings from focus groups and interviews, where the COVID-19 influx and reduction in funding disrupted program offerings.

*“After COVID, you saw a change in types of programs offered. **There was definitely a decrease in opportunity.**” – North Lawndale Parent*

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**Duration of the opportunity and renewal.** Funding opportunities vary in their award period (how long they last) and if they can be renewed for additional award periods upon expiration. Most funding opportunities we reviewed provided funding for a 1-year award period, with some notable exceptions. Public information on funding opportunities also provided limited clarity on opportunities to renew funding for additional award periods. In some cases, such as the Department of Family Support Services opportunities, programs are eligible to submit for funding renewal each year based on successfully fulfilling accountability needs in prior years.

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<sup>3</sup> Some entities were granted extensions beyond January 2025 to spend the remainder of their ARPA funding



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### Examples of award periods longer than 1-year

- Cook County Government's Starting Block Grants provide up to \$100,000 to organizations over a 2-year period.
  - Bright Promises Foundation varies award periods at 1- to 4-year intervals based on the specific initiative of the funding opportunity.
  - 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC provides one year of funding with the possibility of two additional renewal years, a reduction from the previous renewal period of up to five years
- 

Interview and focus group participants emphasized that 1-year award periods are too short term and therefore undermine long-term planning, collaboration, and workforce stability. More specifically, participants noted how challenging it can be to compete annually for dollars against organizations doing similar work. This dynamic increases competition rather than encouraging collaboration between programs to support young people. These findings align to challenges experienced more broadly in the field, where funding cycles lasting for 1-3 years create competition and challenge the sustainability of programs (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2025).



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**North Lawndale Spotlight:** Program leaders in North Lawndale emphasized challenges in local competitions, highlighting how broader challenges raised by participants across the city manifest in their specific neighborhood.

***"The elephant in the room for me is just competition . . . that often gets in the way where you have one or two organizations or even more who are doing the same or similar work, and sometimes that can undermine coordination and collaboration."*** – North Lawndale Leader

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*What money can and cannot be spent on.* Funding opportunities often come with little "p" policies stipulating what organizations providing OST programs can and cannot spend the money on based on the overarching goals of the funding opportunity. We observed some common themes in funding intended to support either a specific group of people or a broader community goal or to provide specific types of programming based on where the funding originated.

- **At the federal level,** awarding entities often designed funding opportunities to provide programs and resources for young people from specific populations, such as those who are from lower income backgrounds. For example, the Child and Adult Care Food Program offers funding to ensure young people from lower income backgrounds have access to nutritious meals.

- **At the state level**, opportunities often supported broader community goals, such as preventing community violence. For example, the *Restore, Reinvest, Renew* funding opportunity funded programs that use evidence-based practices to reduce violence.
- **At the local level**, we saw some common themes in awarding entities providing funding to support young people who live in specific neighborhoods. For example, the Department of Family Support Services provided *My CHI. My Future.* microgrants to increase the prevalence of community-based youth engagement programming in specific neighborhoods.
- **In private philanthropy**, we did not observe distinct themes in what awarding entities intended to support across opportunities. Rather, opportunities typically supported a specific project or type of activity at a program. For example, the Footlocker Foundation funded programs focused on sport or physical activity.

Similar to the lowercase “p” policies that dictate what OST organizations can spend funding on, funding opportunities often stipulate specific resources or materials that the opportunity cannot be spent on. Common funding restrictions we observed in the document review included prohibitions on capital improvements, vehicles for transportation, and food. These restrictions limit programs’ ability to meet basic needs.

Program leaders and families also voiced their inability to meet the needs of their community members, often using their own funds. Participants also described challenges with complex reporting requirements and differing metrics across funders. These burdens reduce time available for direct service and strain already limited staff capacity.



**North Lawndale Spotlight:** Program leaders in North Lawndale emphasized challenges in meeting basic needs that align to challenges across the city.

*“If you’ve got participants who didn’t show up because they didn’t have bus fare or because they’re hungry, then you have to deviate from what that program or funder said should be going on in week nine. This guy’s starving. **We got to get him some food or he’s never coming back, or we got to get him a Ventra card because he can’t even get here.**”*

– North Lawndale Leader

## OST System Needs

We asked interview and focus group participants what they think the priorities for the OST system should be moving forward, and they said **the most urgent priority for the OST system is ensuring young people have access to high-quality spaces that promote both physical and emotional safety**, particularly in communities experiencing high levels of violence. These insights aligned with the results of [a survey by A Better Chicago](#), which reported that two thirds of young people have witnessed violence and expressed a desire for more community-based programs. It

also revealed that 95% of young people in Chicago view mental health as a major issue among their peers, yet just half said they have received mental health services. A [survey by the Afterschool Alliance](#) found that more than 40% of Illinois parents and caregivers identified key barriers to OST program participation, including that programs are unavailable in their community, are located in inconvenient places, or lack safe transportation options. Participants in our study discussed barriers such as unsafe transportation routes, limited program information, and language access challenges, especially for families who have immigrated to the United States or do not speak English amid heightened Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity, further restricting participation. In North Lawndale, these concerns were especially pronounced. Leaders described young people unable to cross neighborhood boundaries safely.



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**North Lawndale Spotlight:** North Lawndale participants emphasized the need for safety and highlighted specific concerns of gang activity, which aligns with our findings from the focus groups and interviews and survey reports from A Better Chicago and Afterschool Alliance.

*“It’s one thing to provide a service for young guys who may have some sort of gang affiliation or not, but **they can’t get to the program because they can’t cross the street**, because they know what it means to be seen by the wrong person at the wrong time.”*

– North Lawndale Leader

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Meaning-making participants emphasized that safety is intertwined with mental health, noting that trauma-informed care, crisis-responsive supports, and stable, welcoming environments are essential for young people’s well-being. Parents in North Lawndale highlighted the need for OST programs that offer homework help, academic support, and a reliable safe haven after school.



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**North Lawndale Spotlight:** Parents and caregivers in North Lawndale also want OST programs to provide homework help, academic support, and opportunities for their children to explore their interests.

*“**They have a chance to do their homework and it’s also a safe haven.** When they get out of school, they won’t be hanging in the street while mom is still at work and doesn’t know what they’re doing.”* – North Lawndale Parent

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**Interview and focus group participants noted that OST remains under-recognized and under-resourced compared to other fields.** One funder shared, “There hasn’t been a very strong network in our state or even in our city for the organizations to work together to do effective advocacy as we see in other sectors, like early childhood.” While Illinois made major, clearly defined [public investments](#) in early childhood—directing more than \$980 million in federal relief funds between 2020 and 2022 to stabilize child care programs and support the early childhood workforce—comparable investments in OST are more difficult to identify, in

part because OST funding is often embedded within broader grant initiatives. At the same time, Illinois continues to allocate substantial resources to youth corrections, with a per-capita annual cost of \$70,827 per youth housed in correctional facilities (Illinois Department of Human Services, 2024), even as research shows that OST programs support youth by increasing participation in adult-supervised environments that provide safe spaces and lessen the chance of engaging in risky activities (McCombs et al., 2023). Together, this underscores how OST operates within an environment where preventive, community-based supports receive less visibility and dedicated funding than other youth-serving systems.

**Participants echoed that system-wide initiatives are siloed and inconsistent**, but neighborhood-, city-, and state-wide initiatives provide some coordination that could be built upon. They emphasized the need for a shared mission, stronger cross-sector collaboration, and unified advocacy to elevate OST as a priority. Participants noted that **a broader commitment to the “cradle to career” continuum can set young people and families up to thrive and should bring together different sectors** (e.g., early childhood, community violence, higher education, and local businesses).



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**North Lawndale Spotlight:** North Lawndale participants echoed sentiments from other study participants, that coordination across programs could enhance collaboration to improve offerings for young people.

*“Partnership could be powerful . . . organizations partnering with one another to offer dynamic and multifaceted programming.” – North Lawndale Leader*

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## Voices From the Field: Focus Areas for Strengthening the OST System in Chicago

In the meaning-making sessions, we asked participants to review findings from interviews and focus groups and prioritize them into which were most urgent for the system to focus on, with consideration for which are most actionable and feasible to implement. Participants identified **burdensome funding requirements, coordination, collective advocacy, and field investment** as the highest priority because funding is foundational to meeting other needs in communities, such as mental health, access, and transportation, and advocacy can increase funding. They began to identify specific action items the field could use to address these priorities.

Participants at the in-person convening built upon these action items to refine framing, propose additions, and identify specific tasks they can take in their roles in support of the action items elevated in this study. We also asked participants to identify priorities for the system that are most urgent for the field to focus on. Here, we provide a brief review of the study finding that supports each focus area and then share specific tasks identified by program leaders, funders, policymakers, and capacity builders at the convening, in order of prioritization by participants.



### **Focus Area: Reduce burden in funding applications and award restrictions.**

Participants emphasized the need for more flexible, equitable, and coordinated funding structures to overcome hurdles in funding applications, compliance, and restrictions in use. They noted that annual applications for limited dollars create competition among organizations in the field and that covering expenses up front for reimbursement models specifically challenges small and emerging organizations. Participants also shared that fulfilling data needs of various funders can steer resources away from building organizational quality and capacity. They recommended action items based on these challenges, including:

1. **Expand funding opportunities with multiyear, flexible funding to reduce instability and increase organizational capacity.** Statewide capacity builders echoed calls for shifting away from reimbursement models of funding. They highlighted they can continue to support this call in the field and encouraged others to socialize the need for shifting away from reimbursement models to better support small and emerging organizations that might not have enough operating capital. Some philanthropic funders committed to looking into transitioning from 1-year to 3-year award periods, which program leaders affirmed would provide them with more stability.



### **Promising Practice**

The [Illinois Afterschool Network](#), a professional membership association for people who work with youth, recently partnered with the [Bright Promises Foundation](#), a Chicagoland foundation, to provide trust-based funding to two OST coaches, who provided monthly social-emotional training and support to OST professionals across the state.

2. **Provide technical assistance for small or emerging organizations to help them access and sustain funding opportunities that typically favor larger, established agencies.** Funders mentioned they could provide resources to support smaller organizations in searching for appropriate funding opportunities, as well as office hours to support community building, mentorship, and technical assistance with reporting metrics needed to maintain funding compliance. A few leaders of larger, established OST programs noted they could partner with smaller organizations to provide mentorship and share expertise in funding applications.
3. **Incentivize program quality and accreditation,** to encourage long-term program improvements rather than short-term deliverables tied to restrictive grants. One organization noted how they could share documents, tools, or workshops with small or emerging organizations to support program evaluation related to quality.



#### Promising Practice

[Gateways to Opportunity](#), a professional credentialing system funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services, offers a free youth development credential for Illinois professionals that recognizes both educational and work experience in the field.



**Focus Area: Identify opportunities for alignment across funding entities.** We found that OST programs use between two and 10 funding sources and participants described the heavy administrative workload associated with grant application and compliance across the various funders they receive dollars from. Participants noted that different funders often use application questions and data requests that are similar in scope but differential in specific requirements, which results in OST programs dedicating many resources to fulfilling various needs. Participants suggested that more coordination among funders could better enable organizations providing OST programming to streamline resources and focus on providing quality programming. They offered solutions focused on simplification, coordination, and capacity building, including:

4. **Specify an intermediary organization<sup>4</sup> to act as a bridge between OST programs and funders** to coordinate conversations and streamline communication. Participants suggested having a group of philanthropic OST funders as the primary convener, with a cabinet of OST program leaders to advise on decision making. One organization suggested talking with established intermediaries in other sectors, such as higher education and early childhood, to identify best practices for sustaining an intermediary organization. Funders noted they can help identify a regular cadence of meetings that can occur in person, if possible.



#### Promising Practice

Existing groups of funders with shared goals meet regularly to increase collaboration and responsiveness to emergent needs.

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<sup>4</sup> Here we define intermediary as an organization that dedicates staff and initiatives to connecting programs, funding, policies, and technical assistance to improve access to and quality of programming. [Illinois Action for Children](#) is one example of an intermediary connecting these resources in the early childhood and child care sector.

5. **Move toward use of common criteria and metrics on funding applications and reporting requirements** across foundations and public agencies to reduce duplicative effort among organizations applying for funding. Philanthropic funders noted that it may be challenging to adopt one single common application for funding but that they can look into collaborating on the use of some common application questions and metric requests so that programs do not need to craft entirely new responses for each application. Other funders committed to examining examples in other states, such as Colorado, and in other topic areas, such as health. Philanthropic funders also spoke about the importance of advocating on behalf of OST programs by communicating the importance of streamlining funding applications to their board members. An organization mentioned investing ample time into a data reporting system that tracks OST programs across the state and said they could share the reporting structures that other organizations could use as a template.



**Focus Area: Coordinate to encourage collective advocacy.** Participants highlighted a need to bring together representatives both within and across fields, such as early childhood, health, and higher education, to support young people from birth to adulthood. They often highlighted challenges that come with investing only in one phase of an individual's lifespan and noted that we need to convene around a shared mission and goal. Participants generated recommendations that emphasize sustained collaboration, shared messaging, and unified advocacy to elevate OST as a priority for the city and state more broadly:

6. **Build more formal coordination structures among OST programs, funders, and policymakers, and include other fields (as applicable) to adopt unified messages and shared advocacy agendas.** Participants advocated for developing a consistent, sustainable collaborative of OST advocates across organizations to identify and advance shared missions that sustain beyond public office transitions. Participants noted that pre-existing initiatives, such as *My CHI. My Future.* should be built upon rather than starting new efforts from scratch. Some participants committed to providing a physical space to support ongoing meetings and committed to identifying a representative from their organization to attend the meetings.

7. **Bring together OST programs and local businesses as partners in youth development and cradle-to-career pathways.** Participants across different entities shared various ways in which they could support engagement with the local community. One organization noted they could engage businesses in their local community as partners in supporting OST, and that they could serve the dual purpose of providing mentorship and internship opportunities for young people. Another organization mentioned they could attend more school and community meetings across the city to establish connections and hear about local needs so that benefits are reciprocal. Funders shared they could potentially fund events that bring local businesses together with OST programs to support community building and partnership.



#### Promising Practice

[BUILD](#), a violence prevention, gang intervention, and youth development organization working on Chicago's West Side, partners with local businesses and organizations to host [public events](#) based on current community needs.

8. **Leverage local community assets when establishing collaborative OST program efforts.** Participants emphasized the value in starting coordination efforts at the hyperlocal level, such as in specific neighborhoods, to identify, build upon, and preserve strengths within the community. Strengthening these local connections could then support city- and state-wide expansions. Program leaders noted they could support this task by communicating in their own localities to identify trusted messengers to help convene within their community.
9. **Advance city- and state-wide legislation and policy efforts that elevate OST as a priority and identify micro- and macro-level system barriers and participants.** Funders noted they could provide support to advocacy organizations and coalitions that exist to better support existing efforts in the field. Advocacy organizations also noted the use of meetings and listening sessions at schools and community sites to learn about local challenges and opportunities for improvement while minimizing power dynamics that prohibit sustainable change.



#### Promising Practice

[Afterschool for Children & Teens Now](#) (ACT Now), a network for OST organizations, provides resources to build awareness and advocate for increasing the quality and availability of afterschool programs in Illinois.



**Focus Area: Advocate for increased, targeted investment in the field.** Participants felt that OST is often undervalued on a broader stage and that the field must work together to emphasize the urgent need to support the field. Participants highlighted the need to invest in the mental health of young people and staff

shared practical strategies to address this need, including:

**10. Amplify staff and youth voices when highlighting the need**

**for investment in OST.** Leaders of OST programs committed to talking with their OST workforce, young people, and families to gather more information on their needs and develop stories to communicate with funders, advocates, and policymakers. Another organization suggested they could offer trainings for staff, parents, and community about how to advocate independently for increased funding and recognition of the field.

**11. Invest in OST workforce development to support trauma-**

**informed care and mental health supports for staff well-being.** Funders mentioned looking into funding opportunities that could explicitly focus on professional development and providing separate, committed funding to addressing the mental health crisis among staff and students. OST programs noted they could align with other organizations to identify strategies for providing a community of care.

**12. Map OST funding, high-violence, and low-OST areas**

**statewide and citywide to identify gaps, redundancies, and opportunities for targeted advocacy and to strengthen the case for targeted investment.** Organizations operating OST programs noted they could contribute to defining “high-need” areas based on their experiences and collaborate in collective efforts to share data to fully map funding gaps as those data align with the OST service landscape. One organization noted they could share existing landscape maps to build upon and help create a cohesive story about OST programming.



**Promising Practice**

[Illinois Collaboration on Youth](#), an organization supporting infrastructure and capacity building of organizations serving youth, offers free, trauma-informed resources and training to support youth and staff mental health.



**Promising Practice**

Some organizations have created maps to help understand the distribution of OST programs in Illinois ([ACT Now](#)) and key indicators of young people in Chicago ([A Better Chicago](#)).

## Thank you to all organizations who supported this study!

|                                                   |                                    |                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Advance Illinois                                  | Chicago Youth Centers              | Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation       |
| Afterschool for Children & Teens Now (ACT Now)    | Christopher Family Foundation      | Project Exploration                     |
| After School Matters (ASM)                        | Circle of Service Foundation       | Project SYNCERE                         |
| Bright Promises Foundation                        | Contextos                          | Robert R McCormick Foundation           |
| BUILD                                             | Family Focus Lawndale              | Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteers |
| Carole Robertson Center for Learning              | Fields of Dreams Chicago           | UCAN                                    |
| Chicago Department of Family and Support Services | Illinois Action for Children       | Vivo Foundation                         |
| Chicago Learning Exchange (CLX)                   | Illinois Afterschool Network (IAN) | West Side United                        |
| Chicago Mayor's Office                            | Laureus Sport for Good Foundation  | YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago            |
| Chicago Park District                             | Lefkowsky Family Foundation        | Young Doctors Club NFP                  |
| Chicago Public Schools (CPS)                      | MIGMIR Fund                        | YMEN                                    |
| Chicago Urban League                              | Mikva Challenge                    | Youth Guidance                          |
|                                                   | Our Leaders of Tomorrow            |                                         |
|                                                   | Polk Bros Foundation               |                                         |

*Note.* Microsoft Copilot was used throughout the study to transcribe recordings, assist with data coding, and help organize and shorten findings; the research team carefully reviewed all interpretations and conclusions.

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# Appendix A. Methods

This study conducted by the American Institutes for Research® (AIR®) included interviews, focus groups, and a document review. In the sections that follow, we provide more information on the data collection, coding, and analytics used as our methods.

## Data Collection

For interviews and focus groups, AIR first identified specific organizations and entities in collaboration with the Steans Family Foundation (SFF). Second, we identified specific points of contact at organizations using internal AIR connections and then using SFF connections where needed. After identifying participants, we collected data for the interviews and focus groups by conducting:

- Five 60-minute virtual focus groups with 15 out-of-school time (OST) providers, four capacity builders/conveners, and three funders. One focus group included OST providers specifically in North Lawndale.
- One in-person focus group with three North Lawndale families, including young people, at one OST program.
- Eight virtual 60-minute interviews with five policy/advocacy organizations, two OST providers, and one funder.

All focus groups and interviews were recorded and transcribed using Microsoft 365 (M365) Copilot. These services are secure, and data are not shared with any organization outside of AIR.

We collected a series of documents, including 11 data systems, reports, and policies and 122 funding opportunities. Funding opportunities included 23 federal opportunities for funding, 70 state opportunities, 10 local opportunities, and 19 philanthropic opportunities. To narrow the focus of federal funding opportunities for this study, we reviewed only opportunities referenced by two or more well-known sources specific to Illinois, including:

- Public databases of active funding opportunities for Illinois OST programs ([Afterschool Alliance](#) and [Children's Funding Project](#))
- Recent reports on funding for OST programs in Illinois ([The Future of Youth Development: Building Systems and Strengthening Programs](#), and [The State of Afterschool in Illinois](#))
  - Surveys of current OST professionals fielded for this study.

We used the [Illinois Catalog of State Financial Assistance](#) to identify state sources of funding, and we used internet search engines and study participant’s recommendations for local funding sources.

## **Coding and Analysis**

The AIR team coded interview and focus group transcripts to identify priorities for the system, coordination across the system, funding challenges and sufficiency, data system use, supports for young people and families, and policies. The coding aimed to elevate common themes in each topic across focus groups and interviews. The team completed the coding using Microsoft CoPilot 365 (M365 Copilot), an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered productivity tool integrated directly into Microsoft 365 applications. We asked the AI tool to review transcripts using prompts related to current priorities for OST programs and the extent to which those priorities are being met; coordination among OST program organizations, policymakers, funders, and youth and families; funding for OST programs, including the adequacy of current funding and funding-related challenges; the data or data systems used by programs or improvements to those systems; the supports that OST programs currently provide to youth and families; the needs of those families, such as safety or mental health; the policies that OST programs follow; and other prevalent themes not captured in these categories. The study team members who conducted the interviews and focus groups carefully reviewed all M365 Copilot output and adjusted it as necessary to ensure coding accuracy. The team then reviewed the coding to identify themes across interviews and focus groups and reviewed the coding from the North Lawndale transcripts separately to understand how participants’ perspectives align with those from the city.

The project team coded documents for number of years active, amount of funding, award periods and renewal, applicable programs or young people, use of funds, expectations, and restrictions. The team reviewed documents to understand policies that govern OST programs, the flow of funding, amounts available, and usage requirements.

## **Meaning-Making Sessions**

After coding all data sources and generating findings, AIR invited all study participants to participate in a virtual, 1–hour meaning-making session in December 2025. These sessions had a threefold purpose:

1. Ensure that the findings we generated accurately reflect the lived realities of participants,
2. Gather feedback on the framing and interpretation of findings to ensure they are clear and appropriate for the field, and
3. Begin to generate focus areas based on the findings.

We invited all interview and focus group participants to participate in a meaning-making session, and we held two sessions with a total of 15 individuals who agreed to participate. We asked participants to review a preliminary findings summary ahead of the meeting. Working in small groups, the participants used Mentimeter, an interactive presentation and audience engagement tool, to rate the relevance of the findings and then discussed their responses. Afterward, the participants discussed revisions to the framing of language used in the report, where applicable. Participants used Mentimeter again to rank the findings based on which were most reasonable and actionable for the field to implement. We then closed the session as a whole group to discuss action items related to the prioritized findings. The meaning-making sessions were recorded, and a member of the study team synthesized findings across groups for inclusion in an interim findings report. Overall, participants agreed that the findings resonated with their experiences and offered suggestions for adjusting the framing. These suggestions, along with the action items generated, were incorporated into the interim findings summary.

### **In-Person Convening**

In February 2026, AIR hosted an in-person convening for 31 OST program leaders, funders, and policy/advocate organizations to share interim findings from this work and identify specific tasks for the system moving forward. Our objectives for convening participants included:

1. Connect with other attendees to foster further collaboration,
2. Brainstorm specific tasks to support the field, and
3. Better understand the funding landscape and needs of the OST system.

We asked participants to review a short summary of findings ahead of the convening and to come to the session prepared to discuss action steps relevant to the overall system and to their organization's role within the system. During the 4-hour session, we conducted two small-group activities. In the first small-group session, participants reviewed the action items generated in the meaning-making session for clarity and to identify any missing action items. In the second small-group activity, participants identified specific tasks that could support each action item associated with an individual's role in their organization. Facilitators from AIR recorded notes in each session and synthesized findings across the small groups for integration into this final report.

## Appendix B. Funding Opportunities Reviewed

AIR reviewed federal, state, local, and philanthropic funding opportunities for this study. In the tables that follow, the funding opportunities we reviewed are organized by the awarding entity. The information in these tables comes from publicly available sources, including the [Children's Funding Database](#), the [Illinois Catalog of State Financial Assistance](#), [Illinois State Budget Books](#), and Requests for Proposals provided by study participants or found on websites of awarding entities. While we sought to include information on all topics listed below, sources had varying levels of information. In particular, philanthropic sources had less information on the total funding in Illinois and population focus as compared to governmental sources. Information was last updated between January and February 2026. Definitions of terms used in the table include:

- **Opportunity:** the official name of the funding opportunity from the awarding entity
- **Description:** brief statement on what the opportunity can be used for
- **Recent Awardees:** selected list of entities that received the award between 2023 and 2026
- **Award Type:** how money is awarded to entities. Some funding opportunities are discretionary or competitive, meaning they are awarded through an application process where the funder decides who receives funds based on what they propose. Other funding opportunities are direct lines to specific programs or noncompetitive, meaning they are awarded to specific organizations as decided by the funder prior to application. Finally, some funding opportunities are formula-based, meaning they are awarded based on predetermined calculations.
- **Funding (\$) in IL in 2024 or 2025:** the 1-year total amount that opportunity provided to Illinois in 2024 or 2025. We provide amounts in 2024 for federal opportunities and in 2025 for state and local opportunities because these are the most recent years with the most complete, publicly available information on spending. In some cases, we found that total investment amounts funding opportunities varied between sources.
- **Population Focus:** specific groups of people the funding opportunity is intended to support.

## Exhibit B1. Federal Funding Opportunities Reviewed

| Opportunity                                             | Description                                                                                                                       | Recent awardees                                                                           | Award type | \$ in IL in 2024 | Population focus |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|
|                                                         |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                           |            |                  | Low-income       | With disability | English learner | Specific region | Violence exposed | Unhoused | Justice involved |
| Department of Agriculture (USDA)                        |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                           |            |                  |                  |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)               | Reimbursements for providing free or reduced-price meals and snacks meeting nutrition standards                                   | Northern Illinois Food Bank, YMCA of West Central Illinois, Illinois Child Care Bureau    | Formula    | \$161 M*<br>+    | X                |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| National School Lunch Program—Afterschool Snacks (NSLP) | Reimbursements for providing free or low-cost snacks meeting nutrition standards                                                  | Chicago Public Schools, Rockford School District, Springfield School District             | Formula    | \$548 M*<br>+    | X                |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| School Breakfast Program (SBP)                          | Reimbursements for providing free or reduced-price breakfast meeting nutrition standards                                          | Chicago Public Schools, Rockford School District, Springfield School District             | Formula    | \$181 M*<br>+    | X                |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)                      | Reimbursements for providing free or reduced-price meals and snacks meeting nutrition standards when school is out for the summer | Chicago Park District, Salvation Army Metropolitan Division, YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago | Formula    | \$15 M<br>+      | X                | X               |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |

| Opportunity                        | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Recent awardees                                                                                                      | Award type  | \$ in IL in 2024 | Population focus |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|
|                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                      |             |                  | Low-income       | With disability | English learner | Specific region | Violence exposed | Unhoused | Justice involved |
| Department of Education (ED)       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                      |             |                  |                  |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| Disability Innovation Fund (DIF)   | Support for students with disabilities. Can include afterschool and summer activities that build work readiness, independent living skills, and connections to competitive integrated employment.                                     | Access Living of Metro Chicago, Lake County Center for Independent Living, Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living | Competitive | \$2 M +          |                  | X               |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| Education Stabilization Fund (ESF) | COVID-19 relief funds to support remote-learning and increase afterschool or summer opportunities through virtual course access, family support, or school day continuity. Includes Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief. | Chicago Public Schools, Illinois Network Of Child Care Resource And Referral Agencies, University of Illinois        | Formula     | \$10.5 B* +      | X                |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |

| Opportunity                                                                        | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Recent awardees                                                                             | Award type    | \$ in IL in 2024 | Population focus |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|
|                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                             |               |                  | Low-income       | With disability | English learner | Specific region | Violence exposed | Unhoused | Justice involved |
| <b>Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS)</b>                                       | Funding to operate community schools that coordinate academic, social, and health services in high-poverty areas. Can be used for afterschool and summer activities that connect students with enrichment, family supports, and integrated community services. | Recipient list not publicly available                                                       | Discretionary | \$21 M*<br>-     | X                |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| <b>Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Title I)</b>                            | Supports schools with high concentrations of students from low-income families. Can be used in afterschool or summer programs for academic services.                                                                                                           | Chicago Public Schools, East St. Louis School District, Rockford School District            | Formula       | \$778 M*<br>+    | X                |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| <b>Immigrant Education Programs: Lang Inst Prog-Limited End LIPLEP (Title III)</b> | Supports services that improve the English language proficiency and academic achievement of English learners and immigrant children and youth, and activities that increase the knowledge and skills of teachers.                                              | Chicago Public Schools, Elgin Area School District, Waukegan Community Unit School District | Formula       | \$68 M*<br>+     |                  |                 | X               |                 |                  |          |                  |

| Opportunity                                                                                             | Description                                                                                                                                                               | Recent awardees                                                                                           | Award type    | \$ in IL in 2024 | Population focus |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|
|                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                           |               |                  | Low-income       | With disability | English learner | Specific region | Violence exposed | Unhoused | Justice involved |
| <b>Student Support and Academic Enrichment (Title IVA)</b>                                              | Provides access to academic support; improves school conditions for student learning and technology use.                                                                  | Chicago Public Schools, Elgin Area School District, Waukegan Community Unit School District               | Formula       | \$88 M*<br>+     |                  |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| <b>Rural Education Initiative (Title V)</b>                                                             | Provides financial assistance to rural districts to improve academic achievement.                                                                                         | Galesburg Community Unit School District, Freeport School District, Macomb Community Unit School District | Formula       | \$2.2 M*<br>=    | X                |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |
| <b>Twenty-First Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC)</b>                                       | Supports afterschool and summer programs that provide extended learning, enrichment activities, and family education services in high-poverty and low-performing schools. | Alternative Schools Network, Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago                                                | Formula       | \$54 M*<br>+     | X                |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| <b>Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)</b>                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                           |               |                  |                  |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| <b>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Projects of Regional and National Significance (PRNS)</b> | Supports training and technical assistance to implement evidence-based substance use prevention activities, which can include afterschool and summer programs.            | N/A—2026 Launch                                                                                           | Discretionary | N/A—2026 Launch  |                  |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |

| Opportunity                                        | Description                                                                                                                                                                                               | Recent awardees                                                                 | Award type    | \$ in IL in 2024     | Population focus |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|
|                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                 |               |                      | Low-income       | With disability | English learner | Specific region | Violence exposed | Unhoused | Justice involved |
| Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                 |               |                      |                  |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)           | Supports infrastructure in non-metropolitan areas. Can be used to improve or expand facilities for afterschool and summer programs for low-income residents or address community needs.                   | No information found                                                            | Formula       | No information found | X                |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| Youth Homeless System Improvement Grants (YHSI)    | Funding to increase youth in state government and understand how to reduce experiences of homelessness.                                                                                                   | Night Ministry                                                                  | Discretionary | No active funding    |                  |                 |                 |                 |                  | X        |                  |
| Department of Justice (DOJ)                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                 |               |                      |                  |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| Community-based Violence Intervention & Prevention | Funding to implement evidence-based violence intervention and prevention programs, such as afterschool or summer initiatives that offer mentoring, conflict-resolution training, or prosocial activities. | New Eclipse Community Alliance, Angel of God Resource Center, Inc., BUILD, Inc. | Discretionary | \$900 K +            |                  |                 |                 |                 | X                |          |                  |

| Opportunity                                                             | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Recent awardees                                                                                  | Award type                | \$ in IL in 2024 | Population focus |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|
|                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                  |                           |                  | Low-income       | With disability | English learner | Specific region | Violence exposed | Unhoused | Justice involved |
| <b>Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)</b>     | Supports justice-related areas to prevent youth violence, such as crime prevention, mental health programs, and community-based services.                                                                                                                     | Acclivus, Inc., Kane County State's Attorney Office, County of Winnebago                         | Formula                   | \$9 M +          |                  |                 |                 |                 |                  |          | X                |
| <b>Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)</b>    | Funding to prevent youth from entering the justice system and to intervene first-time or low-level offenders. Can be used for afterschool or summer programs that offer mentoring, skill-building, supervision, or other supports that reduce risky behavior. | Peoria County Board, Lake County State's Attorney's Office, Saint Clair Juvenile Justice Council | Discretionary             | \$1 M +          |                  |                 |                 |                 |                  |          | X                |
| <b>Department of Labor (DOL)</b>                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                  |                           |                  |                  |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| <b>Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Activities (WIOA)</b> | Funding to implement programs that prepare youth for workforce, such as afterschool and summer activities that support career exploration, work-based learning, mentoring, and education or training programs                                                 | Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, Southern Illinois Workforce Development Board                | Formula and Discretionary | \$49 M +         | X                | X               | X               |                 |                  | X        | X                |

| Opportunity                         | Description                                                                                                                                                                            | Recent awardees                                                    | Award type    | \$ in IL in 2024 | Population focus |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|
|                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                    |               |                  | Low-income       | With disability | English learner | Specific region | Violence exposed | Unhoused | Justice involved |
| Other Federal Funding Opportunities |                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                    |               |                  |                  |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| Advancing Informal STEM Learning    | Supports research and practice in informal STEM learning settings, with a focus on engaging diverse audiences, increasing STEM participation for historically underrepresented groups. | University of Chicago, Giant Screen Films, Northwestern University | Discretionary | \$12 M +         |                  |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |
| AmeriCorps State and National       | Provides volunteers to address local needs in areas such as education, public safety, health, and the environment.                                                                     | Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago, Up2Us Sports, Chicago Debates       | Discretionary | \$8 M +          |                  |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |

*Note.* \*Indicates the value presented is not specific to OST and includes spending in other areas such as early childhood and school day programs.; M represents million, K represents thousand; + indicates increase from prior year, - indicates decrease, = indicates no change

## Exhibit B2. State Funding Opportunities Reviewed

|                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                             |             |                  | Population focus |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
| Opportunity                                                        | Description                                                                                                                                           | Recent awardees                                                                                             | Grant type  | \$ in IL in 2025 | Low-income       | With disability | Specific region | Violence exposed | Justice involved | At-risk |
| Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA)            |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                             |             |                  |                  |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
| Restore, Reinvest, Renew (R3)                                      | Supports programs in communities disproportionately affected by violence, incarceration, and economic disinvestment.                                  | Law And The Fam LLC, District Outreach Industries, The Restorative Project, Inc.                            | Competitive | \$202 M =        |                  |                 | X               | X                |                  |         |
| GRF Named Entities Violence Prevention and Youth Employment (VPYE) | Targets youth and young adults, including those who are identified as being at heightened risk or those who engage in high-risk behavior or violence. | Guitars Over Guns Organization, Project SYNCERE, South Shore Drill Team & Performing Arts Ensemble          | Direct line | \$1.5 M +        |                  |                 |                 | X                |                  |         |
| Violence Prevention and Reduction (VPR)                            | Grants to reduce and prevent the spread of community violence through services and therapy.                                                           | Legacy Reentry Foundation, Roseland Ceasefire Project, Inc., Cook County Southland Juvenile Justice Council | Direct line | \$20 M -         |                  |                 |                 | X                |                  |         |

| Opportunity                                           | Description                                                                                                                                                                                    | Recent awardees                                                                                                       | Grant type  | \$ in IL in 2025 | Population focus |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
|                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                       |             |                  | Low-income       | With disability | Specific region | Violence exposed | Justice involved | At-risk |
| Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)          |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                       |             |                  |                  |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
| Community Youth Services (CYS)                        | Develops and implements strategies, activities, and services to prevent delinquency and violence among youth through community engagement, strategic planning, services and referral.          | Chicago Area Project, Illinois Coalition for Community Services, DuPage County Area Project                           | Competitive | \$7 M =          |                  |                 |                 | X                | X                | X       |
| Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS)* | Supports statewide continuum of crisis and stabilization services for at-risk youth and their families through structured, supervised, supportive space for at-risk youth in non-school hours. | Youth Outreach Services, Aunt Martha’s Health and Wellness Inc., Alternatives Incorporated                            | Competitive | \$30 M -         |                  |                 |                 |                  |                  | X       |
| Teen REACH                                            | Supports afterschool programming for at-risk youth, focusing on academic improvement, life skills, family engagement, recreation, mentoring, and STEM learning.                                | Boys and Girls Clubs of America Illinois, Boys and Girls Club of North Central IL, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council | Competitive | \$63 M +         |                  |                 |                 |                  |                  | X       |

| Opportunity                                                         | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Recent awardees                                                                                                    | Grant type    | \$ in IL in 2025 | Population focus |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
|                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                    |               |                  | Low-income       | With disability | Specific region | Violence exposed | Justice involved | At-risk |
| <b>Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA)*</b>                          | Law dedicating funding to prevention through community-based services, such as violence interruption, behavioral health response, reentry support, and alternatives to traditional policing.                                    | Family Focus, Lawndale Christian Legal Center, True Star Foundation                                                | Competitive   | \$45 M +         |                  |                 | X               | X                |                  | X       |
| <b>RPSA Greater Illinois Reimagine Youth Intervention Services*</b> | <i>Component of RPSA to reduce involvement in the criminal or juvenile justice system, increase school attendance, and refer teens into therapeutic programs that address trauma recovery and other mental health services.</i> | Metropolitan Family Services, Community Counseling Centers of Chicago, Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois | Competitive   | \$2 M +          |                  |                 | X               | X                |                  | X       |
| <b>RPSA Youth Development Services*</b>                             | <i>Component of RPSA to fund programs that serve youth who have the highest risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of firearm violence and use evidence-informed programming and services.</i>                                | Boys and Girls Club of North Central Illinois, Inc., Westside Health Authority, Salvation Army                     | Discretionary | \$19 M +         |                  |                 | X               | X                | X                | X       |

| Opportunity                                                                      | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                | Recent awardees                                                                                        | Grant type                       | \$ in IL in 2025 | Population focus |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
|                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                        |                                  |                  | Low-income       | With disability | Specific region | Violence exposed | Justice involved | At-risk |
| <b>RPSA Greater Illinois Trauma Informed Behavioral Health Services (TIBHS)*</b> | <i>Component of RPSA to provide trauma-informed behavioral health services in the highest risk Greater Illinois communities.</i>                                                                           | Comprehensive Community Solutions, Inc., Alternatives Incorporated, Illinois Youth and Family Services | Competitive                      | \$4 M<br>-       |                  |                 | X               | X                |                  |         |
| <b>RPSA Chicago Youth Development &amp; Intervention Services (CYDIS)*</b>       | <i>Component of RPSA to provide evidence-informed youth development and intervention services that improve youth outcomes and reduce risk factors for firearm violence in highly affected communities.</i> | Youth Guidance, UCAN, BBBS                                                                             | Competitive                      | \$2 M<br>-       |                  |                 | X               | X                |                  |         |
| <b>Cultural Faith Based Empowerment (CFPE)</b>                                   | Provides outreach, engagement, training, and support to faith-based organizations serving communities that are underserved by mental and behavioral health resources.                                      | Habilitative Systems, Inc., Envision Unlimited                                                         | Direct Payments for Specific Use | \$1 M<br>+       | X                |                 | X               | X                |                  |         |
| <b>Basic Supports Enhanced Services (BSES)</b>                                   | Assistance to meet basic needs, such as food, shelter, medical, as well as to offer programming to support children and youth development and family and community safety.                                 | United Way of Greater St. Louis, Mu Delta Lambda Charitable Foundation, Vision for Chicago             | Competitive                      | \$3 M<br>+       | X                |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |

| Opportunity                                                                                                              | Description                                                                                                                                                              | Recent awardees                                                                    | Grant type                       | \$ in IL in 2025                   | Population focus |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
|                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                    |                                  |                                    | Low-income       | With disability | Specific region | Violence exposed | Justice involved | At-risk |
| <b>Becoming A Man (BAM)</b>                                                                                              | Implements school-based counseling programs for young men.                                                                                                               | Youth Guidance                                                                     | Noncompetitive                   | \$1 M<br>-                         |                  |                 | X               |                  |                  | X       |
| <b>Strengthen Mental Health Workforce (SMHW)</b>                                                                         | Expands training, retention, and direct service capacity for mental health workforce.                                                                                    | The Josselyn Center                                                                | Direct Payments for Specific Use | <i>Launching in 2026 @ \$404 K</i> | X                |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
| <b>Get GROWin in Illinois (GGIL)</b>                                                                                     | Use GROW Program to support mental health and personal growth.                                                                                                           | GROW in Illinois                                                                   | Direct Payments for Specific Use | <i>Launching in 2026 @ \$200 K</i> |                  |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
| <b>Life Enrichment Programs for I/DD individuals (LEP)</b>                                                               | Enhance existing programs for students with disabilities with Chicago Park District, Art & Music Therapy programs, and Chicago Public Schools.                           | Special Children's Charities                                                       | Noncompetitive                   | \$2 M<br>+                         |                  | X               |                 |                  |                  |         |
| <b>Non-Traditional Hours Care Pilot (NTHCP)</b>                                                                          | Funds to pilot and study a Non-Traditional Hours Care program to further improve the program.                                                                            | Illinois Action for Children, Sal Family and Community Services                    | Noncompetitive                   | \$810 K<br>+                       |                  |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
| <b>Office of Community and Positive Youth Development Named Appropriation After School Programming for Youth (OCPYD)</b> | Provides additional short-term funding to establish, support, or expand youth development and intervention services for agencies identified in the state budget process. | Centro De Trabajadores Unidos, Steam Genius, Monument Of Faith Evangelistic Church | Noncompetitive                   | \$52 M<br>-                        |                  |                 |                 |                  |                  | X       |

| Opportunity                                                                                                                       | Description                                                                                                                                                              | Recent awardees                                                                     | Grant type     | \$ in IL in 2025            | Population focus |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
|                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                     |                |                             | Low-income       | With disability | Specific region | Violence exposed | Justice involved | At-risk |
| <b>Office of Community and Positive Youth Development Named Appropriation Employment and Education Supports for Youth (OCPYD)</b> | Provides additional short-term funding to establish, support, or expand youth development and intervention services for agencies identified in the state budget process. | Black Fire Brigade, Julie and Michael Tracy Family, DLD For Youth                   | Noncompetitive | Launching in 2026 @ \$4.5 M |                  |                 |                 |                  |                  | X       |
| <b>Office of Community and Positive Youth Development Named Appropriation Violence Prevention Programs for Youth (OCPYD)</b>      | Provides additional short-term funding to establish, support, or expand youth development and intervention services for agencies identified in the state budget process. | Rincon Family Services, Chatham Community Collaborative, A New Beginning Starts Now | Noncompetitive | Launching in 2026 @ \$2 M   |                  |                 |                 |                  |                  | X       |

| Opportunity                                                                                                 | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Recent awardees                                                                                         | Grant type     | \$ in IL in 2025          | Population focus |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
|                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                         |                |                           | Low-income       | With disability | Specific region | Violence exposed | Justice involved | At-risk |
| <b>Office of Community and Positive Youth Development Named Appropriation Youth Sports Programs (OCPYD)</b> | Supports new and established youth prevention and intervention services. Youth services entail a wide scope of services to support at-risk youth, families and communities, which may include, but not be limited to, various youth sports programs and recreational enrichment, which may include youth mentoring efforts. | Laureus Sport For Good Foundation USA, A Ray of Hope on Earth, Dream House                              | Noncompetitive | Launching in 2026 @ \$1 M |                  |                 |                 |                  |                  | X       |
| <b>Redeploy Illinois (RDIL)</b>                                                                             | Supports case management, counseling, education support, and crisis intervention for juvenile offenders who would otherwise be incarcerated.                                                                                                                                                                                | Macon County Community Mental Health Board, County of Winnebago, Second Judicial Circuit Court Services | Competitive    | \$7 M =                   |                  |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
| <b>Rural Youth Services Enhanced (RYSE)</b>                                                                 | Increases mental health and social services for justice-involved or at-risk youth in rural areas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Arrowleaf                                                                                               | Competitive    | \$325 K +                 |                  |                 |                 | X                |                  |         |

| Opportunity                                                     | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Recent awardees                                                                              | Grant type                       | \$ in IL in 2025 | Population focus |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                              |                                  |                  | Low-income       | With disability | Specific region | Violence exposed | Justice involved | At-risk |
| <b>DFI Developmental Disabilities/Mental Health (Title XX)*</b> | Supports services for individuals with developmental disabilities or mental illness, including case coordination, therapeutic and habilitative supports, vocational training, independent living and employment services, and community maintenance activities. | Heritage Behavioral Health Center, Inc., Envision Unlimited, Transitions Of Western Illinois | Direct Payments for Specific Use | \$3 M =          |                  | X               |                 |                  |                  |         |
| <b>We Go Together for Kids Project (WGTFK)</b>                  | Provides education on healthy, affordable, and kid-friendly snacks, and provides fresh, healthy food distribution, measurements, education, and fitness resources to a cohort of children in West Chicago.                                                      | Metropolitan Family Services                                                                 | Noncompetitive                   | \$225 K +        |                  |                 | X               |                  | X                |         |
| <b>Youth Opportunity - Social Services Block Grant (YO)*</b>    | Assists low-income youth in selected Chicago high schools to complete high school, and to develop career interests and employment skills through job placement.                                                                                                 | Youth Guidance                                                                               | Noncompetitive                   | \$141 K +        |                  | X               | X               |                  | X                |         |
| <b>Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)</b>                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                              |                                  |                  |                  |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
| <b>After School Matters (ASM)</b>                               | Provides apprenticeships and programs for teens in underserved communities in Chicago.                                                                                                                                                                          | After School Matters                                                                         | Noncompetitive                   | \$6 M +          |                  |                 | X               | X                |                  |         |

| Opportunity                                                | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Recent awardees                                                                                         | Grant type  | \$ in IL in 2025 | Population focus |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
|                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                         |             |                  | Low-income       | With disability | Specific region | Violence exposed | Justice involved | At-risk |
| <b>After School Programs (ASP)</b>                         | Funding for districts to improve academic outcomes by providing safe, healthy, enrichment opportunities and partner with other organizations, and for non-school districts to partner with schools to develop and implement afterschool initiatives that improve academic outcomes and offer safe and healthy enrichment opportunities. | Chicago Public Schools, Elgin Area School District, New Original Ministries, Jared's Keepers Foundation | Formula     | \$288 M<br>+     | X                |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
| <b>After School Programs-Non-school Districts (ASP-ND)</b> | Funding for partnerships to develop and implement afterschool initiatives that improve academic outcomes and offer safe and healthy enrichment opportunities.                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                         | Competitive | \$800 K<br>+     | X                |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
| <b>STEAM Grant (STEAM)</b>                                 | Provides science, technology, engineering, art, and math programming to low-income students.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Chicago Public Schools, Berwyn North School District, East St. Louis School District                    | Competitive | \$2.5 M<br>=     | X                |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |

| Opportunity                            | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Recent awardees                                                                                                            | Grant type     | \$ in IL in 2025 | Population focus |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
|                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                            |                |                  | Low-income       | With disability | Specific region | Violence exposed | Justice involved | At-risk |
| <b>YouthBuild</b>                      | Helps economically disadvantaged youth gain education, job training, counseling, leadership skills, and long-term support while engaging in community service that strengthens neighborhoods, expands affordable housing, and promotes community stability. | YouthBuild                                                                                                                 | Noncompetitive | \$11 M<br>+      | X                |                 |                 |                  |                  |         |
| <b>Work-based Learning Grant (WBL)</b> | Develops or expands WBL programs for high school students in rural areas.                                                                                                                                                                                   | Three Rivers Education for Employment System, Central IL Rural Region, Quad City Career and Technical Education Consortium | Formula        | \$1.5 M<br>+     |                  |                 | X               |                  |                  |         |

*Note.* \*Indicates that state dollars are integrated with federal dollars for this funding opportunity.; + indicates increase from prior year, - indicates decrease, = indicates no change.

### Exhibit B3. Local Funding Opportunities Reviewed

| Opportunity                                           | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Recent awardees                                           | Grant type  | \$ in IL in 2025         | Youth focus |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|---------|
|                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                           |             |                          | Low-income  | With disability | English learner | Specific region | Violence exposed | Unhoused | Justice involved | At-risk |
| After School Matters (ASM)                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                           |             |                          |             |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
| Community-Based Organization Partner/ Provider (CBO)* | ASM regularly seeks CBOs with whom to partner to provide afterschool and/or summer programs for Chicago high school teens. Programs in the arts, communications and leadership, sports, and STEM are delivered by providers who mentor and share their expertise with teens. | ASM partners with nearly 150 CBOs across Chicago annually | Competitive | \$6 M±<br>Change unclear |             |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |         |

| Opportunity                          | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Recent awardees                                                                  | Grant type    | \$ in IL in 2025     | Youth focus |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|---------|
|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                  |               |                      | Low-income  | With disability | English learner | Specific region | Violence exposed | Unhoused | Justice involved | At-risk |
| Chicago Public Schools (CPS)         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                  |               |                      |             |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
| Sustainable Community Schools (SCS)* | Partnership with CPS and Chicago Teachers Union for school to collaborate with partner agency. Supports full-time coordinators, before-, and after-school programs, summer activities, parent engagement, professional development, field trips, technology, and supplies. | Collins High School, Depriest Elementary School, Fort Dearborn Elementary School | Discretionary | \$18 M =             |             |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |         |
| Community Schools Initiative (CSI)*  | Funded by federal 21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC. Pairs school with a partner agency and supports full-time CSI Coordinator, before- and after-school programs, summer activities, monthly parent engagement opportunities, as well as supplies and educational field trips.        | Aldridge Elementary School, McCormick Elementary School, Sullivan High School    | Formula       | \$8 M Change unclear | X           |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |         |

| Opportunity                                          | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Recent awardees                                             | Grant type    | \$ in IL in 2025        | Youth focus |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|---------|
|                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                             |               |                         | Low-income  | With disability | English learner | Specific region | Violence exposed | Unhoused | Justice involved | At-risk |
| <b>Community Schools Initiative External (CSIx)*</b> | Funded by 21st CCLC grant. Involves CPS as a co-applicant with an external organization serving as the fiscal agent and directly implementing programs. Supports before- and after-school programs and parent programs.                | Hancock High School, Mashall High School, Kelly High School | Discretionary | Unclear                 |             |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |         |
| <b>Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS)*</b>        | Federally funded, pairs school with partner and supports full-time FSCS Coordinator, before- and after-school programs, summer activities, parent engagement opportunities, mentoring, community workshops, supplies, and field trips. | Awardee list not publicly available                         | Discretionary | \$2 M<br>Change unclear | X           |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |         |

| Opportunity                                         | Description                                                                                                                                           | Recent awardees                                                            | Grant type      | \$ in IL in 2025 | Youth focus |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|---------|
|                                                     |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                            |                 |                  | Low-income  | With disability | English learner | Specific region | Violence exposed | Unhoused | Justice involved | At-risk |
| <b>Student Engagement Programs (SEP)</b>            | Funding to operate afterschool or summer programming for schools not receiving one of the above opportunities.                                        | Awardee list not publicly available                                        | Non-competitive | \$58 M -         |             |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |         |
| <b>Cook County Government (CCG)</b>                 |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                            |                 |                  |             |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
| <b>Justice Advisory Council (JAC)</b>               | Provides violence intervention programming and services in eligible communities, which can include services for young people outside of school hours. | Awardee list not publicly available                                        | Competitive     | \$10 M +         |             |                 |                 | X               | X                |          | X                |         |
| <b>Department of Family Support Services (DFSS)</b> |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                            |                 |                  |             |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
| <b>Chicago Housing Authority Funding (CHA)</b>      | Supports implementation of youth development activities for residents of Chicago Housing Authority in specific neighborhoods.                         | Youth Guidance, Chicago Youth Centers, Gantz Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago | Competitive     | \$555 K          | X           |                 |                 | X               | X                | X        | X                |         |
| <b>Enrichment Programs*</b>                         | Supports implementation of youth development                                                                                                          | Awardee list not publicly available                                        | Competitive     | \$15.5 M +       | X           | X               | X               | X               | X                | X        |                  | X       |

| Opportunity                | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                | Recent<br>awardees                  | Grant type  | \$ in IL<br>in 2025 | Youth focus    |                    |                    |                    |                     |          |                     |             |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|-------------|
|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                     |             |                     | Low-<br>income | With<br>disability | English<br>learner | Specific<br>region | Violence<br>exposed | Unhoused | Justice<br>involved | At-<br>risk |
|                            | activities in Chicago through school year, summer, or year-round programs for youth who are underrepresented.                                                                                              |                                     |             |                     |                |                    |                    |                    |                     |          |                     |             |
| <b>Mentoring Programs*</b> | Supports implementation of in- and out-of-school mentoring programs for youth in Chicago who are at risk of not transitioning successfully into adulthood through cohort-based, trauma-informed practices. | Awardee list not publicly available | Competitive | \$6.7 M             | X              | X                  | X                  | X                  | X                   | X        | X                   | X           |

| Opportunity                | Description                                                                                                                                | Recent awardees                                                   | Grant type  | \$ in IL in 2025 | Youth focus |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|---------|
|                            |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                   |             |                  | Low-income  | With disability | English learner | Specific region | Violence exposed | Unhoused | Justice involved | At-risk |
| <b>My CHI. My Future.*</b> | Supports high-quality, coordinated out-of-school time opportunities in Chicago through microgrants, anchor organizations, and programming. | Young Men's Education Network (YMEN), Project SYNCERE, Girls Inc. | Competitive | \$2.3 M +        | X           | X               | X               | X               | X                | X        | X                | X       |

*Note.* \*Indicates that opportunity is primarily funded by and/or integrated with some combination of federal, state, local, and/or philanthropic dollars; \*In addition to providing CBOs funds for expenses related to instructor pay, program supplies and general operating support; ‡ ASM also provides teen stipends, instructor professional development, and back office/infrastructure support; + indicates increase from prior year, - indicates decrease, = indicates no change.

#### Exhibit B4. Philanthropic Funding Opportunities Reviewed

| Opportunity                       | Description                                                                                                                                                   | Grant type  | Youth focus |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|---------|
|                                   |                                                                                                                                                               |             | Low-income  | With disability | English learner | Specific region | Violence exposed | Unhoused | Justice involved | At-risk |
| <b>A Better Chicago</b>           | Invests in nonprofit organizations that support youth from under-resourced Chicago communities, with a focus on education, leadership, and economic mobility. | Competitive | X           |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |         |
| <b>Bright Promises Foundation</b> | Supports community-based programs that improve outcomes for children and families, with an emphasis on education, youth development, and equity.              | Competitive | X           | X               | X               | X               |                  |          |                  |         |

| Opportunity                                               | Description                                                                                                                                       | Grant type  | Youth focus |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|---------|
|                                                           |                                                                                                                                                   |             | Low-income  | With disability | English learner | Specific region | Violence exposed | Unhoused | Justice involved | At-risk |
| <b>Chicago Community Trust</b>                            | Brings together donors, nonprofits, and community partners to address Chicago's most pressing challenges and advance racial and economic equity.  | Competitive | X           |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |         |
| <b>Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group Foundation</b>       | Invests in education and workforce development initiatives, particularly those that build financial literacy, STEM skills, and career readiness.  | Competitive |             |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |         |
| <b>Crown Philanthropies</b>                               | Supports initiatives that promote social justice, education, and community well-being, with a strong focus on equity and opportunity.             | Competitive |             |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |         |
| <b>Footlocker Foundation</b>                              | Advances youth development through sport and education, supporting programs that promote physical activity, leadership, and community engagement. | Competitive | X           |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
| <b>Illinois Association for Park District Power Play!</b> | Supports park district programs that increase access to sports, recreation, and healthy activities for youth across Illinois.                     | Competitive |             |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
| <b>IMC Foundation</b>                                     | Invests in education, technology, and community initiatives that promote innovation, access, and opportunity.                                     | Competitive |             |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |         |

| Opportunity                       | Description                                                                                                                                             | Grant type  | Youth focus |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|---------|
|                                   |                                                                                                                                                         |             | Low-income  | With disability | English learner | Specific region | Violence exposed | Unhoused | Justice involved | At-risk |
| Impact Grants Chicago             | A collective giving organization that mobilizes women to fund and support nonprofits advancing equity for Chicago-area women and girls.                 | Competitive |             |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |         |
| Laureus Sport for Good Foundation | Supports sport programs to end violence, discrimination, and disadvantage, supporting programs that drive social change for young people.               | Competitive |             |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
| Lefkofsky Family Foundation       | Supports initiatives in education, human services, and medical research, with a strong emphasis on improving outcomes for children and families.        | Competitive |             |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
| McCormick Foundation              | Invests in education, civic engagement, and youth development initiatives, including programs that leverage sports to create positive community impact. | Competitive |             |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |         |
| Motorola Foundation               | Supports STEM education, employee volunteerism, and community programs that promote innovation and inclusion.                                           | Competitive |             |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
| New York Life Foundation          | Funds out-of-school-time and mentoring programs that help middle school youth build academic success, confidence, and life skills.                      | Competitive |             |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
| Nike                              | Supports community initiatives that promote youth sports participation, physical activity, and social equity through sport.                             | Competitive |             |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |

| Opportunity                          | Description                                                                                                                               | Grant type  | Youth focus |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|------------------|---------|
|                                      |                                                                                                                                           |             | Low-income  | With disability | English learner | Specific region | Violence exposed | Unhoused | Justice involved | At-risk |
| <b>Obama Foundation</b>              | Develops leaders and supports civic engagement initiatives that empower individuals and communities to create meaningful social change.   | Competitive |             |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |         |
| <b>Paul Angell Family Foundation</b> | Invests in organizations advancing education, economic opportunity, and social justice, with a focus on systemic impact.                  | Competitive |             |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |         |
| <b>Polk Bros Foundation</b>          | Supports nonprofit organizations that strengthen communities through arts, education, health, and human services.                         | Competitive | X           |                 |                 | X               |                  |          |                  |         |
| <b>Springboard Foundation</b>        | Provides capacity-building support to nonprofits, helping organizations strengthen leadership, sustainability, and program effectiveness. | Competitive |             |                 |                 |                 |                  |          |                  |         |
| <b>Vivo Foundation</b>               | Supports youth development, education, and community programs that expand access to opportunity and promote well-being.                   | Competitive |             |                 |                 |                 |                  |          | X                |         |

## About the American Institutes for Research®

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# Key Federal Funding Opportunities for IL OST Programs

| Awarding Agency      | <div>USDA</div> <div>Department of Agriculture</div>            | <div>ED</div> <div>Department of Education</div>                                                                                                   | <div>HHS</div> <div>Department of Health and Human Services</div>                   | <div>HUD</div> <div>Department of Housing and Urban Development</div>       | <div>DOJ</div> <div>Department of Justice</div>     | <div>DOL</div> <div>Department of Labor</div> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Funding Opportunity  | <div>CACFP</div> <div>SFSP</div> <div>NSLP</div> <div>SBP</div> | <div>Title I</div> <div>Title III</div> <div>Title IVA</div> <div>Title V</div> <div>FSCS</div> <div>DIF</div> <div>ESF</div> <div>21st CCLC</div> | <div>PRNS</div>                                                                     | <div>CDGB</div> <div>YHSI</div>                                             | <div>JJDP</div> <div>CVIP</div> <div>JAG</div>      | <div>WIOA</div>                               |
| Illinois Distributor | <div>ISBE</div> <div>Illinois State Board of Education</div>    | <div>IDHS</div> <div>Illinois Department of Human Services</div>                                                                                   | <div>DCEO</div> <div>Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity</div> | <div>ICJIA</div> <div>Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority</div> |                                                     |                                               |
| Eligible Entities    | <div>LEAs</div> <div>Local Education Agencies</div>             | <div>NPOs</div> <div>Non-profit Organizations</div>                                                                                                | <div>GOs</div> <div>Government Organizations</div>                                  | <div>IHEs</div> <div>Institutes of Higher Education</div>                   | <div>FPOs</div> <div>For-profit Organizations</div> |                                               |

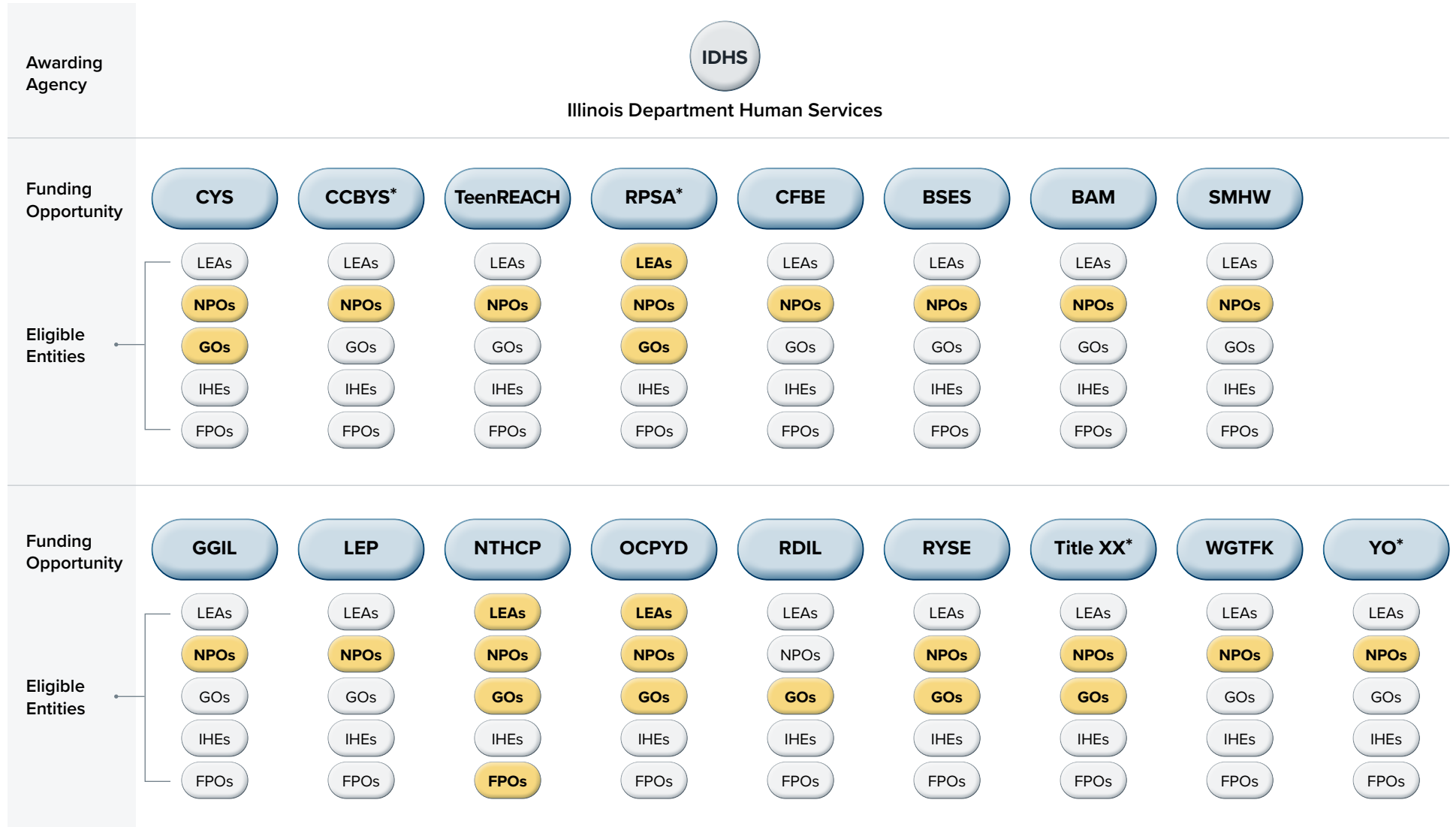
 See [Exhibit B1](#). Federal Funding Opportunities Reviewed in the *Chicago Out-of-School Time Landscape Study Findings* for more information on the funding opportunities listed here.

CACFP = Child and Adult Care Food Program  
 SFSP = Summer Food Service Program  
 NSLP = National School Lunch Program  
 SBP = School Breakfast Program  
 Title I = Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
 Title III = Immigrant Education  
 Title IVA = Student Support and Academic Enrichment

Title V = Rural Education Initiative  
 FSCS = Full-Service Community Schools  
 DIF = Disability Innovation Fund  
 ESF = Education Stabilization Fund  
 21st CCLC = Twenty-First Century Community Learning Center  
 PRNS = Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Projects of Regional and National Significance

CDBG = Community Development Block Grant  
 YHSI = Youth Homeless System Improvement Grants  
 OJJDP = Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
 CVIP = Community-based Violence Intervention & Prevention  
 JAG = Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program  
 WIOA = Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Activities

# State Funding Stream Guide



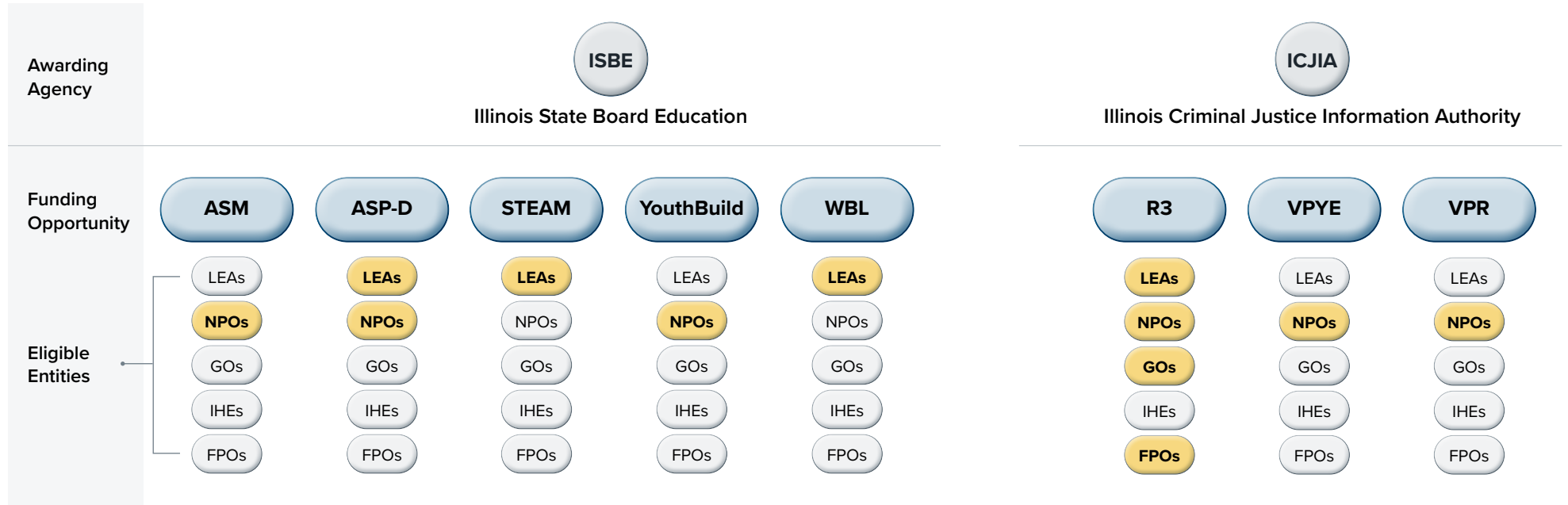
**+** See [Exhibit B2. State Funding Opportunities Reviewed in the Chicago Out-of-School Time Landscape Study Findings](#) for more information on the funding opportunities listed here. \* Indicates that state dollars are integrated with federal dollars for this funding opportunity

LEAs = Local Education Agencies  
NPOs = Non-profit Organizations  
GOs = Government Organizations  
IHEs = Institutes of Higher Education  
FPOs = For-profit Organizations  
CYS = Community Youth Services  
CCBYS = Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services

RPSA = Reimagine Public Safety Act  
CFBE = Cultural Faith Based Empowerment  
BSES = Basic Supports Enhanced Services  
BAM = Becoming A Man  
SMHW = Strengthen Mental Health Workforce  
GGIL = Get GROWin in Illinois  
LEP = Life Enrichment Programs for I/DD individuals

NTHCP = Non-Traditional Hours Care Pilot  
OCPYD = Office of Community and Positive Youth Development  
RDIL = Redeploy Illinois  
RYSE = Rural Youth Services Enhanced  
Title XX = DFI Developmental Disabilities/Mental Health  
WGTFK = We Go Together for Kids Project  
YO = Youth Opportunity - Social Services Block Grant

# State Funding Stream Guide



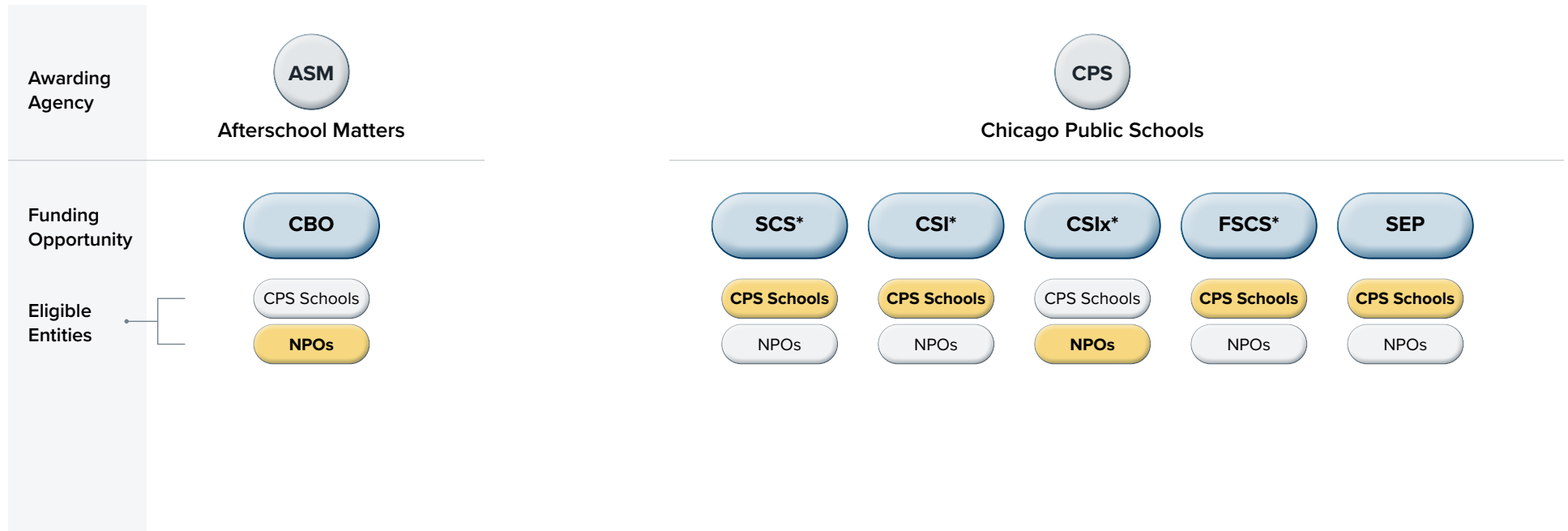
➕ See [Exhibit B2](#). State Funding Opportunities Reviewed in the *Chicago Out-of-School Time Landscape Study Findings* for more information on the funding opportunities listed here.

LEAs = Local Education Agencies  
 NPOs = Non-profit Organizations  
 GOs = Government Organizations  
 IHEs = Institutes of Higher Education  
 FPOs = For-profit Organizations

ASM = After School Matters  
 ASP-ND = After School Programs-Non school Districts  
 STEAM = STEAM Grant  
 WBL = Work-based Learning Grant

R3 = Restore, Reinvest, Renew  
 VPYE = Violence Prevention and Youth Employment  
 VPR = Violence Prevention and Reduction

# Local Funding Stream Guide



+ See [Exhibit B3. Local Funding Opportunities Reviewed in the Chicago Out-of-School Time Landscape Study Findings](#) for more information on the funding opportunities listed here.

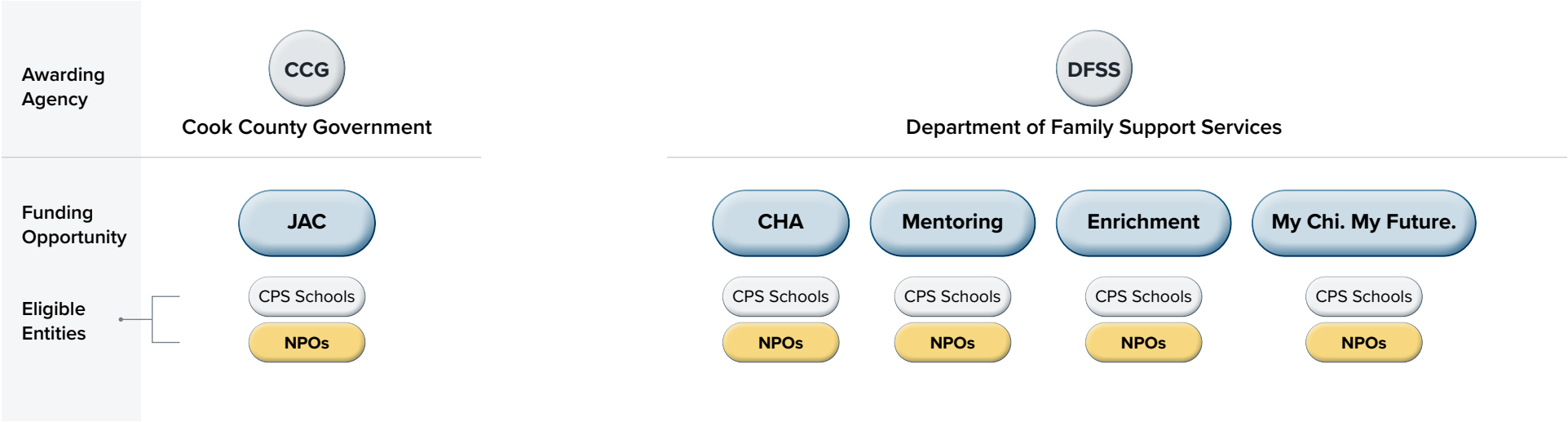
\* Indicates that opportunity is primarily funded by and/or integrated with some combination of federal, state, local, and/or philanthropic dollars.

CPS = Chicago Public Schools  
NPOs = Non-profit Organizations

CBO = Community-Based Organization Partner/ Provider  
SCS = Sustainable Community Schools  
CSI = Community Schools Initiative

CSIx = Community Schools Initiative External  
FSCS = Full-Service Community Schools  
SEP = Student Engagement Programs

# Local Funding Stream Guide



**+ See [Exhibit B3. Local Funding Opportunities Reviewed in the Chicago Out-of-School Time Landscape Study Findings](#) for more information on the funding opportunities listed here.**  
\* Indicates that opportunity is primarily funded by and/or integrated with some combination of federal, state, local, and/or philanthropic dollars.

CPS = Chicago Public Schools  
NPOs = Non-profit Organizations

JAC = Justice Advisory Council  
CHA = Chicago Housing Authority Funding